

**FAITH IS THE VICTORY**

1 John 5:4

## INTRODUCTION

- A. Why study the subject of faith?
  - 1. Christians and the young need to be grounded in the true principles of Biblical faith!
  - 2. Agnosticism within Christianity.
  - 3. Under Assault From Atheists!
- B. Misunderstood nature of faith.
  - 1. "I have found it necessary to deny knowledge to make room for faith."
  - 2. "One must let go of his rationality in order to make a passionate commitment to God."
  - 3. "Absolute, final knowledge beyond which there can be no greater, would not leave room for faith."
  - 4. Webster: "firm belief in something for which there is no proof."
  - 5. "No one can positively prove God."
- C. Necessary conclusion: "To admit that Christianity is only probable is to admit the possibility that, in fact, it might be a hoax...imagine even the slightest possibility of an apostle preaching the God of probability or the God who may be"?

## DISCUSSION

- I. WHY DO MEN BELIEVE AS THEY DO?
  - A. Arguments have been offered in its support.
  - B. It was encountered in a book or paper and nothing was spoken against it.
  - C. Common belief in one's cultural environment.
  - D. The new belief fits well with our prior beliefs.
  - E. There may be penalties for not accepting a belief (social ostracism, disappointment to parents, torture, etc.).
  - F. A belief is accepted because it gratifies us or answers a psychological need.
- II. RATIONAL AND IRRATIONAL BELIEF.
  - A. Irrational belief is based upon: emotion, prejudice, vested interest, habit, gullible, and inadequate reasons.
  - B. Rational belief is based on reason! IS 41:21; PH 1:7; 1 TH 5:21; 1 PE 3:15.
- III. "BELIEF THAT and "BELIEF IN."
  - A. Many have a 'belief in' but not a 'belief that'.
  - B. Apologetics or evidences deals with 'belief that' which provides foundation for 'belief in' which saves us!
  - C. If I only have a 'belief in', then my commitment is no different than a commitment to Buddha!
- IV. FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE / INSEPARABLE.
  - A. JN 4:42.
  - B. JN 6:69.
  - C. JN 17:8.
- V. FIRST GOSPEL SERMON.
  - A. Acts 2:16.
  - B. Acts 2:22.
  - C. Acts 2:32.
- VI. WHAT IS BIBLICAL FAITH?
  - A. Understanding of what we claim to believe.
  - B. Reasons for that stated belief.
  - C. Ready to act according to our stated belief.

CONCLUSION

- A. Philip and the Samaritans – Acts 8:5-12 - Understanding. Reasons. Ready to act!
- B. Are you ready to act?
  1. Jesus 'The Christ' lived, died and rose from the dead! (Understand)
  2. 1 CO 15:6 (Reason).
  3. MK 16:16 (Act).