

**Outline of
the Messages for the Full-time Training
in the Spring Term of 2008**

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE BELIEVERS

Message Thirty-Six

Their Present—Living by Faith in the Church as the Household of the Faith

Scripture Reading: Heb. 11:1, 5-6; 12:1-2a; Rom. 10:17; Gal. 2:20; 6:10; 2 Cor. 4:13, 16-18

I. “Looking away unto Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith”—Heb. 12:2a:

- A. *Looking away unto* denotes looking with undivided attention by turning away from every other object—vv. 1-2a; Matt. 5:8; Luke 10:38-42; Heb. 11:5-6.
- B. In our natural man we have no believing ability; the faith by which we are saved is the precious faith that we have received from God, and this faith is actually Christ Himself—2 Pet. 1:1; cf. Col. 1:12.
- C. When we look away unto Jesus, He as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45) transfuses us with Himself, with His believing element; then, spontaneously, a kind of believing arises in our being, and we have the faith to believe in Him.
- D. This faith is not of ourselves but of Him who imparts Himself as the believing element into us so that He may believe for us; hence, He Himself is our faith; we live by Him as our faith, that is, we live by His faith—Gal. 2:20.

II. “Faith is the substantiation of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”—Heb. 11:1:

- A. Substantiating is the ability that enables us to realize a substance; the work of our five senses is a work of substantiating, in which they function to transfer all the objective items into us to become our subjective experience.
- B. The five senses substantiate everything in the physical world into us; our spirit of faith (the Holy Spirit mingled with our human spirit) is the faculty which substantiates everything of the spiritual world into us—2 Cor. 4:13:
 - 1. As the eye is to seeing, the ear to hearing, and the nose to smelling, so our mingled spirit of faith is the organ whereby we substantiate everything of Christ as the all-inclusive Spirit of reality into us—vv. 16-18; John 4:24.
 - 2. Without the exercise of our spirit of faith, all that Christ is as the Spirit of reality is a nonentity to us; the exercise of our spirit is the act of receiving everything of Christ as the Spirit of reality into us—16:13; 1 Tim. 4:7.
 - 3. To receive more measure of Christ as faith, we need to exercise our spirit to contact Him by calling on His name, praying to Him, and pray-reading His word—Heb. 4:12, 16; Rom. 10:12; 2 Tim. 2:22; Eph. 6:17-18.
- C. The exercise of the spirit works only when our heart is active; if man’s heart is indifferent, the spirit is imprisoned within and is unable to show forth its capability—Matt. 5:3, 8; Psa. 78:8; Eph. 3:16-17; Heb. 3:7-8, 12-13:

1. Our heart is a composition of all the parts of our soul—the mind, the emotion, and the will (Matt. 9:4; Heb. 4:12; Acts 11:23; John 14:1; 16:22)—plus one part of our spirit—the conscience (Heb. 10:22; 1 John 3:20).
 2. The heart is the entrance and exit of life, the “switch” of life; if the heart is not right, life in the spirit is hindered, and the law of life cannot work freely and without obstruction to reach every part of our being; though life has great power, this great power is controlled by our small heart—Prov. 4:23; Matt. 12:33-37; cf. Ezek. 36:26-27.
- D. We need both an exercised spirit and a loving heart to live by faith—faith operates through love—Gal. 5:6:
1. A loving heart is a heart in which the emotion loves God, wants God, thirsts after God, and yearns for God, having a personal, affectionate, private, and spiritual relationship with the Lord—Psa. 42:1-2; S. S. 1:2-4a.
 2. We must turn our heart back to the Lord again and again and have it continually renewed so that we may have a new and fresh love toward the Lord—2 Cor. 3:16; *Hymns*, #546 and #547.
 3. All spiritual experiences start with love in the heart; if we do not love the Lord, it is impossible to receive any kind of spiritual experience—John 21:15-17; Matt. 26:6-13; 28:18-20.

III. “Faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ”—Rom. 10:17:

- A. We need to exercise our spirit with a heart fully turned to the Lord to receive God’s word by means of all kinds of prayer; this is to mix God’s word together with faith so that the word profits us, causing us to grow with the growth of God—Mark 4:23-25; Eph. 6:17-18; 2 Cor. 3:14-16; Heb. 4:2; Col. 2:19.
- B. Faith comes out of hearing the applied word of God (the Spirit—Eph. 6:17; John 6:63) by contacting the living word of God (Christ—1:1) in the written word of God (the Bible—Luke 24:44-45; John 5:39-40).

IV. In the Spirit and in the Body, we withstand the devil by faith—1 Pet. 5:8-9:

- A. We believe that the Lord’s manifestation is to destroy the works of the devil and that the Lord’s death has destroyed Satan—1 John 3:8; Heb. 2:14.
- B. We believe that the Lord’s resurrection has put Satan to shame and that the ascension of the Lord is far above the power of Satan—Col. 2:12-15, 20; 3:1; Eph. 1:19-23; 2:6; 6:10-11, 13.

V. In the church as “the household of the faith” we are encouraged through the faith which is in one another to make ourselves ready to be His bride for His return—Gal. 6:10; Rom. 1:12; Rev. 19:7:

- A. Faith is to believe that God is and we are not; faith is to live God, express God, and minister God to people, thus annulling ourselves, in accordance with what J. N. Darby once said: “Oh, the joy of having nothing and being nothing, seeing nothing but a living Christ in glory, and being careful for nothing but His interests down here”—Heb. 11:5-6; Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor. 4:13, 16-18.
- B. The believers who live an overcoming and exulting life by faith will be found by Christ at His return as the treasures ready to receive the salvation of their souls as the end (result) of their faith—1 Pet. 1:8-9; Luke 18:8; Matt. 25:21, 23.