

I. Faith Is Important to the Lord on Earth

A. Jesus commended faith

1. Centurion – *Matthew 8:10-12*
2. Syrophenician Women – *Matthew 15:28*

B. Jesus reprovved unbelief

1. Chastens the crowd in the Sermon on the Mount
– *Matthew 6:30*
2. Disciples in the storm
– *Matthew 8:26*
3. Disciples who had forgotten bread
– *Matthew 16:8*

C. Without faith it is impossible to please God

– *Hebrews 11:6*

II. What Does It Mean to Have Faith in the Christian Life?

A. *Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith...*

– *Colossians 2:6-7*

1. How did you receive?
 - a. You recognized a need
 - b. You realized that you could not answer that need
 - c. You heard of the provision of God in Christ
 - d. You came and trusted Him to meet the need

2. How do we continue?
 - a. We recognize a need
 - b. We realize that we cannot meet that need
 - c. We learn of God's provision for our need in Christ
 - d. We trust Him to fulfill His promise and meet the need

III. How Did This Work Out for Paul?

- Philippians 4:10-13

A. Paul is in prison

1. He cannot change his circumstances
2. Paul does not complain

B. Two outlooks necessary for contentment

1. God was in control of His circumstances
2. God has supplied everything necessary for those circumstances

a. *I can do all things through Him (Christ) who strengthens me. – Philippians 4:13*

C. Paul had come to this bold position of faith through a learning process

1. Learning implies that there is a teacher
2. Learning implies that there was opportunity to follow the teacher's instructions
3. Learning implies that Paul had allowed the training to do its work