

3. Conclusion

These things are produced by faith. Faith, as we have been defining it, is the willingness to trust God and do what He says without external evidence or assurance. As we live on and by His word we are kept in humility before Him, given a behaviour that shows the reality of our place with God, and we are enabled to undertake acts of faith that allow the Lord to show himself and to be glorified by His own as well as by others.

E. HOW IS FAITH TESTED?

Luke 18:1-8; 17:3-10;
9:19-17

1. Introductory notes

Tests are used to determine the relative strengths of substances. A test is not a harmful thing in itself although the results may show the superiority or inferiority of what is tested and so be somewhat harmful to the product! But anything that cannot be tested is not worth very much. Without tests we cannot know our strengths or abilities and we cannot prepare ourselves for greater endurance or service. So the reality of testing is part of every life and to be welcomed as a means of growth.

Faith, like all other parts of our make-up, is tested in order that it might show itself in value...or that we might see how weak we are in its application and learn to strengthen ourselves. That is the point to which Luke now permits us to travel. It is the concept of seeing our faith tested that we might know its potential and also know how it might be sharpened in accord with the will and working of God. How is faith tested? That is the question.