"Finality of Faith"

"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." (1 John 5:4)

Faithful Finishers

John 17:4, 6, 12 – (4) "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. (6) I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

(12) While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled."

2 Timothy 4:7-8 – (7) "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (8) Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing."

James 1:2-4, 12 – (2) "Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, (3) for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. (4) And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. (12) Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

Faith's Function

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 – (1) "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. (2) And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

1 Corinthians 13:13 – "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

<u>Galatians 5:6</u> – "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love."

Faith's Focus

<u>Hebrews 10:39, 11:1-2</u> – (39) "But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them <u>that believe to the saving of the soul</u>. (1) Now faith is the substance of things <u>hoped for</u>, the evidence of things not seen. (2) For by it the elders obtained a good report." (KJV)

<u>Hebrews 11:13, 16</u> – (13) "These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. (16) But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."

1 Peter 1:8-9 – (8) "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, (9) obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls."

Jesus, please increase our Faith:

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17)

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. (Jude 1:20-21)

"So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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