

b. Behavior that agrees with the new life.

Luke 19:1-10

This particular point is very much in agreement with the faith-work concepts of James to which we alluded earlier. But the account of Zacchaeus is very exciting not only in his desire to see Jesus but in the change of life which the Lord's coming produced. This writer thinks that Zacchaeus was probably not so much a villain as a publican as some where...he could hardly have offered to pay back so much if he had defrauded great numbers...but whatever the case, the coming of faith gave him a new sense of honesty and a genuine interest in restitution. It was as if he had become a new man...and indeed he had! This is the wonder of the new birth...that sinners are suddenly the children of God. And the experience of faith enables them to show a conduct that agrees with the new position before the Lord. To be sure we may witness this in varying degrees among people but if it is not present at all... then the reality of faith is very doubtful.

c. Acts of Faith for God's glory.

Luke 5:16-26

It is noteworthy in the account in this passage that the Lord looked on the palsied man but also on the company that let him down through the roof. When he saw "their faith" (v. 20) he spoke to the sick man and announced forgiveness...later giving him the instructions of healing as well. The men who brought him had faith that Christ could heal him and this caused all the company to glorify God (v. 26). Those who believed performed an act of faith that resulted in God's being praised and so glorified. It works this way with us, too.