

Living by HIS Faith

Revelation 2:12-13

¹²And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

¹³I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, **and hast not denied my faith**, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

¹⁴But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

¹⁵So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

¹⁶Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

¹⁷He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Pergamos: Satan's Throne Room

The period described as the Church of Pergamos lasted from AD 312 to 606. In the message to the church at Ephesus, Jesus references the deeds of the Nicolaitanes, which were already starting to surface in the church. This cycle of apostasy that began in the first age comes to such a condition that the church in Pergamos is said to dwell where Satan's seat is.

Acts 18:1-2

¹After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

²And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

Persecutions of Christians around Jerusalem motivated Christians to travel all over the Roman Empire, and wherever they would go, they took the Gospel of Christ with them. The Gospel even made it to the capital city of the empire. This worked well until Emperor Claudius banned Jews from Rome, which lasted about thirteen years. Without its leading Jewish members, the church at Rome became easy prey to the spirit of antichrist.

PERGAMEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.5, p.209

When the Christians (mainly Jews by birth) were scattered abroad from Jerusalem they went everywhere preaching the Gospel, particularly in the synagogues. Thus within three years, or about in 36 A.D. the Gospel had been taken to Rome by Junius and Andronicus, who according to Romans 16:7 were apostles. The work flourished there for several years until the constant altercations of the Jews amongst themselves caused Emperor Claudius to expel them from Rome. With the Jews banished from that city the backbone of that little church was practically broken. Perhaps even the elders had been Jewish and so would be gone. The flock would be unattended and since the Word had not been written as a guide it would be very easy for this little flock to drift or be inundated by the philosophers and pagans of that day. With grievous wolves on the prowl, and the spirit of antichrist released, we find from history that this little church in Rome became hopelessly backslidden, and began to introduce pagan ceremonies under Christian titles.

As the period of banishment lasted for 13 years, the founders, Junius and Andronicus, did not come back until 54 A.D. Imagine their horror to find a church with a Christian title that was woefully pagan. There were altars in the church upon which they placed incense and celebrated pagan rites. The established leaders of that church could

not be approached, **so with the few who had tried to remain faithful they started a new church, or the Second Church of Rome.** God graciously worked amongst them by signs and wonders so that a third [second?] church was started. And though the First Church was reproached for being pagan and NOT Christian in its worship it would not give up its title but remained and STILL REMAINS the First Church of Rome--The Roman Catholic Church.

This First Church of Rome grew in numbers until government officials started to favor it for political reasons. With increased political influence, the First Church turned the government against the true believers. Polycarp heard that the First Church of Rome, led by Pope Anicetus, was involved in pagan ceremonies and had corrupted the Gospel.

190-1 PERGAMEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.5

When the venerable Polycarp heard that the First Christian Church of Rome was involved in pagan ceremonies and had corrupted the truth of the Gospel, he went there to implore them to change. He saw them prostrate themselves before images named after apostles and saints. He saw them light candles and burn incense on the altar. He saw them celebrate the Passover under the name Easter, where they elevated the disc shaped bread that honored the sun god, and then they poured the wine out as a libation to the gods. But this aged saint who had traveled 1500 miles could not arrest their downward plunge. God spoke through him just as he was leaving, "Ephraim is married to his idols, let him alone," Hosea 4:15. Polycarp never more returned.

Following Anicetus was the wicked bishop of Rome called Victor. He introduced even more pagan festivals and ceremonies into the First Church, and also went about trying his utmost to persuade the true Christian churches to incorporate the same ideas. They would not do as he requested so he prevailed upon government officials to persecute the believers, hailing them into court, casting them into prison and even meting out death to many. Such an example of his vile deeds is found in history where Emperor Septimus Severus was prevailed upon by Callistus (the friend of Victor) to kill 7000 at Thessalonica because these true believers celebrated the Passover according to the Lord Jesus and not according to the worship of Astarte.

