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FAITH SIGHT SUFFERING ABRAHAM						HEAR STEADFASTNESS ENDURING ISAAC					WALK PATIENCE TRIBULATIONS BLESS			
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COMMANDMENT LAW						RIGHTEOUSNESS PROVED					STATUTES OFFERED			
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Do We Have Faith?										
Hebrews 11:1, 6										
Welcome It is a pleasure to have you with us this hour. Our endeavor is to worship God in Spirit and in Truth by adhering to the scriptures in all that we do and teach. If you desire to have a private Bible Study at your convenience, let us know.										
Website	Meeting Location	ASSEMBLIES SUNDAY:								
Phone		A.M P.M Bible Study:								
Volume I		0015								

Affliction

Affliction is "depression, that is, misery." Have you ever been depressed or miserable because of some injustice you've suffered? You ask the question, "If I'm doing what's right, why am I being afflicted for it?" We're told little cutesy phrases like, "If life gives you a lemon, make lemonade," but such does not remove the reality of the affliction. When affliction comes, it's difficult to be optimistic. The mind begins to search for answers, only to become more confused: if what is being done is righteous if the actions pursued are truly what needs to be done, then why does affliction come? There just doesn't seem to be any justice, any equity. What should we do when such overwhelms us and depression and misery flood our lives?

The greatest king to sit upon the throne of Israel in Jerusalem+ was David. King David was a man of whom God said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after my heart, who shall do all my will" (Acts 13:22). (Afflictions, Continues Pg. 2)

(Afflictions, Continued)

Though David was such a man, there were times when the afflictions of life would weigh upon him: his refuge, his hope, his only means of security was Jehovah, the God of Israel. The Psalmist set forth many petitions for God to rectify unjust circumstances. The Psalmist was free with his thoughts of wonder and questions about the equity of life. In the 13th Psalm, David said, "How long, O Jehovah? wilt thou forget me for ever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?"

Have you ever felt like God had abandoned you? Have you ever wondered why God has not rendered vengeance upon those who oppose his will? Do such thoughts make you question your faith?

We live in a "right now society." If there's something we want, or want done, there is little to stop us. Thus, we lack patience when adversity comes. Though it is not new to our society, it is alive and well in it. Patience is something we all want but fail to appreciate the development of. The Hebrew Christians were told, "For ye have need of patience, that, having done the will of God, ye may receive the promise" (Hebrews 10:36), a patience that is only realized when one's faith is being proved (James 1:3).

When our faith is being proved, it will cause us to call upon the only source that can help us: God. That's what David did. His cry was not one that displayed a lack of faith, but one that called upon God to act, because David's faith resided in God. David was just a man and responded like a man on many occasions. He would "take counsel in" his own soul (Psalms 13:2). He would attempt to resolve his difficulties in his own way, only to find that only God could, and would, ultimately resolve them. His motivation was based upon the sorrow in his heart, a sorrow of having his enemies prevailing over him. In many cases, it takes time for us to ultimately do what should have been done in the first place: turn to God in prayer. Have Faith! ret

Do We Have Faith?

- A. Heb. 11:1, 6 Faith: often referenced, seldom understood
- B. Rom. 10:17 Availability and Access
- C. 2 Cor. 5:7 "walk by faith"
- D. Rom. 15:4; 5:3-4 Learning from of old

ABRAHAM

- I. Gen. 12:1-2, 4 Abraham called by God
- II. Deut. 4:6-8 Laws would affect every nation

III. Gen. 22:1-19 – God proved Abram

- A. Heb. 11:17-19 Offered up Isaac
- B. Jam. 2:21-23 "And Abraham believed God"

IV. Heb. 6:13-18 – Two Immutable Factors:

- A. Gen. 22:16; Heb. 6:17 God's promise
- B. Heb. 6:18; Eph. 3:10-11 Immutability of his counsel

V. Our Encouragement:

- A. Gal. 3:1-9 "blessed with the faithful Abraham"
- B. Heb. 6:17-18 "we may have a strong encouragement"

SOLOMON SAYS

"The ear that hearkeneth to the reproof of life Shall abide among the wise.

He that refuseth correction despiseth his own soul; But he that hearkeneth to reproof getteth understanding.

The fear of Jehovah is the instruction of wisdom; And before honor goeth humility" (Proverbs 15:31-33).