



Points of Scriptural Review (Summary of Studies 1-3):

1. Faith works by love (agape). (Gal. 5:6)
2. Love (agape) believes all things. (1 Cor. 13:7)
3. This faith/love combination is the gold in the Sanctuary (Exo. 25:11, etc.) and in the Laodicean message. (Rev. 3:18; cf. 1Pet. 1:7)
4. Jesus is the author of faith (Heb. 12:2). He, being God, originates faith, since it is part of His character. The Spirit's presence, therefore, produces faith. (Gal. 5:22)
5. The Son of God, being Agape (1Jo 4:8, 16) and becoming a man, revealed faith working by love, in humanity. The faith Jesus manifested was primarily the faith of God (Rom. 3:3; Mark 11:22 original is "faith of God"), God's treating us not as we are (2Cor. 5:19), but as we can be. (2Cor. 5:21)
6. God's calling things "which be not as though they were" (Rom. 4:17) is seen both in creation and in His promises. So His word is an expression of His faith. All His promises are statements of faith.
7. When we hear/receive His word, that is faith (Rom. 10:17; John 1:12), showing that His faith leads to our faith (Rom. 12:3); that is, we begin functioning as God functions. This is just like His love leading to our love (1John 4:7, 19). Of course, the gift can be neglected or rejected.
8. When God sees us exercise the faith He gave us of His, He declares that such faith is righteousness. (Rom. 4:3, 5, 9, 21-24)
9. The faith of Jesus is equivalent to the gospel. The birth, live, death, resurrection of Jesus reveals to humanity the faith of God. This is what Paul preached (Rom. 1:1-4; 10:8; 1Cor. 1:17, 18, 23; 15:1-4; Gal. 1:23). So Paul said that based on the resurrection of Christ, God gave faith to all men regarding the future judgment (Acts 17:31 "assurance" is the same word as "faith").
10. The Hebrew of Hab. 2:4 says, "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith." The Septuagint (which was widely quoted by the New Testament writers) says, "If he should draw back, my soul has no pleasure in him: but the just shall live by my faith."
11. The faith the elders (Heb. 11:2) manifested was but a response to God's initiative in each of their lives. They came to see what God saw, and accepted that vision. They believed what God believed. God gave them, in His word to them, "the substance of things hoped for" (first of all, what God hoped for), "the evidence of things not seen" (that is, not seen yet, but which God "anticipated in His purpose" DA606).
12. Paul's statement is powerful as to the source of this gold and its relation to grace: 1Tim. 1:14 "And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."
13. So Lam. 3:23 can be translated "Great is Your faith!" (this being the same word as found in Hab. 2:4). God is faithful because He has faith.
14. The "joy set before" Christ as He went to the cross was what He saw by faith would be accomplished by His sacrifice—the salvation of souls. This was the same joy that Moses, Joseph, Paul, and Peter had that enabled them to humble themselves to suffer and serve.
15. Jesus "for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross." (Heb. 12:2). Moses "looked unto the recompence of reward." (Heb. 11:26). Paul reached "forth unto those things which are before." (Phil. 3:13; compare 1Thes. 2:19, 20). Peter said "the end of your faith" is "the salvation of souls." (1Pet. 1:9).
16. Fellowship with Christ in His suffering is our "highest honor" because God will use that suffering to win souls, especially those causing the suffering. We need this faith of "joy set before" us, to be willing to serve and to suffer, and to resist the temptation to think our unselfish work for others will have no fruit.