

Great Controversy Series
A True Reformer's Faith
Chapter 10 - Progress of Reform in Germany
 Bible Sermon Study Notes: Cary Rodgers, Jr, pastor

We must always live by faith even in eternity. Adam and Eve had to live by faith even before sin. We were created not only to reflect the image of God but to depend and trust our Creator. Even though we are given a free will must have faith in the power of God to sustain us and empower us. Our whole existence before and after sin and throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity depend on God. Our faith must be developed for a heavenly faith.

Romans 1:17

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Faith is not based on feeling and popularity. It is a conscience decision if you believe the evidence revealed or not. It controls your feelings or emotions and actions or behavior.

Faith is your active connection to God.

Hebrews 11:6

6 But without **faith** it is impossible to please (gratify entirely) him: for he that cometh to **God must believe that he is**, and that he is a **rewarder** of them that diligently seek him.

“Every failure on the part of the children of God is due to their **lack of faith.**” PP 657

Why did Eve eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Lack of faith!

Why did Israel not enter the Canaan Land the first time? Lack of faith!

Why did Peter sink while he was walking toward Jesus on the water? Lack of faith!

Why did Judas betray Jesus? Lack of faith!

Why do profess Christians reject the law and the testimonies of Jesus? Lack of faith

Why do Christian worry and stress out? Lack of faith

Again, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD WITHOUT FAITH!!! It is impossible for you to activate the everlasting covenant in your life without FAITH.

FAITH = TRUST = BELIEVE

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth [HAVE FAITH] in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

What is the Biblical definition of faith?

Hebrews 11:1

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Two key aspects in the Biblical definition of Faith

- 1) Faith is = Substance of things hoped for
- 2) Faith is = The EVIDENCE of things not seen

1) Substance of things hoped for...

Substance (Greek) hupostasis [hoop-os'-tas-is] a setting under (support), that is, (figuratively) concretely essence: - confidence, confident, person, substance.

What fills the structure of the substance that gives it supporting status is the evidence that God has revealed.

Evidence – Your faith must live WITHIN all the evidence that God has revealed. Our faith cannot go outside the evidence - dangerous curiosity, it will cause doubt.

Hope (Greek) elpizō [el-pid'-zo] to expect or confide: - (have, thing) hope (-d) (for), trust.

Hope = the expectation of a promise revealed will be fulfilled.

VERY IMPORTANT - Faith STANDS on the evidence that God as revealed and clings on to the hope you can't see.

THE EVIDENCE REVEALED = THE SUBSTANCE!

- 1) Creation... In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth
- 2) Unified Word that points to Jesus
- 3) Filled Bible Prophecy (historical records and current events)
- 4) Personal Testimonies

HOPE = Things you cannot see

- 1) Justified by faith
- 2) Sanctified by faith (made holy / righteous)
- 3) Eternal life in a sinless world
- 4) Hope to see Jesus and be reunited with family who died in Christ
- 5) Jesus is our Creator and Friend

What makes faith FAITH is hope! Faith without hope is not faith! Faith becomes faith when it first believes in the substance and then believes in the hope.

For example, the fulfillment of the everlasting covenant is our hope but we can place our faith in the hope that it will come to pass based on the evidence that God has already revealed. If you don't believe the evidence revealed to you, you have NO hope

2) Evidence of things not seen...

The second part of the definition of faith is your response and proof in the hope that you cannot see! Your action or lifestyle is the evidence of your faith. This is where the rubber meets the road!

In other words, what is the EVIDENCE of your faith even though you don't see the everlasting covenant?

James 2:17-19

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

Faith without WORKS is Dead.

Is your faith blood covered or flesh covered?

True living faith reflects our lifestyle that is in obedience and in harmony with the Word of God. It is NOT depended on the things we can see, but the promises of God.

True living faith is Jesus' blood covered works based on the substance and hope:

Php 2:13 For it is God which **worketh** in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

False faith is based on the works of the flesh, but still profess to have hope in the everlasting covenant of Jesus Christ. False faith is a presumptuous faith that is based on feeling and what others think. False faith does things out of convenience and comfort.

