

Faith or Feelings

I. The Christian Life Is One of Faith.

- A. We like the bumper sticker that says, “God said it; I believe it; that settles it.” See Ps 119:128.
- B. To please God we believe (1) He is and (2) He is a Rewarder of diligent seekers (Heb 11:6).
- C. Faith is strong confidence in God’s words that gives them substance and evidence (Heb 11:1).
- D. The elders lived by faith (Heb 11:2). Abraham’s great faith ignored obstacles (Rom 4:19-21).
- E. Hebrews 11 is very silent about feelings. In fact, I cannot find the word positively in the Bible.
- F. God gives faith in regeneration, but we use it; it grows by hearing God’s Word (Rom 10:17).
- G. We receive the Spirit’s blessing of joy upon believing and obeying (John 7:38; Acts 5:32).
- H. The jailor’s faith and obedience preceded rejoicing as with the eunuch (Acts 16:27-34; 8:39).
- I. Did Abraham feel good offering Isaac? Did Israel rejoice before or after crossing the Red Sea?
- J. Did Paul feel good about his thorn (II Cor 12:7-10)? The apostles being beaten (Acts 5:41)?
- K. Jesus was very troubled in Gethsemane, but He looked by faith at great future joy (Heb 12:2).
- L. Should feelings lead prayer? Or should I pray by faith? If you pray by faith, feelings will come.
- M. True faith is contrary to feelings, for (1) you have nothing good inside and (2) it is for God.

II. The Modern Life Is One of Feelings

- A. Feelings are created by the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (I John 2:16).
- B. Our generation is sensual – touch, taste, sound, sight, and smell – the source of our feelings.
- C. Forbidden fruit has enormous feelings (Pro 9:17); such feelings vexed Amnon (II Sam 13:1-2).
- D. You don’t need an Epicurean to teach you to do what feels good – you choose it automatically.
- E. What feelings do you have about getting out of bed in the morning? Helpful? Tempting?
- F. Bowels (feelings) exist (I Kgs 3:26); but we put them on or off (Col 3:12; I Jn 3:17; Lu 14:26).
- G. In two ways they defeat godliness: (1) I don’t feel that is right, and (2) I don’t feel like doing it.
- H. Feelings are valued so highly by this generation, temperance is not understood. Consider debt.
- I. An athlete must accept and commit to a tyrannical coach’s plan by faith: he sees the joy far off!

III. A Christian’s Faith Must Rule His Feelings

- A. How do you wash dishes? Attack and finish them with joy? Or dread them with complaints?
- B. How do you approach a high dive? Think about how high it is? Or just jump off by faith?
- C. Baptism feels “wet,” confession may have “guilt” feelings, and rebuking others feels “hasty.”
- D. A merry heart is a medicine giving a continual feast is a choice by faith (Prov 15:15; 17:22).
- E. Joy is a choice by faith (Phil 4:4), and joy follows spiritual obedience (Gal 5:22; Eph 5:18-19).
- F. For your understanding and profit, apply this sermon to exercising unto godliness and marriage.
- G. Enduring grief wrongfully is our Christians duty (I Pet 2:18-20). Froward masters require faith.
- H. Don’t look at the waves. Look at Jesus, Who bids you walk on the water (Matthew 14:28-31).
- I. Where is your treasure? Where have you been laying up? That is where your heart will be.
- J. Invest in your spouse, be happily married; invest in the Lord, be filled with joy and godliness.
- K. You must lose your life to gain it. Losing it must mean going against feelings (Matt 10:39).
- L. If you do something nice for someone from love for God, you will build bowels for them.
- M. Marooned on an island: incompatible persons would learn to appreciate each other by giving.
- N. It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). But you don’t feel it before the giving.
- O. In marriage, God does not consider the result you get (kindness returned). You must obey Him.
- P. Contentment is learned conduct (Phil 4:11; Heb 13:5). It is obtained by faith, not feelings.
- Q. How do we count temptations a source of joy (James 1:2)? By faith! Do you believe God?
- R. First love is restored by doing first works (Rev 2:5), but we stubbornly wait for first feelings.