Already the false vine was turning loose its anger against the living God by killing the elect, even as did its forebear, Cain, kill Abel.

The true church kept trying to get the First Church to repent. It would not do so. It increased in size and influence. It embarked upon a constant campaign to discredit the true seed. They claimed that they and they alone were the true representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ, and vaunted the fact that they were the original church in Rome, and they alone were the First Church. Indeed they were The First Church, and INDEED THEY ARE.

Wedding of Church & State

In AD 312, Constantine fought a battle against his rival Maxentius at Milvian Bridge. It is before this battle that he says he had a dream of a white cross, which he felt was an omen that if the Christians would pray for him, he would win the battle. In exchange for their prayers, Constantine promised them freedom from persecution if he won. The next morning, he had his soldiers paint white crosses on their shields. Constantine's forces won the battle, and he proclaimed an end to persecutions of the Christians. Under Constantine, the pagan Roman empire would transform itself into the papal Roman empire, and Satan would win official access to the Name of Christ and enthrone himself in the temple of God to be worshiped as God (cf. II Thess. 2:4, Isaiah 14:12-14). Appropriately, Revelation 2:13 describes Pergamos as "Satan's seat," and Bro. Branham calls it "Satan's throne room."

PERGAMEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.5, p.211

But this freedom from persecution and death was not as magnanimous as it first appeared. Constantine was now the patron. As a patron his interest was somewhat more than that of an observer, for he decided that the church needed his help in her affairs. He had seen them disagreeing over various matters, one of which involved

Arius, Bishop of Alexander, who taught his adherents that Jesus was not truly God but a lesser being, having been created by God. The Western Church held the opposite view, believing that Jesus was the very essence of God and as they said 'coequal with the Father.' With such matters, along with the intrusion of pagan ceremony into worship, the emperor called for the Nicene Council in 325 with the thought that he would bring all groups together where they could iron out their differences, and come to a common understanding, and all be one. Isn't it peculiar that though this started with Constantine it didn't die but is very much alive today as the "World Council of Churches"? And where he failed to truly achieve it, it will be achieved in this day through the ecumenical move.

PERGAMEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.5, p.212

But that the church and state would come together was truly fore-known of the Lord. The very name Pergamos means "thoroughly married". And indeed state and church were married; politics and religion were united. The offspring of that union have been consistently the most horrible hybrids the world has ever seen. The truth is not in them, but all the evil ways of Cain (the first hybrid) is.

Not only was state and church wedded in this age, but the Babylonian religion was officially joined to the First Church. **Satan now had access to the Name of Christ and he was enthroned as God in worship.** With the help of federal aid the churches fell heir to beautiful buildings which were lined with altars of white marble and images of the departed saints. **And right in this age is when the "beast" of Revelation 13:3 that was wounded to death: (the pagan Roman Empire) came back to life and power as the "Holy Roman Empire."** Rome as a material nation had suffered much depletion and soon would suffer it completely; but it mattered not now, for her religious empire would keep her on top of the world governing from the inside where she would not appear to do so from the outside.

Revelation 2:12-13

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THOU HAST NOT DENIED MY FAITH (Church Age Book, p. 197-198)

In this Pergamean Age where men were humanizing salvation, having turned from the truth that "Salvation is of the Lord,"--having cast aside the doctrine of election and opened wide the church door and their fellowship to any and all who subscribed to their tenets (never mind the Word), **in this age of rapid degradation, there were still the few who had the measure of that faith of our Lord Jesus Christ**, and not only used that faith in acts of power but withstood those who dared to say that they were saved simply on the grounds of joining a church. They knew that no man could truly believe unto eternal life and the righteousness of God apart from the measure of the faith of the Lord Jesus, Himself. As today's church is filled with mental believers who endorse the virgin birth, the shed blood, going to church and taking communion, and are not reborn at all, even so in that third age was the same problem. Human faith wasn't enough then and it is not enough now. It takes the very faith of the Son of God to drop into a man's heart so that he can receive the Lord of glory into the temple not made with hands.

