

EVER INCREASING FAITH

2Peter 1:8 *"For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (NKJV)

Faith is the First of Eight

- ▣ **2 Peter 1:5-7** *"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love."*
- ▣ Starting from faith and culminating in love.
- ▣ You can't have some of these and not the others, they are like a brick arch, each brick dependent upon the others to keep the arch from collapsing.

Faith Vs. Doubt

- ▣ **Heb 11:6** *"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."*
- ▣ **Matt 14:31** *"And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?""*
- ▣ **James 1:6** *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind."*
- ▣ We would do well, I believe, to understand faith as trust and understand that trust grows over time and experience . Its like the trust of a married couple, at first it may seem strong, but not as strong as it can be if they nurture and build it up over 30 or 40 years of joy and sorrow and perseverance.

The Beginning of Faith

- ▣ **Romans 1:16-17** *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith.""*
- ▣ **Romans 10:17** *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*
- ▣ **John 20:30-31** *"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."*
- ▣ **1Cor 2:4-5** *"And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God."*

The Abounding of Faith

- ▣ **2 Thess 1:3** " We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,"
- ▣ **James 1:2-4** " My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."
- ▣ **1 Tim 1:5-7** " Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm."

The End of Faith

- ▣ Romans 5:1-5 *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*
- ▣ **1 Peter 1:6-9** *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls."*