

ENDURE

A STUDY IN FIRST PETER



1 Peter 1:8-9

Based on last week's Practice

1. How did you remind yourself this week that your hope is anchored in the past, secure for the future, and experienced in the present?
2. Our faith is a tangible way that we know our hope is living and active in us. Peter says in verse 8, "you love him even though you do not see him." How have you exhibited your faith and belief this week, especially when you were struggling? What evidence have you seen that God is with you in the middle of it all?

Overview

This week we ask the question: Is Our Faith Genuine? The answer seems simple enough.

The characteristics of genuine faith in 1 Peter 1:8-9 are love, belief, and joy. But these words in the Greek have a depth of meaning which our English words do not enjoy. And they are more than just words, they are actions, how we practice the way of Jesus.

We see that we have a lot in common with Peter's audience. They have never seen Jesus, they are learning from the writings of those that had seen Him. And these writings would become the Gospels and letters that make up our New Testament, making Peter's characteristics of genuine faith and the evidence of it just as applicable to us as it was to his original audience

We look at several Greek words, their meanings, and how they define genuine faith. We also see that they characterize an active, not a passive faith, with specific instructions from Jesus on how we live out our faith with the hope of eternity with Him.

Scripture

1 Peter 1:8-9

Discussion

1. The Greeks have three words for love: phileos, eros, and agape. How would you define these types of love in your own words? Give examples in your own life.
2. Agape is love in action, where phileos and eros are feelings. What is the difference? How does it apply when?

3. The word translated as belief in our Bible is the Greek word *pisteuo*, which may better translate as trust or entrust. How should trusting and entrusting look to those around us if we have genuine faith?
4. The word translated as rejoice in the Greek is the word *agalliao*, which can literally mean to jump for joy. Have you ever experienced this type of joy in your life during a time of suffering or seen it in the lives of other Christians? Give some examples.
5. We also see the word glory or *doxazo* where our word doxology comes from. Look up the doxology that churches sing and discuss how it gives God glory? What are other ways that you can give God glory through your joy?
6. Peter tells us that the direct result of genuine faith is our eternal salvation. How does this make you feel, confident, fearful, joyful, etc.? And why?
7. Jesus told Peter, in person, how He wanted him to live out his faith using the phrases feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep. What are some practical ways you as an individual and as a Community can put your faith in action?

Application

1. In what ways can you exhibit the love, trust, and joy of your faith, while glorifying God, this week? Share your examples next week in your Community.
2. How can you put your faith into action this week? Write them down and implement them this week.
3. What things do you find yourself praising God for? Keep a list each day and share them with your Community next week.