

***Making Faith Your Own***  
***(Part 2 – What Does Faith Look Like?)***  
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***Introduction:*** What does faith look like?

- A. It would be a great mistake to view baptism as an end within itself.
  - 1. When one trusts in God to give their life to Him that is a great first step.
  - 2. There is a newness and zeal that needs to be directed towards “that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.” **(Rom 6:4, 17)**
  - 3. In many ways you at your baptism could be likened to a “before” and “after” picture in which you are just starting! God will mold you like a potter with clay. **(Isa 64:8)**
- B. We need to be challenged to keep that process of “making faith your own.”
  - 1. Sometimes events of life shock us into awaking to our spiritual needs.
  - 2. You do not want to be caught in a spiritual stagnation where you are going through the motions. Do you remember your baptism? **(2 Pt 1:9)**

***I. A genuine faith changes the heart***

- A. We have to fight to keep our hearts open to God. **(Jn 15:4-7)**
  - 1. It is easy to develop a “comfortable” religion where there is little change.
  - 2. A genuine faith has “energy” to fight the pull of the world. **(1 Jn 5:4-5)**
  - 3. Satan seeks to dilute that “energy” by planting “weeds.” **(Mt 13:22)**
  - 4. Every day we need to be aware of God’s presence and His power.
- B. Make every day a day of prayer and praise.
  - 1. My prayers should be filled with thanksgiving. **(Phil 3:1; 4:4-7)**
  - 2. Prayer should be often and instant. Here is how we keep a tender heart.
  - 3. In times of pain is a great opportunity to give God thanks.

***II. A genuine faith loves the truth***

- A. Our daily walk involves reason and discernment. **(Rom 12:1-2)**
  - 1. Here is where some struggle. They would rather not be “confused” and would rather focus on relationships.
  - 2. What is truth like? “Truth is propositional, coherent, logical, rational, syllogistic, and reasonable.”
  - 3. The immature Christian is very vulnerable when he has not learned to discern. **(Eph 4:14-15)**
  - 4. Satan strongly seeks to avoid reason with an open heart and an open Bible. **(Lk 8:12)**
- B. Truth will bring you into the light with God and others. **(Jn 18:20)**
  - 1. Please do not let someone cause you to fear openly speaking what is true.
  - 2. Worldly religion hides their beliefs in darkness. **(Lk 20:4-7)**
  - 3. Please beware of someone pulling you into a private study and then not wanting you to tell anyone. **(2 Pt 2:1)**

C. Truth will make you boldly test all things! **(1 Thess 5:21)**

1. When I heard there were differences in churches of Christ I met with several people. I would openly share with all what others were teaching!
2. When I came to a conclusion I wanted to share and study that with anyone!
3. Light comes as an opportunity – it can be lost. **(Jn 12:35-36)**
4. Churches as well as individuals can drift away and now fight the light that they once stood in.
5. One of the most difficult experiences came when I tried to have the man baptize me study on a “controversial” subject. He angrily refused!

***III. A genuine faith must fight bitterness and pride***

A. Some make “changes” that are not of God. **(Phil 3:15-19)**

1. Some have proclaimed they were former “legalist” and Pharisees. Sadly their doctrine changed for the worse and their hearts did not change.
2. You can change because of relationships and not upon tested truth.
3. Is your pursuit of faith bringing you closer to brethren or separating you to a few who are presently giving you attention? **(1 Pt 1:22-23)**

B. Pride looks down on brethren – **(1 Jn 2:9-11, 16)**

1. Pride and bitterness are common partners. **(Lk 18:9)**
2. Pride is often employed by those who have no foundation to artificially build one up. Many look down on their “ignorant” brethren.
3. Pride will blind the mind to understand God’s word. **(Isa 29:14-16)**
4. Pride rejoices in the faults of others. You live in the land of “throw-away” people. You write them off with no attempt to work with them.

***III. A genuine faith will grow out of pain and sacrifice***

A. It is easier to eliminate conflict by compromising with the world.  
**(Heb 11:32-38)**

1. The person who does this destroys faith. They despise God’s way.  
**(Gen 25:33-34)**
2. How many of you have changed your attendance patterns? Why?

B. Pain with faith can draw us to a much stronger faith. **(Rom 5:3-5)**

1. Rejection, loss and conflict can show us the power of faith.
2. God will allow you to face your worst fears. Consider the humbling of Jacob. **(Gen 32:9-11)**
3. Jacob over time had many carnal things burned out of him by God allowing him to face his greatest fear.

C. You have genuine brethren that want to share that pain with you.  
**(Heb 12:11-13)**

**Conclusion:** Let the light you follow come from God! **(Isa 2:5-6; Isa 50:10-11)**