Works of the Flesh example: Rich young ruler

Blood Covered Works: Example –Zacchaeus

How do you know that your “works” are blood covered? True genuine faith

- 1) Obedience
- 2) Fruit of repentance
- 3) Transformation – totally detached from worldliness
- 4) Intentional in sharing the everlasting gospel with others.**

Hebrews 11 – HALL of FAITH are examples of those who proved their faith of things they could not see BY THEIR WORKS. Their lifestyle was the evidence of the faith in the hope of the everlasting covenant!

Heb 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

Heb 11:5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

Heb 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Heb 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

Heb 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

By faith Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and many others.... Their faith in the hope influenced every action in their lives. Their action was the evidence of their faith.

Hebrews 11:37-40

37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

38 (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:

40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

What was the two key factors that builds this type of true faith? Prayer and the Investigation of the Word of God!

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith is only grown in an environment of truth. What destroy faith are lies, worldliness, doubt, and sin.

True Faith FORSAKES ALL in pursuit of the hope!

F.A.I.T.H = Forsaking All I Trust Him!

The action of the reformers during the dark ages of the Papal Empire was the evidence of their faith.

John Wycliffe, John Huss, Martin Luther, and Ulrich Zwingli were ALL protestant reformers who had true living faith in the promise that they could not see!

What moved the monk and Catholic priest Martin Luther to nail the 95 theses to the door of the church in Wittenburg, Germany and risk death? FAITH! His actions was the evidence that Luther believed in the hope he could not see. This is the type of faith that we are required to have in these last days as God's reformers!

What happen to Luther after he nailed the 95 theses on October 31, 1517? He was summons before the Diet of Worms (promised safe passage their and back)

What was the goal of the papacy at the Diet of Worms? Recant or Death

Did Luther recant? No

Motivated by pure hatred the papacy planned to kill Luther when he “safely” arrived to his home in Wittenburg from Worms.

What happened to Luther while he was traveling to Wittenburg from Worms? He was kidnapped by friends and hid away in a secluded place Wartburg, Germany for about a year.

What did Luther do while he was in seclusion?

His enemies thought Luther was silenced began to see his literature and tracts being circulated throughout Germany and beyond!

While in seclusion Luther worked on translating the New Testament of the Bible to German!

Progress of reform in Germany

Uproar over Luther’s Disappearance

Luther disappearance cause a major stir throughout Germany. Many who were converted to the protestant reformation thought Luther was murdered by the papacy. Many took a vow to avenge his death!

As a result the papacy saw a great uprising against them from among the people of Germany. Out of fear of the people they searched for Luther themselves!

"The only remaining way of saving ourselves," said one, "is to light torches, and hunt for Luther through the whole world, to restore him to the nation that is calling for him."

Reformation Grows despite Luther’s Absence

The news that Luther was safely hidden calmed the fears of the reformers.

Luther’s literature was read with great enthusiasm and the numbers of the converts grew in Germany.

Reformer leaders organized and the seed of truth was spreading like wildfire even in Luther’s absence.

False German Reformers

To combat the true reformation that was spreading throughout Germany Satan established false reformation through cunning deceptions.

There were men claimed to be inspired by the Holy Spirit and instructed by Gabriel the angel. They rejected the work of Luther and the inspiration of the Bible but claim that they were bring about true reformation

Many began to believe these false prophets

“The fruit of the new teaching soon became apparent. The people were led to neglect the Bible or to cast it wholly aside. The schools were thrown into confusion. Students, spurning all restraint, abandoned their studies and withdrew from the university. The men who thought themselves competent to revive and control the work of the Reformation succeeded only in bringing it to the verge of ruin. The Romanists now regained their confidence and exclaimed exultingly: "One last struggle, and all will be ours."” - GC - 187

In our modern day revival and reformation remember that the WORD of God is our only rule of FAITH. Everything and "spirit" MUST be tested with the Word of God. Impressions, claims, and miracles are not a rule of faith. The WORD.

1 John 4:1

1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Martin Luther FAITH TESTED

While in seclusion news of the false reformation and its influence cause Luther great concern and greatly tested his faith.

