

Christ-Centered



Biblical Training

Matthew 6:33; 1 John 2:6;
2 Chronicles 16:9

SUMMARY:

**THOUGHTS RE WALKING
BY FAITH THROUGH LOVE;
PRODUCING GOOD WORKS**

by

John M. Stephenson

Biblical Worldview Ministries

April 2007

BiblicalWorldviewMinistries.com

PREMISES AND INTRODUCTION

The Bible teaches that we are to walk by faith through love (Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 3:17). Thus, living by faith and by love are interconnected. When we live by love and/or by faith, we depend upon God to bring results that He has planned in and around us. We will have a great appreciation of God's Greatness.

The basic idea is that when we live by love, keeping God's commandments, and/or by faith, obeying the instructions with the promise of what God will do, which are works, we are trusting God to accomplish something. We, as Christians, were created for good works that come from God, not from us, as a source. Accomplishing these works from love and faith results in God working all things together for good in and around us.

Galatians 5:6 - For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Ephesians 2:10 - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

An example of such a work that is a commandment would be to take the Gospel to the entire world that includes our entire local area (Mark 16:15). We do this from faith that God will save people. When we love God and people, we will share this Gospel so they might not perish in the Lake of Fire. When we live by faith, trusting God to fulfill a promise and bring results, we activate that faith through obeying the instructions associated with the promise. This obedience is works. We are trusting God to accomplish something. We believe He is the only one who can accomplish. With greater love for God and greater faith in what He will do, we will have more and greater works.

The greater respect and appreciation we have for God's Greatness, we will have greater love for Him. This will result in our learning and keeping more of His commandments. We will walk by greater faith in God to accomplish according to His promises. We will learn and memorize more of His promises. In both cases, we will have works from love and from faith. We will believe the actual works come from God that He has planned for us. Thus, God is directing all of life. We do not make independent decisions.

(We have many promises and commandments in our publication: *Living by God's Righteousness*. It is on our web site and we can e-mail you a copy.)

DISCUSSING THE CONCEPTS

We are to love God with our total beings (Matthew 22:37). The degree of our love is based on our knowing something about and believing the infinite perfection and capability of God - who and what He is. He has all the possible perfect attributes. (See the *Attributes of God* on our web site.) And He not only has great love, but He is love (1 John 4:8). Love is fundamental to His make up. Thus, the greater appreciation we have for His Greatness, we will have much greater love for Him. We are told that if we love Him, we are to keep His commandments, and when we do, we abide in His love (John 14:15; 15:10). This assumes that we know what they are. Thus, the greater love we have for God and His Greatness, we will do more to discover all that God wants us to do including what commandments to keep and promises to claim. We will do it with excellence and commitment.

We need to carefully understand that living by sacrificial love is central to the Christian life. We are to love God based on who and what He is. We are to love each other as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:38-39). We can have all knowledge and great faith, but if we lack love, we are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-2). The concept is that we are to love each other such that we sacrificially serve each other. And as we do, we trust God, from our faith, that He will help others based on His promises and our works from love. This results in a close fellowship with God and each other. We are walking in unity, first with God and then with each other.

We are told to live by faith (Romans 1:17; Hebrews 11:6). We are told that our faith is to be activated by obeying the instructions associated with the promise (2 Peter 1:2-8). When this happens, we have living faith. The instructions we obey are works (James 2:20-25). Without works, our faith is dead (James 2:26). Thus, when we trust God to accomplish according to His promises and that faith is activated by obeying the instructions (works) associated with the promise, we will have works. This activated faith produces living faith to which God responds. When we trust God to save by our keeping His commandments to evangelize the world, we have works and living faith. Thus, works can be associated with gaining salvation or having God accomplish other things in our lives and in the ministry as we activate our faith in Him to accomplish. We are told to live by faith, trusting God to fulfill His promises. When we do, we live without sin and escape the lusts that are in the world (2 Peter 1:2-8). We also receive more revelation from God (Romans 1:17).

One classic example of living by faith is demonstrated by the battle of Jericho in the Old Testament (Joshua). God gave a promise to the Israelites that He would give the city of Jericho into their hands. For them to activate their faith in Him to do so, God said they must march around the city of Jericho for seven days in a particular manner. The Israelites believed God would and could do as He said. So they marched around the city activating their faith in God to keep His promise. When they did, they had living faith. God worked through their living faith and brought the city walls down. This allowed the Israelites to capture the city with its inhabitants. But the capture of Jericho was in God's Plan and will from the beginning. It was not something that came originally from man as a source as the situation seemed to demand.

Another promise example is Matthew 6:33. We trust God to give us the needs of life and we

Summary: Thoughts Re Walking By Faith Through Love; Producing Good Works

activate our faith by means of works of seeking His Kingdom and Righteousness first in life. God has given us many promises in the Bible which we are to claim.

Without love, we are nothing. We can have great faith and great knowledge, but if we do not have love we are nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-2). This is because when we live by love, we do things from God as a source, and we serve others sacrificially instead of only or mainly ourselves. There is no greater love than we sacrificially lay down our lives for our friends (John 15:13; 1 John 3:16). (We are to live unselfish lives.)

As stated, living by faith, allows us to live without sin. But living by love allows us to live holy and righteously. We live holy and righteously because we are keeping God's commandments that came from Him and not ourselves as a source. When we live this way, we are living as Christ lives. He only did what came from the Father as a source (John 5:19-20). Thus, when people saw Him, they saw the Father because from Himself He was doing nothing. Thus, He could say that He who has seen Me, has seen the Father (John 14:7-12). We are to live His way (1 John 2:6) thinking and doing only what comes from the Father a source (the Holy Bible).

SUMMARY

When we live by faith and by love, as stated, we live according to God's Plan. We are doing things that come from God as a source. Both produce works that are called fulfilling the instructions associated with the promise and/or is a commandment we are to obey.

We live by faith for God to accomplish, keep from sin, and receive revelation from God. We live by love to live holy and righteously and to know God. If we have a pure life or morality (no immorality and idolatry coming from bad habits), we will know (see) God (Matthew 5:8).

Matthew 5:8 - "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

We do both of these as led of the Holy Spirit as God works in us. When we do, we are trusting God, not ourselves, to work all things together for good. The more we are sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, the greater spiritual life we will have as we live by love and by faith. But this life requires that we know the commandments and the promises. God does put some inherently in us. All of life is to come from God as a source.

For helps to gain more maturity in Christ, see the documents on our web site under "training" or under "what's new."