

FAITH ISSUES FOR TODAY **(Romans 15:4)**

Daniel 3:2-3 Just as it was in Daniel's time, there is great pressure on the leaders of our country to get people to conform. It always starts from the top down: ie. Government officials, judges, the courts, etc.

Daniel 3:6 If people do not fall into line there will be a high price to pay. The America we grew up in is gone. Our country is moving swiftly toward a one world government rule with no personal rights.

Daniel 3:6; Rev. 13:7-8 Christians are an annoyance to bad government. We want honesty, morality and freedom to worship our God. Satan has always had other plans and has been busy for millennial.

Daniel 3:16-18; Acts 5:28-29 The reason these three young people stood their ground was because of their 'settled faith'. They said "we don't have to think about this, we don't have to take time to pray or have a meeting about this." They knew and had settled their relationship with God long before this day.

Daniel 3:17; Psalm 50:15 They also had 'a strong faith'. They knew in their hearts God was more than able to deliver them out of the Kings hand. Our trials are always an opportunity to glorify God.

Daniel 3:18; Ephesians 6:13 They did not have any doubt about God's power to deliver them, "**But If Not**" they also were aware that it may be God's will that they die in the fire. Does your faith have a "**But If Not**" clause in it? Will we still serve Him if it will cost us severe persecution or even death?

THE DANGERS OF UNBELIEF

Hebrews 3:7-13; I Cor. 10:11 The people in these verses are Gods' people. They saw the miracles, they knew Moses, Aaron, Joshua and they believed in God, but their sin was they didn't believe God. We are admonished to take heed with what happened to them lest it happen to us. It already has.

Luke 16:9-13; I Cor. 4:2 Most believers today care more for the world than we do of God's program. Our stewardship has been very poor in; Church attendance, Bible knowledge, earnest prayer, concern for the lost, serving God with our Spiritual gifts, helping missionaries, and standing for Jesus. If believers are not faithful with God now how will we stand when heavy persecution comes?

Hebrews 11:35 We love to hear about Daniel in the lion's den, David vs. Goliath, and all the great wonders in the bible. God would not be honest if He did not tell us of believers who paid a huge price.

John 16:2 A brief internet search of persecutions around the world toward believers shows details.

HOW MUCH FAITH IS ENOUGH

Romans 12:3 Have you ever been to the place when you had such a heavy burden, a heartache, a severe trial that you thought, "if only I had more faith?" How much more faith would it take?

Matthew 17:20 Jesus says that it would not have required more faith than a tiny grain or seed to accomplish what they could not do for the lunatic boy.

Mark 4:40; Matthew 8:26; Romans 14:1; Luke 7:9 The bible tells of no faith, weak faith, dead faith, little faith and great faith with all verses in context with believers. How much faith is enough?

Luke 17:5 The problem with the disciples request is the same problem we have today. Faith is not a measurable commodity where we need five pounds to cure a cold and maybe a hundred pounds to cure a case of measles. It isn't the quantity of faith that matters but the quality.

Ephesians 2:8 How much faith does it take to be saved? How much faith to fly in a plane?

When we have faith enough to trust Jesus and enough faith to serve Him we will have enough faith.

THE OBJECT OF OUR FAITH

John 3:16; 6:47; 7:38; 11:25-26; 14:1 Over and over again the bible keeps telling us to believe in Jesus Christ and trust Him. The object is not about us getting more faith but the object is Jesus Christ.

Matthew 19:26 We are focused on believing we can receive from God anything if we just ask because of verses like this, however, **I John 5:14-15** tells us that all things are possible but all things are not within God's will for our lives.

Faith is not something that is in the believers portfolio of skills and abilities that we need more of, faith is trusting in God's ability based on what He can do. It is not so much "God give me more faith" as it is "God help me to trust you in and through this situation."