

LIFE CHANGING STORIES FROM THE BIBLE

“FEELINGS, FACT, FAITH”

Our face is our TV screen. How we feel is portrayed by the expression on our face. It is possible to hide our feelings but under normal circumstances what we are feeling is portrayed by our face. Even when we are trying to hide our feelings, our face can give us away.

Here are some of the main expressions that reveal our feelings, happy, sad, anger, fear, puzzled, disgust, surprised etc. Feelings change, they come and go, they usually depend on the circumstances we find ourselves in, good or bad health, good or bad relationships to mention some.

Facts remain constant, they never change, a fact is a fact. It is a fact the sun is up in the sky shining, whether it is a sunny day, a cloudy day, or a dark stormy day when the sun is hidden from view. The fact remains, the sun is still up in the sky shining regardless of the weather. Facts are like the huge solid rock jutting out of the sea surrounded by sometimes calm, sometimes choppy, sometimes stormy waves. The waves like our feelings, chop and change but the rock like solid facts remains unchanged.

Faith, there are two types of faith, natural faith, that everyone has, and imparted faith that can be created in our hearts by God. It would be impossible to live if we didn't have natural faith. We exercise natural faith all day long without thinking about it. When we sit on a chair we believe it will hold our weight and not collapse. We have a natural faith in that chair. When we get on a bus we have natural faith to believe the driver will take us where we want to go. Despite the fact that people can let us down we mostly believe instructions we receive and things people tell us, unless they are proven liars, in fact it would be impossible to function if we didn't believe people.

When we talk about imparted faith we are talking about a faith that believes and trusts in invisible facts. Even with natural faith we can believe in invisible facts like oxygen, which we can't see, but we believe in it and breathe it in to stay alive. It is even possible to believe in the existence of the invisible God with natural faith but it is imparted faith that brings us into a relationship with The God we cannot see.

What does the bible say about believing that God exists with our natural faith? “What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:19,20.

“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the end of the earth.” Psalm 19:1-4.

“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us.” Acts 17:24-27.

From these verses we see it is a fact that God exists, proven by the creation around us and that we should seek him and we have no excuse not to do so. From this natural faith we can move into imparted faith, a faith that brings us into contact with God personally. Imparted faith can spring up in our hearts by hearing or reading the word of God or hearing the word or reading the word of Jesus which means the same thing.

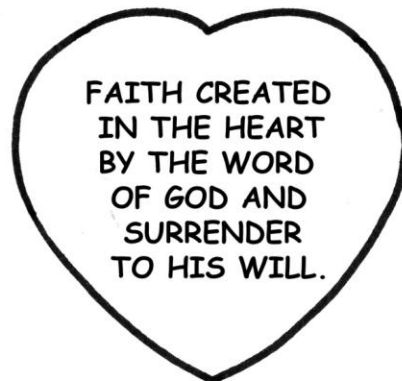
Romans 10:17. “Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” As we listen to the word or read the word it is like a seed planted in our hearts and it springs up from the soil of our hearts and causes us to have faith, trust, inward confidence in God. It brings us into a personal relationship with God and his Son Jesus Christ. We can believe in God with natural faith but we can never come into a personal relationship without imparted faith.

If we don't seem to be getting this imparted faith but our minds are filled with doubts and unbelief we need to humble ourselves and seek him in prayer. The usual reason is we are not really willing to go fully God's way, we still want to go our own way and maybe just a little bit God's way. The verse that solves our problem is found in John 7:17. “If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.” I like the way it is translated in the AV version. “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.”

Here Jesus is saying that if you have doubts it is because you are not really willing to do God's will. “If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will “ find out” “ If any man will do his will, he shall “Know” What will he or she find out? What will he or she know? They will find and know what it is to experience imparted faith, they will find out and know what it is to be in a personal relationship with God. As it says in 1 Peter 1:8 “Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled an inexpressible and glorious joy.”



THROUGH NATURAL FAITH YOU CAN BELIEVE IN THE INVISIBLE GOD.



THROUGH IMPLANTED FAITH YOU CAN KNOW AND LOVE THE INVISIBLE GOD.

FRANK HUTCHINSON