The End Of Faith

Intro: 1 Pet. 1:9 “Receiving the end of your faith, [even] the salvation of [your] souls.” In the consideration of a subject such as this we all no doubt call to mind the statement made by the apostle Paul to the Corinthians.

1. 2 Cor. 5:7 “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”
2. Faith is the foundation of all Christian endeavor: the keynote to successful or triumphal living.

I. **All Can Readily See The Importance Of Faith As Presented In The Scriptures.**

A. **Scriptures:**

1. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
2. John 20:30-31 “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”
3. Acts 10:43 “To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”
4. Acts 13:38-39 “Be it known unto you therefore, men [and] brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.”
5. Acts 15:9 “And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.” (cf. Matt. 5:8 “Blessed [are] the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”)
6. Acts 16:30-31 “And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? 31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.”
7. Rom. 1:17 “For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”
8. Rom. 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”
9. Eph. 2:8 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:”
10. Heb. 11:6 “But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
11. 1 John 5:1,4 “Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. 4 For
whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, [even] our faith.”

B. Thus, with faith so important it is but natural that we consider seriously the “end of faith.”

C. However, some preliminary remarks are in order as to what faith we have reference in considering the end of faith.

1. This is needful because there are two different types of faith.

2. And, just as there are two specifically different types of faith mentioned in the Scriptures, so also are there two specifically different ends to those faiths.

II. THE TWO TYPES OF FAITH MENTIONED IN THE WORD OF GOD.

A. Living, active, or perfect faith.

1. 1 Thess. 3:10 “Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?”

2. James 2:22 “Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?”

3. Notice the contrast:

   a. Matt. 7:21-23 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

   b. John 12:42-43 “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess [him], lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

4. The end of this faith; the salvation of your soul.

B. Dead, Inactive or imperfect faith.

1. James 2:14-26

2. The end of this faith; the damnation of man’s soul.

C. Naturally, Peter has reference to the first of these faiths mentioned.

D. But, the question arises, wherein does this saving faith differ from the other?

III. SAVING FAITH IN CONTRAST TO DEAD FAITH.

A. Saving faith is that faith that works through love.

1. Gal. 5:6 “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

2. What is Biblical love?
a. John 14:15 “If ye love me, keep my commandments. 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

b. 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

3. Saving faith, therefore, is that faith that works: works through love; works through obedience to all of God's commands.

4. James 2:20,24,26 “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

5. Acts 10:34-35 “Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

B. Other Scriptures emphasizing this fact.

1. Acts 6:7 “And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.”

2. Rom. 1:5 “By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:”

3. Rom. 16:26 “But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”

4. John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” The ASV has “obeyeth not.”

5. Yes, the saving faith to which Peter had reference is an obedient faith.

a. Acts 2:44 “And all that believed were together, and had all things common;”

b. Acts 16:34 “And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”

IV. SPECIFICALLY LET US NOTICE THE END OF THAT FAITH.

A. “Even the salvation of your soul” is the object or result of our faith; 1 Pet.1:9 “Receiving the end of your faith, [even] the salvation of [your] souls.”

B. There is an outstanding lesson to be received, I believe, in that expression, “even.”

1. Though the expressed word is not found in the Greek text, it was, never-the-less, so implied that the translators could not do justice to the text without including it in the English version.

2. It indicates that, in addition to receiving salvation as the end of faith, there are other blessings to be derived from faith.

a. Knowledge that we are following the best course in life.

b. Fellowship with the saints: the best (choicest) on earth.
c. A Father in heaven who cares for us.
   (1) Matt. 6:9 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in
       heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”
   (2) Matt. 7:11 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your
       children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good
       things to them that ask him?”
   (3) 1 Pet. 5:7 “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”
   (4) Rom. 8:28 “And we know that all things work together for good to them
       that love God, to them who are the called according to [his] purpose.”
   (5) Matt. 6:24-33
   (6) Mark 10:29-30 “And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There
       is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother,
       or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel’s, But he shall
       receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters,
       and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world
       to come eternal life.”

d. All this results in:
   (1) Joy
      (a) Acts 8:39 “And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of
          the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he
          went on his way rejoicing.”
      (b) Acts 16:34 “And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat
          before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.”
      (c) 1 Thess. 5:16 “Rejoice evermore.”
   (2) Peace
      (a) John 14:27 “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as
          the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled,
          neither let it be afraid.”
      (b) Phil. 4:7 “And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall
          keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
   (3) Rest
      3. 1 Cor. 15:19 “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most
          miserable.”

C. Thus, in additions to all these temporal blessings we also receive “even the salvation
of your soul,” that for which the soul of man has ever yearned.
   1. Oh, to contemplate the grandeur of that subject.
   2. Words cannot describe its soothing balm to the feverish, fretful soul of man.
      a. Salvation: eternal life with God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and the redeemed of all
         ages.
      b. The opportunity to spend eternity in that home prepared by God through
         Christ; John 14:1-3 “Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe
also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also.”

c. Revelation 21:3-4 “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, [and be] their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

Conclusion: Does your heart yearn for that home? It can be yours by the grace of God. It can by yours by the faith that works through love.