The only way to live for Christ in Satan's Eden is by the faith of Christ.

Acts 3:16

And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: **yea, the faith which is by him** hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

THOU HAST NOT DENIED MY FAITH (Church Age Book, p. 197-198)

In Acts 3:16 when Peter was asked how the mighty miracle had taken place upon the crippled one at the Gate Beautiful, he explained it on this wise, "And His (Jesus) Name through faith in His (Jesus) Name hath made this man (former cripple) strong, yea, the faith which is by (from) Him (Jesus) hath given him (the man) this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." See, there it is. Jesus' Name, and Jesus' Faith brought about the miracle. Peter did not claim it was his own human faith any more than he claimed that it was his own name. He said that Jesus' Name used in the faith which is from Jesus performed that great work. This faith is what the Lord was speaking about in Revelation 2:13. It was HIS faith. It was not faith IN Him. But it was HIS OWN faith that He had given to the believers. ... This was a living faith. "I live by the faith of the Son of God." **Paul did not say that he lived by faith IN the Son of God. It was the faith of the Son of God that had given him life and kept him living in Christian victory.**

Faith doesn't require completion of some superhuman quest to attain.

Romans 10:6-11

But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, *Who shall ascend into heaven?* (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

Or, *Who shall descend into the deep?* (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Romans 9:16 (ESV)

So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.

INTER.VEIL_ STURGIS.MI SATURDAY_ 56-0121

E-26 Christianity is not something, God's not One you have to beg, and cry, and plead, and fast, and starve, and everything like that to get to. Certainly not. I'm not degrading a fast.

But here not long ago, a man wrote a book on fasting. My, women come into the meeting, and men, who'd went on those fasts that were insane. They went just because the book said to fast forty days. Some of them with false plates, and their teeth would drop out. And their eyes would sink back. And mothers-to-be to... women to be mothers, their little ones as you understand, they would completely go mentally out, and be taken to the institutions. Many, many of them, come in that condition. I believe in fasting. Certainly. But when you fast, you don't hunger. Jesus after He had got through fasting, the Bible said, He was hungry. God puts a fast on you. You don't put it on yourself. He certainly captured the women, the man did that wrote the book, when he said, put a picture of a woman there, she looked twenty years younger, said, after the fast. You ought to see her then, just about a year later what she looked like, after that. See? Certainly.

You don't do that. You don't do things by works. It's by grace. God in sovereign grace...

Faith is a gift of God.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **[it is] the gift of God:**

Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Ephesians 3:12

In whom we have boldness and access with confidence **by the faith of him.**

Philippians 3:9

And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is **through the faith of Christ**, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of [our] faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Galatians 2:16

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

James 2:1

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with respect of persons.

Habakkuk 2:4

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

PROVING.HIS.WORD_ JEFF.IN V-9 N-6 SUNDAY_ 64-0816

64 Now, there is also an old proverb that says, "Prove it, and I'll believe it." Now, they got one of our state, one of our states in the nation, they have a slogan, "I'm from Missouri; show me." See, in other words, "Prove it to me; I'm from Missouri." But this doesn't work always, because God has in every age fulfilled and proved the work that He has set out for that age, and spoke it in His Word. And every time that God's Word has been proven in the age, the majority has turned it down. So, "Prove it, and I'll believe it," is not so. You can only have faith as God gives you faith. **Faith is a gift of God.** Ever how religious you may be, yet it must take the.. It must--you must have faith. And your faith can only rest, if you're a Christian, upon the proven Word of God.

FAITH.IS.THE.SUBSTANCE_ OAKLAND.CA SATURDAY_ 47-0412

E-58 It ain't what you try to make yourself believe. Now, for instance, I try to make myself believe I'm hearing music. I--I wouldn't do it. May I make myself believe I'm smelling perfume. It's just not there. I've got to absolutely do it. You see what I mean? And faith is that positive. It is an act of positive. You know it. Oh, my, I hope you see it, what I mean.

