

Let Us Study the One Faith  
(Ephesians 4:4-6)

Introduction:

1. This morning we studied passages that teach us about "faith," the first of 3 abiding subjects listed in 1 Corinthians 13:13.
2. This evening we are concentrating on passages that teach us about the *"one faith"* mentioned in Ephesians 4:5.
3. Let us begin by pointing out that . . .

Discussion

I. THE BIBLE SPEAKS ABOUT "FAITH" IN DIFFERENT SENSES

- A. Many times "faith" refers to belief or trust in God.
  1. This kind of faith is essential (Hebrews 11:6).
  2. It is developed as a result of hearing God's Word properly (Romans 10:17).
  3. It is demonstrated by obedience to God's will (Hebrews 11:8).
- B. The Bible speaks about different kinds of faith: "little faith" (Matthew 8:26), "dead faith" (James 2:17), and "great faith" (Matthew 8:10).
- C. The Bible also makes a number of references to *"the faith"* that are of special interest to us in this study.
- D. Let us turn our attention to . . .

II. PASSAGES THAT IDENTIFY THE *"ONE FAITH"*

- A. Acts 6:7
  1. The congregation in Jerusalem was experiencing tremendous growth.
  2. A problem developed that could have stopped this growth.
  3. Fortunately, the apostles handled this problem wisely.
  4. Vs.7 reveals the results: God's Word increased, and the number of disciples multiplied, and *"a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."*
  5. "The faith" refers to a system of belief that can be obeyed.
- B. Acts 24:24
  1. While Paul was in custody, Felix *"heard him concerning the faith in Christ."*
  2. "The faith" refers to a system of belief that is taught and can be learned.
- C. Galatians 1:20-24
  1. Paul was giving a biographical sketch of his life.
    - a. Before he became a Christian, he did his best to destroy Christianity.
    - b. After he was converted, he preached "the faith."
  2. The message Paul preached is revealed in Galatians 1:11-12 [the Gospel that the Lord had revealed to him].
- D. We learn from these passages that "the faith" is the system of belief that is revealed in the Gospel.
- E. This is the "one faith" mentioned in Ephesians 4:5 -- it is to be taught, it is to be heard and learned, and it is to be obeyed.

III. THE BIBLE CONTAINS NUMEROUS INSTRUCTIONS THAT RELATE TO THE "ONE FAITH"

- A. (Acts 14:21-22) God's people are *"to continue in the faith."*
- B. (Acts 16:4-5) The church is to be *"established in the faith."*
- C. (1 Corinthians 16:13) God's people are to *"stand fast in the faith."*
- D. (Philippians 1:27) God's people are to strive together with one mind for "the faith of the Gospel."
- E. (Jude 3) God's people are to earnestly contend for "the faith" that was delivered once for all.

Conclusion:

1. A special blessing is in store for those who "keep the faith" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).
2. Are you in "the faith?" (2 Corinthians 13:5)