

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 78

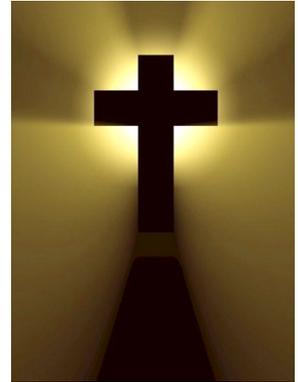
Active Faith or Unbelief



2013

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. ***(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."***



Lesson

The Bible teaches us that there will be MANY tests of our faith. And the basic difficulty or challenge will always be the same...WHERE ARE YOUR EYES...on God (Jesus) or the world????

The challenge will be to look ONLY at the Jesus, ONLY at the promises from our Father, ONLY at what the Word of God has to teach us... and DO NOT look to your circumstances, or what your eyes see, or what the your sin nature (flesh) wants, or what other people tell you that goes against God, or what you don't have. Because the Word of God teaches that there will be great opposition to our daily going forward in His plan for us...this lifestyle of faith from God our Father.



SATAN

"Satan hates active faith in a believer's heart, and opposes it with all his power." (That's a quote from a Bible teacher named Newell who lived and wrote 333 years ago). **The very nature of the world system run by Satan** (anti-God, self-seeking, deceiving and being deceived) **is unbelief**. The world and worldly people despise anyone who lives by active faith in the Son of God.

Okay what is active faith? Well you just learned a lot of passages in your last lesson on rewards for believers and the big differences there are among believers in how they live their lives.

Active faith is **loving** Jesus, **living** in the Plan the Father has for you, and serving Jesus by denying ourselves and picking up our crosses. "Wow" you say, that sounds really hard to do!!! Yikes!!!! I can't do that. No Way!!!!



Well I know you can LOVE Jesus for what HE did for you...salvation! You're going to live in heaven with Him forever!!!! Let me explain: if you remember from our long study on the ministries of the Holy Spirit and all the promises from God, you might relax a little or maybe a lot!!! Remember it's NOT our ability, it's our AVAILABILITY. God does all the rest. He gives us the power and opens the doors for us to serve Jesus and others...that by the way is ACTIVE faith. Why you ask? Because active faith is BELIEVING GOD and HIS WORD!!!! Faith is believing and acting on that faith. Now let that sink in and allow the Holy Spirit to drill some holes in your soul to pour this into it okay?



Oh does Satan ever hate active faith!!! Remember he rules the world and the unbelievers in the world and by the way most of them don't even know it!!! **John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you."** **John 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."** And the saddest thing of all is to realize that there are many who

became Christians but instead of being grateful, they end up resisting the joy of their salvation, NEVER learning the Word of God, and then turn their backs on the ONE who saved them. So they wind up stumbling along in life tripping and falling (painful!!). They even putt **BIG HUGE** stumbling blocks in the path of those who DO walk by faith and not by sight. **Luke 8:13 "Those on the rocky**



soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away." Phil 3:18-19 "For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, (19) whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on worldly things."

Instead listen to what Paul is teaching Timothy in 2 Tim 2:15-18. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the Word of truth. (16) But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, (17) and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, (18) men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the Rapture has already taken place (false teaching), and they upset the faith of some." So follow Paul's advice and listen to what Mr. Newell says about it too: "Against sight, against reason, against feeling, against the opinions of others, against all human possibilities whatever, we are to **keep believing!**" Keep believing our Father in heaven and His promises...they are REAL!!!!



In his fantastic verse by verse commentary on the book of Romans, Mr. William Newell presents a set of contrasts between faith in the LORD and His word, His promises, on the one hand and unbelief, on the other.

Mr. Newell quotes John Bunyan (who wrote Pilgrim's Progress) in his book *Come and Welcome to Jesus Christ* written in 1678!!!

I would like to end our lesson with certain items in his list that are most convincing for our circumstances today.

And please understand that when John Bunyan wrote this, he looked into his own heart while in prison (for preaching the Word!!!!!!). The first terrible thing he saw there was his own secret feelings of unbelief. So he was not looking down his nose at anyone when he made this list. He wanted to help those who may be suffering from unbelief!



1. Faith believes the word of God, but unbelief questions the certainty of what God has said.
2. Faith sees more in a promise of God to help than in all other things to hinder; but unbelief, says "How can these things be?"
3. Faith will make you see love in the heart of Christ when with His mouth He scolds and corrects; but unbelief imagines Jesus is being angry in His heart when with His mouth and word He says He loves us.
4. Faith will give comfort in the middle of fears, but unbelief causes fears in the middle of comforts.
5. Faith will suck sweetness out of God's rod, but unbelief can find no comfort in the greatest mercies.
6. Faith makes great burdens light, but unbelief makes light ones intolerably heavy.
7. Faith brings us near to God when we are far from Him, but unbelief puts us far from Him when He is near to us.
8. Faith puts a man under grace, but unbelief holds him under anger.
9. Faith gives us peace and comfort in our souls, but unbelief works trouble and tosses us like the restless waves of the sea.
10. By faith we have our life in Christ's fullness, but by unbelief we starve and pine away.
11. Faith gives us the victory over the law, sin, death, the devil, and all evils; but unbelief would have us exposed to them all.
12. Faith makes the ways of God pleasant and admirable, but unbelief makes them heavy and hard.
13. By faith the children of Israel passed through the Red Sea, but by unbelief they died in the wilderness.
14. By faith Gideon did more with three hundred men and a few empty pitchers than all the twelve tribes could do, because of their unbelief.

John Bunyan wrote *Come and Welcome to Jesus Christ* in 1678. That was 335 years ago! And yet these things are as fresh and real to us as if he preached yesterday.

So again, the challenge: where are your eyes, kids? Are you spending your time watching the "God channel" or the "flesh channel", world channel, lie channel, problems channel?



Are you continuing to stare at your problems and difficulties and inabilities...?

What about God?
What about His abilities?

What about the promise that God has given to YOU?
Do you know what promises God has directed toward you?

This much is for sure...you need to learn them in God's Word and BELIEVE them! That's ACTIVE FAITH!

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on 4-11/2012
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