What should he do? Come out of seclusion to combat the false reformers while risking his life.

His faith in the truth compelled Luther to risk it all even in the face of death.

Luther left the secluded castle to meet the false reformation head on!

"Without delay he set out on his perilous journey. He was under the ban of the empire. Enemies were at liberty to take his life; friends were forbidden to aid or shelter him. The imperial government was adopting the most stringent measures against his adherents. But he saw that the work of the gospel was imperiled, and in the name of the Lord he went out fearlessly to battle for the truth." GC - 188

"In a letter to the elector, after stating his purpose to leave the Wartburg, Luther said: "Be it known to your highness that I am going to Wittenberg under a protection far higher than that of princes and electors. I think not of soliciting your highness's support, and far from desiring your protection, I would rather protect you myself. If I knew that your highness could or would protect me, I would not go to Wittenberg at all. There is no sword that can further this cause. God alone must do everything, without the help or concurrence of man. He who has the greatest faith is he who is most able to protect." GC - 188

Luther's Combats False Reformation

Luther's only combat to error of the false reformation is TRUTH not FORCE, guns, weapons, or threats.

"By the word," said he, "must we overthrow and destroy what has been set up by violence. I will not make use of force against the superstitious and unbelieving. . . . No one must be constrained. Liberty is the very essence of faith." GC - 189

Luther in front of many eager listeners with great wisdom and gentleness instructed, exhorted, and reprovved with the Word of TRUTH.

Many who where influenced by the false reformation was using violence and force.

For example: There were false reformers using violence to stop people from going to a Catholic Mass.

Luther agreed that the mass was wrong but strongly disagreed with using force and violence.

Luther said "The mass is a bad thing; God is opposed to it; it ought to be abolished; and I would that throughout the whole world it were replaced by the supper of the gospel. But let no one be torn from it by force. We must leave the matter in God's hands. His word must act, and not we. And why so? you will ask. Because I do not hold men's hearts in my hand, as the potter holds the clay. We have a right to speak: we have not the right to act. Let us preach; the rest belongs unto God. Were I to employ force, what should I gain? Grimace, formality, apings, human ordinances, and hypocrisy. . . . But there would be no sincerity of heart, nor faith, nor charity." GC 190

Luther continues - "I will preach, discuss, and write; but I will constrain none, for faith is a voluntary act. See what I have done. I stood up against the pope, indulgences, and papists, but without violence or tumult. I put forward God's word; I preached and wrote--this was all I did. And yet while I was asleep, . . . the word that I had preached overthrew popery, so that neither prince nor emperor has done it so much harm. And yet I did nothing; the word alone did all. If I had wished to appeal to force, the whole of Germany would perhaps have been deluged with blood. But what would have been the result? Ruin and desolation both to body and soul. I therefore kept quiet, and left the word to run through the world alone." GC - 190

Luther hit the false reformation head on with the word of truth and the true reformation went forward with power!

False Reformation REVIVED

Several years later the false reformation reared it ugly head with more violence in Germany.

Thomas Munzer was the leader of this false reformation. He opposed Luther and the papacy. He did not want to be second to Luther.

Munzer claimed, to have been divinely commissioned to introduce the true reform. "He who possesses this spirit," said Munzer, "possesses the true faith, although he should never see the Scriptures in his life."- GC 191

"The fanatical teachers gave themselves up to be governed by impressions, regarding every thought and impulse as the voice of God; consequently they went to great extremes. Some even burned their Bibles, exclaiming: "The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." Munzer's teaching appealed to men's desire for the marvelous, while it gratified their pride by virtually placing human ideas and opinions above the word of God. His doctrines were received by thousands. He soon denounced all order in public worship, and declared that to obey princes was to attempt to serve both God and Belial." - GC 191.2

As a result, civil war and much blood shed in Germany!

Who do you think the papacy blamed this war on? Luther and the true reformation.

In the last days Satan always raises up extreme fanaticism to stop truth reform.

