

**GENERAL SUBJECT:
OUR FAITH BEING PERFECTED**

Message One

God's Economy in Faith

Scripture Reading: Rom. 3:22; 1 Tim. 1:4; Heb. 11:6; Gal. 2:20

I. In the New Testament the word *faith* bears two denotations—objective and subjective:

- A. In the objective denotation, faith refers to the entire revelation of the New Testament concerning the person of Christ and His redemptive work—Acts 6:7; 14:22; Rom. 16:26; 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Tim. 1:19b; Jude 3, 20.
- B. In the subjective denotation, faith refers to the act of believing—Luke 18:8; Mark 11:22.

II. We need to know the importance of faith:

- A. Without faith it is impossible to please God—Heb. 11:6.
- B. He who comes forward to God must believe that He is—v. 6b.

III. God's economy is in faith—1 Tim. 1:4:

- A. Faith is the unique way for God to carry out His New Testament economy with man—Heb. 11:6.
- B. The economy of God is a matter in faith, that is, in the sphere and element of faith, in God through Christ.
- C. God's New Testament economy, which is to dispense Himself into His chosen people, is not in the natural realm nor in the work of the law but in the spiritual sphere of the new creation through regeneration by faith in Christ—Gal. 6:14; 3:23-26:
 - 1. By faith we are born of God to be His sons, partaking of His life and nature to express Him—v. 26; John 1:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:4.
 - 2. By faith in Christ, we are put into Christ to become the members of His Body, sharing all that He is for His expression—John 3:15; Rom. 12:4-5.
- D. Faith is the principle by which God deals with His people in the New Testament—Gal. 3:22-24:
 - 1. This faith characterizes the believers in Christ and distinguishes them from the keepers of law; this is the main emphasis of the book of Galatians.
 - 2. The law of the Old Testament stresses letters and ordinances, whereas the faith of the New Testament emphasizes Spirit and life.

IV. Faith needs to increase and be developed:

- A. "Your faith is increasing"—2 Cor. 10:15.
- B. "Your faith grows exceedingly"—2 Thes. 1:3.
- C. "We may complete the things that are lacking in your faith"—1 Thes. 3:10.
- D. "We live by faith"—Rom. 1:17; Gal. 2:20; 3:11; Heb. 10:38.
- E. "By faith you stand"—2 Cor. 1:24.
- F. "We walk by faith, not by appearance"—5:7.

- G. "The proving of your faith, much more precious than of gold which perishes though it is proved by fire, may be found unto praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ"—1 Pet. 1:7.
- H. "Whom having not seen, you love; into whom though not seeing Him at present, yet believing, you exult with joy that is unspeakable and full of glory"—v. 8.