

True Faith is More Precious than Gold

1 Peter 1:3-9

1. **A Priceless Truth** (1 Pt. 1:7)

Peter wrote to Christians who were undergoing severe persecution (1 Pt. 1:6; 4:12) to give them encouragement in their persecution as well as practical instruction for living lives honoring to God (cf. 1 Pt. 3:1-9). When contrasted with the reality that this life, and the things of this life, are fleeting and unstable, Peter stresses the absolute value of genuine Christian faith.

2. **A Pertinent Definition** (Hb. 11:1)

True faith can be summarized a confident assurance in the reality, potency, and primacy of the Person and work of Jesus Christ regardless of having seen either Jesus or the things ultimately promised in God's Word.

3. **A Plain Result** (1 Pt. 1:8-9)

The simple reason why true faith is more valuable than gold is that it results in salvation (cf. Heb. 11:2). The Christian gospel is that anyone and everyone who calls on the Lord with a repentant faith will receive His forgiveness, mercy, and grace (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 10:13). It is for this reason that any distortion of the gospel message is worthy of the condemnation of God and of God's people (cf. Rom. 4:16; Gal. 1:8-9).

4. **A Profitable Explanation** (vs.3-5)

It is extremely encouraging to be exposed to many of the layers of the blessings of the blessings of God.

A. **God Initiated Salvation** (v.3)

All men are born dead in our sins (Eph 2:1) with the desire and will to do only that which is repugnant when compared to God's righteous standard (Gen. 6:8; 8:21; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:11). Therefore, salvation had to be according to the mercy of God and it had to be initiated by God.

B. **A Secure Inheritance** (v.4)

God has also promised that the believer will not only be saved from the experience of God's undiminished wrath and disfavor, but He has also promised to abundantly bless us over and above what we could ever hope to receive (Jn. 14:1-6).

C. **A Sheltered Investor** (v.5)

The Lord has also promised to protect and guard the believer throughout this life to the extent that the one who has been born again can no more be deprived the eternal life and reward that God has promised than God can be a liar (Jn. 10:27-30; Rom. 8:32ff).