

Morning Nourishment

Heb. Now faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, 11:1 the conviction of things not seen.

5-6 By faith Enoch...was not found, because God had translated him. For...he obtained the testimony that he had been well pleasing to God. But without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes forward to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

He who comes forward to God must believe that God is (Heb. 11:6b). This is very simple. God requires you only to believe that He is. The verb *to be* is actually the divine title of our Triune God. In Exodus 3 Moses asked God what His name was. God answered that His name is I Am That I Am (vv. 13-14). Our God's name is the verb *to be*. He is "I Am That I Am." He is the only One.

We must believe that God is. This implies everything. Do you need God? God is. Do you need food? God is. This is why we use the word *great* in saying that Jesus is the *great* I Am. He told us, "I am...the life" (John 14:6a), "I am the resurrection" (11:25), "I am the door" (10:7, 9), "I am the good Shepherd" (10:11), "I am the bread of life" (6:35). He is the real food. There is only one kind of food that is. This food is Jesus, the great I Am. He is the breath (20:22), the living water (4:10, 14), and the tree of life (15:1; 14:6a; Rev. 2:7). He is God (John 1:1; 20:28-29; Rom. 9:5), the Father (Isa. 9:6; John 14:9-10), the Son (Mark 1:1; John 20:31), and the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17; 1 Cor. 15:45b). He is everything to us. (*Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans*, pp. 73-74)

Today's Reading

The Bible says that if you do not believe in Christ, you have no life (John 3:15-16, 36). When I was young, I could not understand this. I thought that as a strong boy, I did have life. Later, I realized that our life is a false one. It is not the life that is. This means that our life is not something that exists forever. We are today, but eventually we will not be tomorrow. So in the whole universe, we are nothing. I am nothing. Our hall is nothing. Anaheim is

nothing. California is nothing. The United States is nothing. And the whole globe is nothing! This is because they do not exist forever. The day will come when they will not exist; they will be over. Actually, the things that are seen are not the things that exist; they are vanities (2 Cor. 4:18).

Then what is existing? Who exists? Only the great I Am—I Am That I Am. He who comes forward to God must believe that God is! Faith is so critical. Without this, you can never make God happy. You must believe that God is. Let me illustrate. If a husband realized that only God is and he is not, then he would not love his wife by himself and in himself.

What is faith? Faith is to stop yourself from doing anything. You are nothing. Faith joins you with God to make God the only One who is. I am not, so I should not be the one who loves my wife. It should be Christ loving my wife. He is; I am not.

Faith is to stop you from doing anything but to make God everything to you. This equals Paul's word in Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me." Who lives? It is no longer I. I do not exist. I was terminated. I was crucified. I am finished. It is no more I, but Christ lives in me. Christ lives. Christ is. Christ exists. I do not exist. This is the very essence of the short word *believe that God is*. To believe that God is implies that you are not. He must be the only One, the unique One, in everything, and we must be nothing in everything.

Only faith can make God happy...To deny yourself and to trust in Him is faith. This is to believe that God is.

Even at the end of a ministry meeting, we may say, "Saints, now it is your turn to share." But we have to say, "It is not our turn, but Christ's turn." If we live in this way, the riches of Christ will come out of our mouth. This makes a big difference—to deny the self, to trust in the Lord, that is, to believe that God is. (*Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans*, pp. 74-75, 77-78)

Further Reading: Crystallization-study of the Epistle to the Romans, msg. 7

Enlightenment and inspiration: _____