E-63 It's just the simplicity of... It's nothing you can work yourself up to. It's no excitement. I notice people come in line, just get to shaking themselves, and saying, "Oh, God, hallelujah. Amen. Glory to God." Don't do that. You interfere with faith there. You interfere with God. Come up reverently and just lay your hand up and believe. That's all. Faith, you don't work yourself up to it. Faith is something that's already in your heart. You just come and believe. You see what I mean?

WORKS.IS.FAITH.EXPRESSED_ SHREVEPORT.LA V-7 N-1 FRIDAY_ 65-1126

105 Now, "faith" is a "revelation from God." Now, "faith" is a "revelation." There's where I want to stay there just a moment. It's a revelation. He has revealed it to you by His grace. It's nothing you did. You didn't work yourself up into faith. You never had faith; it's give to you by the grace of God. And God reveals it to you; therefore, faith is a revelation. And the whole Church of God is built upon the revelation.

God not only gives us His faith, but He's also the one Who quickens and operates it.

Colossians 2:12 (see also quote above, explaining Acts 3:16)

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with [him] through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Our confidence is not in the strength of our prayer, but in the strength of God's promise.

56-0121 THE.INTER.VEIL_ STURGIS.MI SATURDAY_

« E-96 † **God, with not confidence in my prayer, but confidence in Your promise, no matter how little it is, what it is, and how weak our prayer is, You promised it, Christ.** And I bring these people into Your Presence now. And I

present them for the desire of their heart. It's a righteous and a godly desire to walk close to You, and be hid away under the power of the Shekinah Glory, that of the world shut away from them, as I have preached to them tonight. And now, God, I believe that You hear what I ask for. And I believe that Jesus' words are true, whatever I ask I would receive. Therefore now, Father, I thank You for it.

“Unconscious faith”

HE.SWORE.BY.HIMSELF_ JEFF.IN V-26 N-11 SUNDAY_ 54-1212

101 Listen. I'm going to say something. Look. **Faith is unconscious.** Amen. You believe it? I've learned that in the years of travel around the world and meeting the peoples of all different walks. But faith is unconscious. **You got faith and don't even know it. That's right.**

Jesus Christ, no matter if He was in a storm and the gale's knocking the boat from one side to the other, or He was standing in the face of mess of demons; if He was hanging anywhere, it never moved Him. **He walked right along just as calm and quiet as He could be. Why? He was simply unconscious of fear, anything around Him.** That's right. Whether it was going to happen, or whether it wasn't going to happen; He knewed it was going to happen because God said so. **He didn't say, "Oh, wonder if I prayed through? Wonder if I fasted long enough? Wonder if I did this?" He just walked right on unconscious. That's right. He believed what God said was truth.** The Words must be fulfilled, and He knewed what His life was to fulfill Them. That's right.

FUNDAMENTAL.FOUNDATION.FOR.FAITH_ CHICAGO.IL THURSDAY_ 55-0113

E-6 Now, we hear so many people say, "Well, if I only had faith." **Faith is--doesn't mean long, drawn-out prayer meetings. [Think of Elijah & prophets of Baal, I Kings 18:36-37] It doesn't mean long fasts. Faith is an unconscious thing. Your real faith, you're unconscious of it. You don't know that the faith you have got. It's an unconscious matter with you.**

Could you imagine Jesus questioning whether He had faith or not to stop the winds, or still the waves, or have faith enough to L--raise Lazarus up? Or... He never questioned His faith.

Now, the first thing before we can have faith, we've got to have some foundation for faith. There's got to be something behind it.

