



ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF LIVING FAITH

John 10:1-30

INTRODUCTION

- A. Two kinds of Faith (James 2:14-26)
 - 1. Dead Faith – faith that has no signs of life. Like a dead body – vs. 14-19.
 - 2. Living Faith – faith that has signs of life. Like a living body, or a living person – vs. 20-26.

- B. Where does living faith start?
 - 1. Living faith starts from hearing the Word of Christ.
Romans 10:17 consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ.
 - 2. The Word of Christ is the only source of living faith.
John 6:63 “The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.”
 - 3. How would we know if our Faith is a living faith or not?
We would if our faith is a living faith or not by discovering the essential element of living faith in John 10.

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS OF FAITH

I. KNOWING ELEMENT (v. 4, 14-15, 27a)

- A. Jesus said, John 10:14 “I know my Sheep and my Sheep know Me.”

1. There are two Greek words, that when translated in English, it called know or knowledge.
 - a. OIDA – Knowledge gained based on information we read and heard. It is pure knowledge.
 - b. GINOSKO – Knowledge gained through a relationship based on OIDA.
 - c. If OIDA is knowledge about the TRUTH, GINOSKO is union with the TRUTH. It describes the believer’s union with Jesus Christ.
2. 1 John 5:20 We know (OIDA) also that the Son of God has come and had given us understanding so that we may know (GINOSKO) Him who is true – even in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.
3. It is the knowing (GINOSKO) element that spares us from the painful reality that many people will wake up to in the last days.

Matthew 7:21”Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’23 Then I will them plainly, ‘I never knew (GINOSKO) you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

II. LISTENING ELEMENT (v. 3, 27)

- A. Jesus said, John 10:27 “My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me.”
 1. Listen is from the Greek word “AKOU: which basically means to hear.
 2. When Jesus said “My sheep listen to my voice,” it is not listening on a case to case basis. It is listening on a regular basis.

B. Why is listening important?

1. Listening is the foundation of doing. If we cannot hear it right, we cannot do it right.
2. There is a need to listen to listen because the Good Shepherd is always talking to us. Listening helps us to constantly know His will as well as know where He is leading us every step of the way.
3. We need to listen to Him regularly so that we may easily discern the counterfeit voice of our enemy (the thief John 10:7, 8,10a).

C. How do we listen?

1. We must learn how to be still in the presence of God. Psalm 46:10 “Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”
2. We must learn to wait upon the Lord. Isaiah 40:31
But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

D. Where do we listen?

1. Daily time with God. (Scheduled personal Bible reading and prayer)
2. Family devotion
3. Bible Studies
4. Worship Services
5. Every day, every situation/circumstance: Always ask God what He wants you to know.

III. FOLLOWING ELEMENT (v. 4, 27)

A. Jesus said, John 10:27 “My sheep listen to my voice. I know them and they follow me.”

1. Follow, is from the Greek word “AKOLOUTHEO “ which literally means an intimate companion going in the same way to the same place.
2. It gives the idea of “union”. I am following not just for the sake of following. I am following because I understood that it is not the choice but I am one with Him whom I follow.
3. To follow means to come after not to go ahead. To act in accordance with the given instructions not according to one’s own assumptions and instincts.

B. Reasons why do we need to follow.

1. The way is narrow and hard (Matthew 7:13-14)
2. We need the light on our way. Jesus is the light (John 8:12). If we fail to follow, that means we have to walk in darkness alone.
3. That we won’t miss the fun and the blessing.
Numbers 14:24 “But because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and follows me wholeheartedly, I will bring him into the land he went to, and his descendants will inherit it.

C. Where does the Shepherd leading his sheep to?

1. Leads them to abundant provision. Psalm 23:2a
2. Leads them to a place of peace. Psalm 23:2b
3. Leads them to the path of righteous. Psalm 23:3; Psalm 5:8.

CONCLUSION

- A. The knowing element is the foundation by which the listening and following elements rest. On the other hand, without the listening and following there is no way of verifying the existence of the knowing element. These three are interlocked with each other. These three elements are inseparably present in a living faith.
- B. Results of Living
 - 1. Abundant Life (v. 10)
 - 2. Eternal Life (v. 28)
 - 3. Deliverance from eternal damnation (v.28)
 - 4. Eternal security (v. 28-29)
- C. Questions for reflections:
 - 1. Do you know the Shepherd?
 - 2. Does the Shepherd know you?
 - 3. Do you listen to Him?
 - 4. Do you follow Him?