

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
AUGUST 11, 2021
MARK 16:14

INTRODUCTION:

1. Though they were told by eyewitnesses that Jesus had been resurrected, the disciples did not believe. (Mark 16.11,13; Luke 24.11)
2. Throughout His ministry, Jesus had emphasized the necessity of faith. (Matt. 17.19-21)
 - a) The words “faith” and “believe” are found 179 times in the gospel. Of those times, Jesus spoke of faith 123 times.
 - b) Jesus praised those who had great faith. (Matt. 8.10; 15.28)
 - c) Jesus rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith. (Mark 4.40; 16.14)
3. Inviting these thoughts into our lives, consider the necessity of faith today.

I. THE DEFINITION OF FAITH

- A. Faith is the foundation of hope.
 1. **HEBREWS 11.1:** *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for.”*
 - a) Substance (hupostasis): Hupo – “under”; Stasis – “to stand.” To stand under.
 - b) Faith is what gives support to our hope. We hope because we believe.
 2. **HEBREWS 11.1:** *“the evidence of things not seen.”*
 - a) Evidence (elenchus): The proving or convicting of something.
 - b) What are the things that are unseen? (Heb. 11.2,27; Heb. 11.7; Rom. 8.24)
- B. Faith is the foundation of obedience.
 1. Examples of obedient faith. (Heb. 11.4,7,8)
 2. **JAMES 2.18:** *“I will show you my faith by my works.”*

I. THE DIRECTION OF FAITH

- A. Faith in God.
 1. We are to believe in His existence. (Heb. 11.6; Ex. 3.14; 1 Tim. 1.17; Ps. 14.1)
 2. We are to believe in His involvement. (Heb. 11.6; Ps. 10.4)
 3. We are to believe in His power. (Rom. 1.20; 10.9,10; Gal. 1.19,20)
 4. We are to believe in His word. (Rom. 4.3; Gen. 15.4-6)
- B. Faith in Jesus.
 1. We are to believe in Jesus as the Christ. (Acts 8.37)
 2. We are to believe in Jesus as the Son of God. (Acts 8.37; Matt. 16.16)
 3. We are to believe in Jesus as Lord. (Matt. 22.41-45)
 4. We are to believe in Jesus as Savior. (John 4.42)

III. THE DEVELOPMENT OF FAITH

- A. Faith comes through evidence.
 1. God does not expect us to believe blindly. (Ex. 4.1-9)
 2. Proof that Jesus is the Son of God. (John 10.36-38)
 3. Proof that Jesus was raised from the dead. (John 20.19,20; 24-28)
- B. Faith comes through hearing.
 1. We do not have the physical evidence today. (John 20.29)
 2. What evidence do we have today? (John 20.30,31; 21.24; Rom. 10.17)