

will. We believe that He is true and that what He says is truth. When we act upon this basis, the action and the living are matters of "faith."

Our understanding of the faith operation, however, is in constant need of help. We easily identify things that are simply irrational as acts of faith and, indeed, they would be if the action was following the direct instruction of God. On the other hand we speak of an act of faith as if it were other than something normal in the course of life for the believer. Thus we speak of the man who receives no salary, for example, as living by faith while the salaried person is thought to live otherwise. Such simplifications are clearly wrong since faith is doing what we are told and the means of one's income is hardly a subject of revelation! In practical correspondence the wealthiest Christian with the largest bank account must live on exactly the same principle as the poorest believer with nothing tangible to his assets. Both must live after the instruction of God...believing that God will direct and care for both.

Luke, as a Gospel narrative, is particularly rich in the aspects of faith. AS John is characterized by belief, so Luke is marked by faith. Some of the Lukan material is also found in the synoptic Gospels but the total emphasis is greater in Luke than in any one of these. In my recent reading of the Gospel I was again impressed with this and felt that my own concepts of faith were considerably helped by the expressions and examples of this book. Thus this is the material we are sharing in this short series. A study of "faith-accounts" in the Gospel of Luke with the hope that our appreciation of the Lord's care and will will be strengthened and that our willingness to follow His direction...both when we can see and when we can't...will be increased.