

THOUGHTFUL LISTENING

Pastor's Desk – July 19, 2020

"Despite the context, faith always holds a mixture of trusting, believing, knowing, understanding, and sometimes even bold conviction. It all fastens together and points toward a specific object. Within the Bible, that object is always God, Jesus Christ, the Word of God, or a messenger from God, whether angel, prophet, or minister. The question is: Are you listening to what the Lord has to say to you today?"

Excerpt from Pastor's Desk
Thoughtful Listening by Pr. Teddy Santos
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Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Understanding this introductory verse is vital to receiving the most from this chapter. It authenticates a useful, functional description of faith, but it is not the only one, since the Word of God uses the term "faith" in various ways. We have to be examining as we study, or we may get an approach about faith other than the one our Lord purposes within a given context.

In **Galatians 1:23**, "faith" is implied in a slightly different fashion. "*he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed.*" In connection with "preaching," faith, as used in theological speech, signifies "a confession," hence "a creed," "a body of religious beliefs," or "a statement of the principles of one's way of life." The New Testament frequently uses "faith" in this way.

In **John 20:29**, the apostle narrates, "**Jesus said to him, 'Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'**" With our Lord Jesus as faith's object in this verse, believing symbolizes an intimate trust or assurance in Him.

In **Romans 3:22**, Paul sets it in a distinctive light: "**Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe...**" Hereabouts, in a legal context, symbolizes a level of intimate trust or conviction in what the Lord did as a method of justification and, therefore, access to God.

Romans 10:17 imparts a vital perception of how faith in God becomes part of our thought and behavior: "**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**" Faith becomes a part of our thinking by hearing words that involve the objects of faith: our Father in heaven; His Son, Jesus Christ; and Their message, the gospel of the Kingdom of God. Our Lord Jesus states in **John 6:63**, "**The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.**" Hearing—or more precisely, listening—is probably our Lord Jesus' most frequent and consistent exhortation during His ministry.

In the event we don't thoughtfully listen, we won't have faith in the correct object. Despite the context, faith always holds a mixture of trusting, believing, knowing, understanding, and sometimes even bold conviction—It all fastens together and points toward a specific object. Within the Bible, that object is always God, Jesus Christ, the Word of God, or a messenger from God, whether angel, prophet, or minister. The question is: Are you listening to what the Lord has to say to you today?

At His service,
Pr. Teddy Santos