"Counterfeit holiness, spurious sanctification, is still doing its work of deception. Under various forms it exhibits the same spirit as in the days of Luther, diverting minds from the Scriptures and leading men to follow their own feelings and impressions rather than to yield obedience to the law of God. This is one of Satan's most successful devices to cast reproach upon purity and truth."-GC 193

“With that word he warred against the usurped authority of the pope, and the rationalistic philosophy of the schoolmen, while he stood firm as a rock against the fanaticism that sought to ally itself with the Reformation.”
GC - 193

Bible Translation to German and more writings

Luther completed both the new testament and old testament translation of the Bible to German

“Luther's writings were welcomed alike in city and in hamlet. "What Luther and his friends composed, others circulated. Monks, convinced of the unlawfulness of monastic obligations, desirous of exchanging a long life of slothfulness for one of active exertion, but too ignorant to proclaim the word of God, traveled through the provinces, visiting hamlets and cottages, where they sold the books of Luther and his friends. Germany soon swarmed with these bold colporteurs." - GC 194

"Unhappily," said a Catholic writer, "Luther had persuaded his followers to put no faith in any other oracle than the Holy Scriptures." - GC 195

“...generous-minded youth, devoted to study, investigating Scripture, and familiarizing themselves with the masterpieces of antiquity. Possessing an active mind, an elevated soul, and intrepid heart, these young men soon acquired such knowledge that for a long period none could compete with them. . . . Accordingly, when these youthful defenders of the Reformation met the Romish doctors in any assembly, they attacked them with such ease and confidence that these ignorant men hesitated, became embarrassed, and fell into a contempt merited in the eyes of all.” GC - 196

The TRUE reformation prevailed though attacked from the left and right!

“In vain both ecclesiastical and civil authorities were invoked to crush the heresy. In vain they resorted to imprisonment, torture, fire, and sword. Thousands of believers sealed their faith with their blood, and yet the work went on. Persecution served only to extend the truth, and the fanaticism which Satan endeavored to unite with it resulted in making more clear the contrast between the work of Satan and the work of God.” - GC - 196

Mark of the Beast Crisis is right upon us. Is your faith ready?

More Political Power given to the beast! Don't forget politic power is legislative power!

Revelation 13:11, 15-17

11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

17 And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

Jerry Falwell Jr. President of the largest christian university in the world, Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/jerry-falwell-jr-dream-president-trump_us_5906950fe4b05c3976807a08

“I think evangelicals have found their dream president,” Falwell said on Saturday during “Justice With Judge Jeanine” on Fox News.

Prophecy updates

The union of church and state to given to the image of the beast! May 4, 2017

“Trump gives churches ‘their voices back’ with approval to take part in partisan politics” Washington Times May 4, 2017 Thursday [<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/may/4/donald-trump-signs-religious-freedom-order-give-ch/>]

“Amid prayers and Christian music in the White House Rose Garden, President Trump signed an executive order Thursday to make it easier for churches to engage in partisan politics and to protect faith-based groups from being forced to pay for abortion services under Obamacare. [Mix good wit poison]

“We are giving our churches their voices back,” [Mr. Trump](#) told religious and conservative leaders on the National Day of Prayer. “We will not allow people of faith to be targeted, bullied or silenced anymore.”

“[Mr. Trump](#) signed the order directing the IRS not to take “adverse action” against the tax-exempt status of churches and other religious organizations who engage in political speech. His action undermines the 1954 Johnson Amendment, which has barred charitable groups, including churches, from overtly endorsing or opposing political candidates.”

Trump’s first meeting with the beast!

Trump to meet Pope Francis on May 24

[John L. Allen Jr.](#) May 4, 2017 Crux News[<https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2017/05/04/trump-meet-pope-francis-may-24/>]

“The Vatican confirmed on Thursday what has long been rumored, which is that President Donald Trump will indeed meet Pope Francis when he comes to Italy in late May (24th) for a G7 summit.

Though the timing is coincidental, the announcement comes on the same day that news broke Trump is poised to sign an executive order on religious freedom, the gist of which is to ease a long-standing codicil of American law, known as the “Johnson Amendment,” banning religious groups from directly endorsing a political candidate.”

Appeal

Hebrews 10:22-23

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Hebrews 10:35-39

35 **Cast not away therefore your confidence**, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.