

Rising to the Call of Faith

Introduction

If we are to rise to the callings of God in life, we must be men of faith. To be men of faith, we first need to be able to distinguish between...

Two Kinds of Faith - From John 2 and 3

It is important that we have a firm grip on the line of reason in this passage.

1. The line of reason helps tremendously when it comes to interpreting scripture.
 - A. In 2:23-2:25 - The first kind of faith is described with Jesus' response.
 - B. In 3:1-2 - John introduced Nicodemus as an example of a man with the first kind of faith.
 - C. In 3:3-4 - John revealed how Jesus tested the nature of Nicodemus' faith to expose what kind of faith was working in him.
 - D. In 3:5-9 - John recorded Jesus' description of the second kind of faith and its origin.
 - E. In 3:10-15 - John recorded Jesus' teaching about the foundation for the second kind of faith.
 - F. In 3:16-21 - John explains what Jesus' teaching means to his Jewish readers.
2. Having laid out the line of reason, we're now ready to see that men may have one of two kinds of faith.

The First Kind of Faith

1. The foundation for this kind of faith is signs. (Read John 2:23)
 - A. This kind of faith almost always precedes the second kind of faith.
 - B. It's the kind of faith that a person, most often a child, expresses because he or she can't deny...
2. The "many" with this kind of faith are spoken of in the sermon on the mount. Matt. 7:13; 21-23
3. Jesus didn't entrust Himself to those who believed because of signs. (Read John 2:24-25)
4. So we see also that this kind of faith is natural and of the flesh.
5. This is the kind of faith was exemplified in Nicodemus. (Read John 3:1-2)

The Second Kind of Faith

1. In John 3:5-8, Jesus revealed some of the characteristics of this second kind of faith. (John 3:5). The first characteristic is that it enables one to see and enter the kingdom of God.
2. The second characteristic of saving faith is that the Word of God is the means by which this kind of faith comes ("born of water"). John 13:10-11; 15:3; 1 Pet. 1:23

3. The third characteristic of saving faith is that it is a work of the Holy Spirit. (John 3:5-8)
4. The fourth characteristic of saving faith is that its foundation is the work of God in Christ. (John 3:10-15)

God's Redemptive Plan Revealed

1. John now provides a very important commentary on the encounter with Nicodemus. The wind of the Holy Spirit is going to blow into the world among the Gentiles. God has the same redemptive plan for the world that he does for Israel motivated by the same love. John 3:16-17.
2. Saving faith is birthed in a remnant, not everyone.
3. Faith born of the Spirit is the evidence of God's redeeming love and deliverance from God's judgment against sin. John 3:18
4. Saving faith wants all the glory to go to God for anything done that is good. (John 3:19-21)

Let us pray that God, to the praise of His glorious grace in Jesus Christ, might raise us up to the calling of faith in His Son.