

FAITH AND DUTY

TEACHING ON SUNDAY 24TH MARCH, 2019 AT CHURCH OF CHRIST 35 ONWE ROAD ABAKALIKI BY ELDER, DR. G.O.C. UDU

TEXT: LUKE 17:5-10 The Apostles told Him, "Increase our Faith"

OUTLINE

- i. Concept of Faith and Duty
- ii. Why did the Apostles request for increase in the faith?
- iii. What is the relationship between faith and duty?
- iv. What is the impact of faith on the discharge of duties?
 - Faith and performance
 - Faith and result
- v. Conclusion

A. CONCEPT OF FAITH AND DUTY

Faith is believing. Therefore, faith in God is believing God. Believing is an ongoing condition of the heart and mind, and not a onetime act. Once saved is not saved forever (1 Cor. 15:58).

Duty is a piece or unit of a job assignable to a person. Your duty is therefore a piece or unit of a job assigned to you. Duty connotes commitment, obedience, respect, loyalty, and reverence.

B. THE NEED TO INCREASE THE APOSTLES' FAITH

To understand why the Apostles needed an increase in their faith, we need to read **Luke 17:1-4**. There, Christ told them about four basic things which humbled them and made them to understand that their faiths were below standard. He told them about **offences, possible number of times in a single day, repentance, and the need for continuous forgiveness**. In verse 5, they then demanded for an increase in their faith to be able to cope with that. **Forgiveness is a duty. It is not only teaching, praying and singing that are spiritual duties.**

C. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FAITH AND DUTY

Jesus Christ in **Luke 17:5-10** gave a practical example on how faith is related to duty. **He asserts that the higher your faith, the higher your understanding of your duty and your performance of the duty** when He talked about the Mustard seed. Faith is therefore

positively related to duty. **“Who among you will his/her servant come back from work, market, school, etc and you will tell him/her to go and rest, take your bath and eat before preparing food for me because I’m hungry?”**. What the Pharisees were doing which many of us do today is to shout **“Ahhh, where have you been? What kept you there? Common, go and cook for me quickly and let me eat, drink and relax before you eat you own”** Christ condemned such act as wickedness and a show of a low standard of faith. Please check how you welcome your wives and husbands from work, market or farm.

D. WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF FAITH ON THE DISCHARGE OF DUTIES?

- Faith and performance
- Faith and results
- Faith influences our understanding and acceptance of our duties
- Faith influences our potential abilities
- Faith influences the unleashing of our potentials
- Faith is therefore one critical determinant of performance and results
- i. Faith and spiritual duties
- ii. Faith and economic duties
- iii. Faith and political duties
- iv. Faith and technological or vocational duties
- v. Faith and socio-cultural duties

NOTE: The most dangerous place to be is outside the will of God. When you are outside the will of God, you don’t have wisdom. That makes you to accept all rubbish as good. You fear those who would help you and love those who would deceive, exploit and kill you.

E. CONCLUSION

While faith is the ongoing believe in God with focus on Jesus Christ, duty is a piece or unit of a job assignable to someone. **The higher your faith in God, the higher you understand, accepts and discharges your duties.** Faith is therefore positively related to duties. Forgiveness is a duty. Those who are yet to forgive offences against them don’t have the required faith to make heaven. Without faith, it is impossible to please God.

REPENT NOW OF YOUR FAITHLESSNESS AND BE PREPARED TO THE JUDGEMENT DAY

THANK YOU