ARROW.OF.GOD'S.DELIVERANCE_ SHREVEPORT.LA FRIDAY_ 56-0801

E-67 Lady, second lady from the end there, elderly lady with a pair of glasses on, looking this way, got low blood pressure. You believe Jesus Christ would heal you, sister? You that's setting there on a pink cushion, looking at me with a spotted dress on. Say, looking up, yes, you there, you believe Jesus Christ will make you well? You... Raise up your hand if you believe it. All right. Accept it then. Amen.

See how--**see how unconscious faith is? The woman is setting there thinking in her heart so much that she didn't even hear me talking to her. That's right. But you see, God spoke to her.** Amen. If that ain't Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever, I... It's not... That's the Bible. Amen. "If thou canst believe, all things are possible."

HEAR.YE.HIM_ OAKLAND.CA FRIDAY_ 57-0322

E-91 What do you think, setting there on the end of the seat, sir, suffering with catarrh? You believe Christ will make you well? All right. If you believe it, you can have it. **That scared you. You didn't know you had that much faith. Faith is an unconscious thing. Just have faith and believe.** If thou canst believe... Your wife's deaf and you want her prayed for too. Isn't that right? Certainly is. What did you think, lady with the red hat on, when you raised around? Would you like to get over that stomach and gall bladder trouble? You would? That's what you had. If you'll believe, you can be made well too. Just accept it and say, "Lord Jesus, I believe." Do you believe, sister, too? Blessed Holy Spirit, bless her I pray in Jesus Christ's Name. Amen. Have faith now. Don't doubt.

QUEEN.OF.SHEBA_ KLAMATH.FALLS.OR SUNDAY_ 60-0710

E-115 How many's been in the meetings (Raise your hands now) and see that done? Raise your hands everywhere. Certainly it will; it's perfect; it's God. **Sometimes people have more faith then they think they have. You try to make yourself have faith. Don't do that; just humble yourself.** A man setting right there, the Light's still around him right there. Didn't even... **It surprised him, he had that much faith.** That's right. But he had it just...

Isn't that right, sir? If that's right, raise up your hand, the man that's healed right down here. That's right. **It just surprised you; you don't think you have it. But it's--it's just simple. Just believe it.**

Here... here's a man standing here. I don't know you; that's right. You don't know me, I suppose; God knows you. You know me just by seeing in the audience and things like that, but not this way. You think that God... If He would tell me what you're here for or something, would--would it make you have a lot of faith to believe? It would make you... It might make you have faith. All right.

GREATER.THAN.SOLOMON_ DALLAS.TX V-19 N-10 FRIDAY_ 64-0306

199 Your faith is unconscious. Don't press now or jump. You jump away from it. It's right with you. Just relax yourself and believe. Just believe now and have faith. [An exhortation is given--Ed.] Amen. And be reverent; just have faith; just believe. Sometimes your faith is unconscious, you have it and you don't know it. That little woman had it; she didn't know it.

SUPER.SIGN_ GRASS.VALLEY.CA JJ 141 SUNDAY_ 62-0708

216 What about the balcony? Somebody believe? You believe it, that He's the same? I see a woman; she don't even realize she's got that faith. It's a hidden faith, don't even confess it. She's suffering with a headache, setting here looking at me, right up here. A Mrs. Singer, surprised you, didn't it? Your headache's going to leave you now. Now, you tell your critics to answer that.

God is the One who transforms our mental faith into a spiritual faith.

BLASPHEMOUS.NAMES_ JEFF.IN V-3 N-21 SUNDAY_ 62-1104M

22-1 Patience, and so forth, there's a mockery of it, a pretending to be, a nature given faith, a nature given virtue. There's a nature given temperance. And all these things are nature given. And the biggest part of our faith is mental faith. By hearing the Word it brings us to a mental recognition of God. But if this coming from above, oh, brother, if it ever strikes this, there is a godly, spiritual faith. Then what does that faith do? That faith recognizes only the Word. No matter what anything else says, it only recognizes the Word, because "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (And the Word's still God.) And the Word was made flesh and dwelled among us." And when the word Itself is pouring into our faith, our mental faith becomes a spiritual revelation. "And upon this foundation I'll build My Church," (See?), not upon a mental conception of church joining, a mental conception of that, but upon the revelation. When them streams of grace has poured into that mental faith that you've got, then upon this, a spiritual revelation, "I'll build My Church and the gates of hell can't prevail against it." See? That shows they would be against it, but it'll never prevail. Oh, what a glorious thing.

