

A Table Talk on "Faith"

Gary Allen Senecke DD

Romans 14:23

*But he who has doubts is condemned, if he eats, because he does not act from faith;
for whatever does not proceed from faith is sin*

This may be the most important, and significant, "Table Talk" I've ever given, led, or taken part in.

Our subject is: FAITH (or אֱמוּנָה - πίστις).

1. The Hebrew word אֱמוּנָה (*emunah*) or the Greek - πίστις (*pestes*) has traditionally been translated "faith," but the term nowhere else refers to "belief" as such. When used of human character and conduct it carries the notion of "honesty, integrity, reliability, faithfulness." "loyalty"; or "integrity."
 - a. "Romans 1:17 *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live.*
 - b. Habakkuk 2:4 *Look, the one whose desires are not upright for the person of integrity will live because of his faithfulness.*
2. Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the assurance (reality) of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

John 3

God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, that anyone who has faith in him may not perish but have everlasting life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be rescued. The person believing in him is not condemned, but the unbeliever is already condemned in that she/he has not trusted in God's only Son. The light has come into the world, but people loved darkness over light because their deeds were evil. Those doing wrong hate the light and avoid it, for fear their deeds would be revealed. The transparent person comes to the light so that it may be seen that God is in all she/he does".

- A. Faith - the only acceptable human response to God
- B. Knowledge of God's being begins in God - he must disclose his Godself - he determines
- C. God acts - his acts are consistent with his self (nature - being)
- D. Faith - is first belief - but always calls for trust - is never "I think" - and begins in God
- E. Faith is the ONLY true source of faithfulness
- F. In faith man is in conformity to God
 - a. God acts - this gives revelation - creating accountability
 - b. Faith is a gift of God
- G. Divine determination - God wills - God purposes
 - a. God's will be God's purpose
 - b. God's WORD is always and expression of his will - Jesus is that WORD

- c. God true and final revelation is Jesus
- d. Faith is always centered in THE WORD OF GOD
- e. In faith man is in conformity to God's expressed self - revealed truth
- f. Man's decision conforms to God's - we were created capable of conforming
- g. Faith is never an achievement - a human work
 - i. Faith is different from reason
 - ii. Faith is beyond "I think"
 - iii. Faith is created by the act of God
- H. Faith never in any respect lives from or by anything but God's WORD
- I. Faith is always affirmative - YES! - obedience to revelation. Faith is more than a response. Faith informs the life and thinking of the believer. Faith is a gift - it is given - created by God
- J. To experience the WORD is to be co-existent in God through his new creation - Jesus the Christ - this is experiential knowledge of God.

2 Corinthians 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we preached among you . . . was not Yes and No; but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why we utter the Amen through him, to the glory of God.

Galatians 2:15 " We natural Jew are not gentile sinners; yet, we know that no one is ever made right by doing what the law demands, but only through the faithfulness of Christ Jesus; so we too have put our faith in Jesus Christ, in order that we might be right through this faith, and not through deeds dictated by law; for by such deeds, Scripture says, no mortal shall be justified.

2 Corinthians 5:6 We are confident; knowing that while we are at home in the body we are separated from the Lord- for we walk through faith, not by sight- we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

The knowledge of God - occurs from above to below - and creates the new creation - a person whose deepest convictions - behavior - and understanding of life and self is lived out of the "encounter with the WORD - Jesus Christ is that WORD - and he is God. Faith is a mindset created by this encounter of God and with God. It creates a conviction of reality beyond study and reason

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