

# Principles of Christian Living

## *Only Believe*

July 10, 2022

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end, (Hebrews 3:12-19)

### **I Lack of Faith is the Essence of All Sin**

- A. The first temptation was to doubt God
- B. Unbelief leads us away from God
- C. It deprives us from the rest of God (Hebrews 4)
- D. It diverts our attention from the Tree of Life to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good & Evil (which is to say, to a reliance upon human worldly wisdom)

### **II The Righteous Man Will Live by Faith**

- A. Recorded verbatim 3 times in Scripture
  - 1. Habakuk 2:4
  - 2. Romans 1:17
  - 3. Galatians 3:11
- B. We walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor 5:7)

### **III What is Faith**

- A. The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen
- B. The confidence that there is nothing that God cannot do
  - 1. Noah
  - 2. Sarah & Abraham (Genesis 18:13-14)
  - 3. Mary (Luke 1:37)
  - 4. The Roman Centurion (Matthew 8:10)
- C. Mark: say to this mountain (Mark 11:23)
- D. Matthew: as a grain of mustard seed (Matthew 17:20)

### **IV The Difficulty**

- A. We attempt to overcome a lifetime of trusting in the flesh
- B. We must immerse ourselves in Scripture
  - 1. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God
  - 2. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind
- C. Your faith must grow by trusting for bigger and bigger things as you believe the Word of God