65-0725M THE.ANOINTED.ONES.AT.THE.END.TIME_ JEFFERSONVILLE.IN V-5 N-3 SUNDAY_

« 53 What is faith? Faith is something that's revealed to you; that is not yet, but you believe it will be. Faith is a revelation of the will of God. So, by revelation!

True faith is getting yourself out of the way.

IDENTIFIED.CHRIST.OF.ALL.AGES_ LOUISVILLE.MS WEDNESDAY_ 64-0401

E-55 Now, now, here's a little lady standing here. Now, don't nobody move. Just be real reverent and stand still. Now, I, by--by a gift... Now, a gift is just not something you take like a--a chopping axe, and go to chopping and cutting away. That's wrong. A gift is know how to get yourself out of the way. It's just relax yourself, and get yourself out, and then God comes in and uses you the way He wants to. A gift is get yourself out of the way (See?), not something put in your hand, go to stabbing and sticking. That--that ain't God. See? The thing we do is just get yourself out of the way, then the Holy Spirit comes in and goes to using it any way that He wants to use it.

Now, you got to get yourself out of the way. No matter what God would do here, He has to do it on you too. No matter how much He'd anoint me; He's got to anoint you. If He don't, many mighty works He could not do.

This is the opposite of the "Will Worship" that Paul talks about in Colossians 2:20-23.

Colossians 2:20-23

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

(Touch not; taste not; handle not;

Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh [of no value to stopping the indulgence of the flesh].

EXAMPLE: Prayer of Pharisee and Publican in the Temple: the Pharisee (who trusted in himself that he was righteous) was very aware of the effort of his prayer; the Publican was completely unaware of what his prayer had accomplished.

INTER.VEIL_ STURGIS.MI SATURDAY_ 56-0121

E-26 Christianity is not something, God's not One you have to beg, and cry, and plead, and fast, and starve, and everything like that to get to. Certainly not. ... **You don't do that. You don't do things by works. It's by grace. God in sovereign grace...**

WORLD.AGAIN.FALLING.APART_ SHP.LA V-17 N-4 WEDNESDAY_ 63-1127

77 **But, you see, when they ask these things, and ask for this, they don't ask as Jesus said. We try to make God like a-- like an errand boy, "Lord, You do this for me, and You do this for me. And You go do that," tell Him what to do. Jesus said, "When you pray, pray like this manner, 'Our Father Who Art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thine will be done.'" Who, find where we do that? We're always wanting God to run errands for us or do something for us. But when we're willing to say, "Thy will be done," commit ourselves to Him, commit our ways to Him, all that we are, commit it to Him. That's when God will move, when you're willing to let Him work on you, not you work on Him. Let Him tell you, not you tell Him and twist it around.**

From repentance to rapture, it's all by grace

Romans 4:16

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Hebrews 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.

I Corinthians 15:51-58

Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

The rapture is the last step of our earthly walk with God. The changes God is now working out in our lives, from carnal to spiritual, are our connection to the climactic change from mortality to immortality.

THOU HAST NOT DENIED MY FAITH (Church Age Book, p. 197-198)

In this Pergamean Age where men were humanizing salvation, ... Human faith wasn't enough then and it is not enough now. It takes the very faith of the Son of God to drop into a man's heart so that he can receive the Lord of glory into the temple not made with hands. ... This was a living faith. "I live by the faith of the Son of God." Paul did not say that he lived by faith IN the Son of God. It was the faith of the Son of God that had given him life and kept him living in Christian victory.