

II. The Messages

A. HOW DOES FAITH WORK?

Luke 7:48-50; 8:47-48
17:19 18:42

1. Introductory Thoughts

Perhaps it is not fair to speak of the faith concept in a "working" way but what we are treating in this discussion is the simple way in which faith is seen to be operational in our lives. The writer thinks that faith, like grace, is a gift from God...one that must be activated "god-ward." The passages cited show us this sort of trust and action principle at work. We might sketch these just for the sake of completion.

In Luke 7 a sinful woman has anointed the feet of the Master to the chagrin of the self-righteous Pharisee in whose home the incident has taken place. The Lord notes that her acts of love and worship are the result of forgiveness and His word is to her that she has been forgiven. Faith, a willingness to worship the Son of God with no promise of acceptance or blessing, had brought to her the forgiveness of love and she is permitted to go her way as a forgiven person. Faith had saved her!

Similarly in Luke 8 the woman with an issue of blood, ceremonially impure and separate from the masses with no apparent hope of help, reached forth and touched the robe of the Lord in the belief that He could help her. She had no guarantee and in the press of the crowd her very touch could have been lost in the jostling. But her willingness to cast herself upon Him with no previous commitment from the Lord brought a work of salvation. To her it was said.. "Thy faith hath made thee whole."

So in Luke 17 a leper already cleansed of his disease but moved with thankfulness for ~~the~~ cure