

Light Brings Salt

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Iron Range Bible Church

Dedicated to the Systematic Exposition of the Word of God
"Sanctify them in the truth: Your word is truth."



The Substance of Biblical Faith?

Pastor John Griffith

Hebrews 11:1 reads, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Faith means learning to trust God for what we cannot see with our visible eyes. It means learning to think and act on the principles and promises of the Word regardless of how things seem to us. Remember we only see one small aspect of a situation; God sees the end from the beginning. In the words of 2 Corinthians 5:8, **we are to "walk by faith and not by sight."**

Hebrews 11:6 reads, "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."

There are two important concepts we learn from this verse:

(1) You cannot please God without faith. **It is to be the modus operandi for the Christian life.**

It is God's desire and plan that we learn to live by faith because faith acknowledges our weakness and rests in God's provision. It glorifies God. But faith in what?

(2) Faith as our modus operandi consists of two fundamental concepts:

First, we must believe that He is. We must believe in the existence of God. According to the Bible, a true

belief in God's **existence** includes faith in His essence and transcendence.

Transcendence is the concept that God exists **outside** and beyond the universe.

Essence speaks of who God is as the independent and sovereign God who is omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, infinite, and unchangeable, holy, love, veracity, etc..

Second, we must believe that He is also a rewarder of those who seek Him.

This means belief in the very personal love of God, that He provides for and cares for His own.

Included in this is the concept of God's eminence, that though transcendent, He is nevertheless involved in the affairs of the universe, and that the creation cannot exist or function properly without Him and His intimate involvement. **Col. 1:17**

Point that Hebrews 11:6 makes is that we are totally dependent on God for our existence, for our happiness, and for our security. God cares about us intimately. 1 Pet 5:7

Application to our daily life: For many Christians, the Christian life is totally devoid of God's power. It is simply a matter of doing the best they can to conform to certain expected standards.

Some are more successful at conforming externally to the pattern of their peers than others, but even for these, there is generally the awareness that something is missing.

Some find comfort in the ideas that no one is perfect, everyone has their weaknesses. They are doing their best, and **feel** sure God understands.

Certainly, no one is perfect. Maybe we are doing our best and God does understand, but this does not alter the fact that unless we are walking by faith in God and His plan and provision, we are missing out on the life Christ offers us.

Our best is not what God wants. He wants faith in His best--the Lord Jesus--His very own Son and the fullness of blessing He has made for us in Him.

Think about this. No one can live the Christian life on their own any more than they can perfectly keep the law of the Old Testament Rom. 3:9-20; 7:1-25; Gal. 3:10-14).

If we could live the Christian life without God's enablement, why do you suppose God would send the Holy Spirit to indwell the church through each believer (John 7:37-39; emphasis on a continuous flow of spiritual provision)?

If we could live the Christian life and serve the Lord without God's power through faith, why would the Lord Jesus give the Holy Spirit the title of the "Helper" or better translated, "the Enabler" (John 14:16, 26)?

Why would He point to the disciples' inadequacy apart from the Spirit (John 16:7) and tell them not to attempt any ministry until the coming of the Spirit (Acts 1:4-8)?

If they were able to operate successfully without God's empowerment these exhortations make absolutely no sense!

Because of all we face from the enemies of God who are arrayed against us as Christians, the world around us, the flesh within us, and the devil with all of his counterfeit programs and doctrine seeking to deceive us.

With all this against us, the Christian life and ministry is an absolute impossibility apart from God's supernatural ability which must be appropriated moment by moment through faith. The nature of these forces and

our weakness necessitates the need for nothing short of the divine power of God.

To think that we can live the Christian life on our own is the height of ignorance or pride. So what then is it to be for you, a life of muddling along in your own way, in your own power or a life of faith, living by His power and provision?? 

U.S. government: We know parenting better than you!

Proposals would give Washington unprecedented control over kids

By Chelsea Schilling

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The U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to debate two bills that could give the federal government unprecedented control over the way parents raise their children – even providing funds for state workers to come into homes and screen babies for emotional and developmental problems.

The Pre-K Act (HR 3289) and the Education Begins at Home Act (HR 2343) are two bills geared toward military and families who fall below state poverty lines. The measures are said to be a way to prevent child abuse, close the achievement gap in education between poor and minority infants versus middle-class children and evaluate babies younger than 5 for medical conditions.

'Education Begins at Home Act' – HR 2343

HR 2343 is sponsored by Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., and cosponsored by 55 Democrats and 11 Republicans. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing the Education Begins at Home Act would cost taxpayers \$190 million for state home visiting plus "such sums as may be necessary" for in-hospital parent education.

While the bill may appear to be well-intentioned, Pediatrician Karen Effrem told WND government provisions in HR 2343 to evaluate children for developmental problems go too far.

"The federal definition of developmental screening for special education also includes what they call socioemotional screening, which is mental health screening," Effrem said. "Mental

health screening is very subjective no matter what age you do it. Obviously it is incredibly subjective when we are talking about very young children."

While the program may not be mandatory for low-income and military families, there is no wording in the Education Begins at Home Act requiring parental permission for treatment or ongoing care once the family is enrolled – a point that leads some to ask where parental rights end and the government takes over. Also, critics ask how agents of the government plan to acquire private medical and financial records to offer the home visiting program.

"There's no consent mentioned in the bill for any kind of screening – medical, health or developmental," Effrem said. "There are privacy concerns because when home visitors come into the home they assess everything about the family: Their financial situation, social situation, parenting practices, everything. All of that is put into a database."

Effrem said it does not specify whether parents are allowed to decline evaluations, drugs or treatment for their children once they are diagnosed with developmental or medical conditions.

"How free is someone who has been tagged as needing this program in the case of home visiting – like a military family or a poor family?" she asked. "How free are they to refuse? Even their refusal will be documented somewhere. There are plenty of instances where families have felt they can't refuse because they would lose benefits, be accused of not being good parents or potentially have their children taken away."

When WND asked Effrem how long state-diagnosed conditions would remain in a child's permanent medical history, she responded:

"Forever. As far as I know, there isn't any statute of limitations. The child's record follows them through school and potentially college, employment and military service."

Effrem said conflicts could also arise when parents do not agree with parenting standards of government home visitors.

"Who decides how cultural tolerance is going to be manifested?" she asked. "There's some blather

in the language of the bill about having cultural awareness of the differences in parenting practices, but it seems like that never applies to Christian parents." 

Note: Another sign of the socialist take over of the nation. P/T

Can We Trust Those Carbon 14 Dates?

1 Corinthians 3:18

Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

Many creation supporters are Christians that are also interested in ancient history and like to read about the latest archaeological discoveries. However, they are concerned when, say, some very ancient remains are carbon-14 dated at forty or even fifty thousand years old. According to the Bible, the Creation itself is no more than 10,000 years old, so how does the Bible-believing Christian handle this kind of information? To assure ourselves, we need to lift the cloak of secrecy about carbon-14 dating.

Willard Libby developed the carbon-14 dating method in 1947. This was considered such a major breakthrough that he received the Nobel Prize a few years later. However, like every other method of measurement, the method itself had to be calibrated against things of historically dated and known age. Libby used wooden coffin lids and for the earliest dates was obliged to use historically dated material from Egypt. Libby reported in a footnote that the Egyptologist had confessed that Egyptian dating is "perhaps five centuries too old at five thousand years." This one little footnote reveals that if Egyptian dates were honestly brought forward by five hundred years, they would confirm the Biblical Exodus. Secondly, any ages greater than about 5,000 years are beyond the range of historical calibration. The bottom line is that the carbon-14 method does have several serious and recognized problems beyond about 2,000 years.