



Lecture #1, Part 4

Course Information

1. Course Description

A study of the persons of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit and their unified teaching of the doctrines of the Bible.

Survey of the Doctrines of the Bible

1A-Introduction to Doctrine

1-Apostles' Doctrine

Acts 2:42

2-Heresy

Titus 3:10

3-Double Verities

John 21:18

4-Faith- Definition

Rom. 1:17

5-Failure of Faith

Rom. 4:20

6-Witness of the Spirit

Rom. 8:16

7-Fundamentalism

Heb. 6:1-2

8-Tradition

2 Thes. 2:15

9-Principles of Interpretation

2 Tim. 2:15

Introduction to Doctrinal Footnotes

These theological footnotes are divided into three sections **(1) explanation**, **(2) illustration**, and **(3) application**. When you have absorbed all the notes within one topic area, you will have completed a total survey of that doctrine.

1A-Introduction to Doctrine

4-Faith- Definition

Rom. 1:17

Explanation: Six kinds or expressions of faith occur in Scripture.

(1) “**Doctrinal faith**” called “the faith,” refers to the content of Christian belief (**Jude 3**).

(2) “**Saving faith**” is trusting in Christ and in Him alone for salvation (**Acts 16:31**).

(3) “**Justifying faith**” is the believer’s reliance on the fact that God has declared him righteous (**Gen. 15:6**).

(4) “**Indwelling faith**” is trusting God’s Word in and through us (**Gal. 2:20**).

(5) “**Daily faith**” is that day-by-day dependence on God which is part of the sanctification process (**2 Cor. 5:7**).

(6) “**The gift of faith**” is a special ability of faith, resulting in a vision of what God can do, faith that is the means by which we can achieve that vision, and the power with God to get answers to prayer (**Heb. 11:1-3**).

Illustration: God’s hall of faith (**Heb. 11**) identifies a number of Old Testament saints who experienced God’s blessing as a result of their faith. Although they did not all experience the same kind of victories, all pleased God by faith (**Heb. 11:6**).

Application: The Christian should remember that it is impossible to please God without faith (**Heb. 11:6**).



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5-Failure of Faith

Rom. 4:20

Explanation: There are six New Testament expressions that trace the decline of faith in an individual. Before a person is saved, he may have:

- (1) “**vain faith**” or belief in the wrong doctrine ([1 Cor. 15:14-17](#)); or
- (2) “**dead faith,**” or belief in orthodox doctrine without personal belief in Christ ([James 2:19-20](#)).

After a person is saved, he can experience the following varieties of faith:

- (1) “**a kind of unbelief**”—experienced by believers who fail to accept the whole work of Christ ([Mark 16:11-14](#));
- (2) “**little faith**”—a mixture of faith and unbelief ([Mark 7:26](#));
- (3) “**weak faith**”—referring to belief expressed a mere legalism ([Rom. 14:1](#)); or
- (4) “**strong faith**”—faith that is rooted in the promises of God ([Rom. 4:20](#)).

Illustration: As Christians mature, they should grow in faith. This was the experience of Abraham. Early in his pilgrimage with God, he could not trust God to protect him in Egypt. This was weak faith ([Gen. 12:10-20](#)). He was later able to trust God, in sacrificing his son Isaac. This was strong faith ([Heb. 11:17-19](#)).

Application: The Christian life is a continual growing adventure in faith.

6-Witness of the Spirit

Rom. 8:16

Explanation: The witness of the Spirit is the inner assurance of God’s truth. One of the conditions of this inner conviction concerning the things of God is obedience to His known will ([John 7:17](#)). God uses this ministry of the Holy Spirit to convince us of truth that cannot be understood other than through divine help ([Matt. 16:17](#)).

Illustration: This witness was obvious in Peter’s confession of Christ ([Matt. 16:16-17](#)). Even though others had observed Christ and drawn certain erroneous conclusions, Peter received spiritual insight from God as to who Jesus really was ([Matt. 16:17](#)). This enlightenment did not mean he had nothing more to learn, because perhaps within minutes of his confession, he was being rebuked by Jesus for his lack of spiritual insight ([Matt. 16:23](#)).

Application: Christians should be careful always to obey the clearly revealed will of God, so as not to hinder this ministry in their lives.