

I. Introduction

- a. **Hebrews 11:6 (NASB77)** ⁶And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.
- b. Faith is defined as (pistos) a firm persuasion, a conviction arising from hearing. It is used in the NT always of "faith in God, or Christ, or things spiritual".
- c. The very focus (thinking, perspective, slant, attention) of our lives indicates if we're drawn to faith or otherwise to some inclination of our souls.

II. Faith - What are you thinking?

- a. **Jeremiah 2:13 (NASB77)** ¹³"For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns, That can hold no water.
- b. The prophet is speaking to Judah by the Word of the Lord and charging them for rejecting truth and receiving error. Water was a rare commodity in Israel by this time. Cisterns were needed to collect whatever little rain would fall. Yet God promised to be a constant source for His people if they only followed Him and His ways. Dead gods can't impart life.
- c. Are you the enemy of your own possibilities? Have you betrayed yourself by thinking thoughts that are contrary to God's thoughts?
- d. Thoughts are part of the creative process in our soul.
- e. Faith is based on the very thoughts of God, the mind of Christ, the truth revealed to you. **Romans 10:17 (KJV)** ¹⁷So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- f. Faith is a setting of the soul and of the spirit of man. **Habakkuk 2:2-4 (NASB77)** ²Then the Lord answered me and said, " Record the vision And inscribe *it* on tablets, That the one who reads it may run. ³"For the vision is yet for the appointed time; It hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; For it will certainly come, it will not delay. ⁴"Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; But the righteous will live by his faith.
- g. Pride is setting your thoughts, your means and methods over God's. When you're affected by external circumstances in order to make a decision you have already deviated from your internal faith GPS, the Word of truth.

- i. The GPS in our faith walk must be truth (the very Spirit of Truth). Hence, our souls are thereby set for whatever circumstances we may encounter in life.
 - ii. Are you a happy person? Are you a worrisome person? Do doubts plague your mind? If so you're an enemy of your possibilities. You upset your body, your brain cells and your physical heart. You paralyze yourself from creativity.
 - iii. On the other hand, faith arises from a knowing in our spirit - **2 Timothy 1:12 (NASB77)** 12 For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day. (peitho); *persuasion*, i.e. *credence*; *moral conviction (of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God)*.
 - iv. God's best for me can only come to me when I'm at my best, when I've removed the mountains within myself. All my upsets are blocking me, not only harming me. They're blocking God in my life. We say fear, doubt and unbelief are hewing broken cisterns in our lives.
- h. Walking in truth is walking in the Spirit for He is the Spirit of Truth. It is a ferocious love of truth, love of God, that will keep us operating in the spirit, in faith, when all is crumbling around us and sometimes in us. The strong framework of truth will remain when our feeble attempts at self-sufficiency fail and the flimsy structure of trusting in the arm of flesh comes crashing down.
 - i. Our faces must be set like flint unto God. Every thought that is in conflict must be eradicated (2 Cor 10:4-6).
 - j. Every emotion contrary to His Truth must be poured out before Him as a sacrifice to be burnt by His Holy Presence. Place peace holding thoughts in your head. These are game changers in our lives.
 - k. Every decision in our lives must be a faith decision. That's what walking in faith means. Trusting Him not just at every turn but at every step. Are you?
 - l. **Psalms 56:3-4 (NASB77)** ³When I am afraid, I will put my trust in Thee. ⁴In God, whose word I praise, In God I have put my trust; I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?
 - m. We must pray for a love of the truth in order to set our GPS right. If our GPS has a fault we may get to a very dark place. Our souls must run a GPS perfectly aligned with the heavenly truths in order to face and vanquish the ordeals of everyday life, the pressures of the world to conform, the victim mentality, the

no one knows what I'm going through or self-pity, the offenses that will surely come as promised in the Word (Matt 18:7), or any other malady, for in the world we will have tribulation (John 16:33). The GPS alignment to prevent all these events affecting us is the love of the truth.

- n. Faith is an action in the direction of God's thoughts and God's ways. **James 1:21-22 (NASB77)** ²¹ Therefore putting aside all filthiness and *all* that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. ²² But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

III. Conclusion:

- a. Faith is only in God.
- b. Faith is essential to our relationship with God.
- c. Faith is a journey of self discipline, a doing, that leaves an imprint upon our souls and our spirits and draws us closer to our GPS destination, His loving Heart.