

Scriptural Basis for Faith Outreaches

Hebrews 11 is a must-read on the subject of faith. Verse 1 says; "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." We tend to become obsessive about what we can see and touch. Often the way to find 'certainty' is to step out into uncertainty first. However, the world is set up around clearly labelled boxes, definitions and parameters, all of which can end up restricting our ability to reach for new spiritual heights.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (verse 6) If we act in fear we diminish our experience of life. Jesus said "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). How many of us truly believe this? And how many of us have taken the time to explore what this life entails, as lived and taught by Christ and his true followers?

Jesus said we can't serve two masters (God or money) and that we have to make a clear choice about which one we will work for (Matthew 6:24). He directed us to "seek first the kingdom of God and all its righteousness", making it clear that if we do, our basic needs of food and clothing would be met on a daily basis. We are told not to worry about tomorrow (Matthew 6:34); that we should pick up our cross daily (Luke 9:23); and that we should just ask for our "daily bread" (Matthew 6:11) In effect, we are being taught to live hand-to-mouth in complete dependency on God.

Faith Outreaches in Relation to Prophecy & Future World Events

While there are many individuals (and communities) who have opted out of mainstream society to varying degrees, there is a shortage of people who are willing to forsake all their possessions and attachments in order to go wherever the Spirit leads. Doing so is not only 'good news': The freedom and fulfillment of being led by God is, quite literally, 'out of this world' (while being in it at the same time!): It is also helpful preparation for an eventuality we are already seeing the beginnings of, which we'll look at a bit more closely here.

There is a prophecy in The Revelation (chapter 13:16-18) about a final 'Antichrist' system which forces people to wear a mark in their right hand or forehead if they wish to buy and sell anything.

