



Sunday, November 7, 2021

Pastor Doug Phillips

## Intro to Romans 15:13

When we think of “faith,” it can be easy to default to a sort of agreement with certain ideas or principles. To say, “I believe in Jesus” could mean a host of things. For some it could mean, “I think He existed/exists.” For some it might be, “I believe much of what the Bible says about Him is true.” For some it might even be, “I believe Jesus is the Son of God.” Those things are all good and necessary, but they are all insufficient to be considered “faith” as the Bible presents it.

Faith is a much more all-encompassing relationship of confidence in God and His promises that works itself out in devotion and allegiance and joy and peace. Faith *cannot* stop at mere mental assent or agreement with principles. Faith *must* transform the whole way we relate to God and the world around us.

Sadly, for many Christians even, “faith” has become a confidence that we will go to heaven instead of hell when Judgment Day comes, but it is not a confidence in God’s daily (even moment-by-moment) love for us and kindness towards us. Instead of delighting in God, faith becomes more of a rote set of beliefs unattached from our desires and will.

So, we must return again and again to the truth of the gospel—that God’s love caused Him to send His own Son, Jesus, to live the perfectly obedient life we could not live, to die a death that propitiated the wrath of God and made atonement for our sins and rise again to give us certain hope of eternal life with Him. As we return again and again to the truth of God’s love for us, we will find that our faith is strengthened. May God help us and keep us as we keep living by trusting in Him.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Romans 15:13; Hebrews 10:35-39, 11:6

“Living by Trusting”

Key Ideas

- 1) You trust Him for eternity, but do you trust Him for Tuesday?
- 2) Faith is confidence in God and His promise to bless/happify that generates loyalty and allegiance to God and an attitude of hope, joy, peace, etc.
- 3) Faith moves beyond believing *about* God to believing *in* God.
- 4) Faith is believing that we’re really reconciled to God and that His kindness is always at work for us—even in our hardships.
- 5) Faith looks to God for every good thing and stops looking elsewhere.
- 6) “We don’t believe something by merely saying we believe it, or even when we believe that we believe it. We believe something when we act as if it were true.” – Dallas Willard
- 7) We are wired for happiness, but when we seek it apart from God, everything is destroyed.
- 8) When we come to the Lord’s Supper, we encounter two faith-building realities: God’s love demonstrated on the cross and the promise of the second coming.
- 9) We must wait, as Joseph of Arimathea did (Luke 23:50) by faith for the coming kingdom of God.

## Discuss

- 1) Do you agree or disagree that it's easier to trust God for eternity than to trust Him for Tuesday? Why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) How closely does the definition of faith that Pastor Doug gave us resemble your own faith in Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Where else are you tempted to turn for happiness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) How confident are you that you are reconciled to God and that everything He does for you is out of His love and kindness?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) How does trusting God "happify" us?