

45 - Facts and Fiction About Faith (Part 5)

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Misconception # 5: I accept only what I* can verify with my five senses. This leaves no room for the so-called saving faith of the Christian believer.

Actually, every day we perform many tasks by faith – our whole economy operates on this principle. By faith you board an airplane. You trust the clerk who sold you the ticket, the mechanics who serviced the plane and the pilot to fly safely. Every time you ride in a car, mail a letter, or use a prescription drug you do so by faith.

In all fairness, let us be consistent. If we accept without questions, scores of complexities in secular life and modern technology, why should we refuse to examine, with an open mind, the evidence for God and the claims of Christ?

Last week Carol and I celebrated the 63rd anniversary of our marriage. Over the years we experienced much more than what could be verified through our five senses. Our marriage has been far from perfect but we have sought to build a meaningful personal relationship based on such qualities as trust, respect and love. Without faith in one another, there could be no marriage or even a life worthy of the name. As Helen Keller stated, “The best and most beautiful things in life cannot be seen or touched. They must come from the heart.”

The longer I live the more I see the importance of building meaningful personal relationships – with God, ourselves, family and friends and to the world at large. Whether life has meaning and fulfillment depends largely on the quality of these relationships. This is especially true in our relationship with God. As persons made in the image of God, we need another Person Who knows us, understands us and Who can do for us what we cannot do ourselves.

Many people seem to think that you become a Christian by trying to be good and perhaps giving mental assent to some creed. But God’s plan of salvation goes deeper – “By grace through faith...not of works” (Ephesians 2:8,9). Because at the heart of Christian faith, each one must have a personal relationship with a living Person, the Lord Jesus Christ. And this saving relationship cannot be inherited. It must come first hand. God has no grandchildren, only children by Faith!

The greatest minds of the ages have grappled with the profound implications of this personal relationship. And yet, even a child can experience and receive God’s gift of salvation (John 3:16). Somehow we must make contact with the living God. The publican cried, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner” (Luke 18:13b)! Only seven words but they came from his heart, and Christ answered his prayer. Give your faith to God, even if it is small, and you will be astonished at what He can give you – abundant life now and eternal life forever.