

FORMULA III

JESUS FIRST • OTHERS SECOND • YOURSELF LAST
A FREE MINI-MAGAZINE BY JOSHUA GOODLING PUBLICATIONS



FAITH IN GOD



FORMULA III

Edited and Published by Joshua Goodling
Distributed FREE

All articles written by Joshua Goodling, unless otherwise noted.
©2024 - All Rights Reserved

Joshua Goodling
P.O. Box 23174 • Knoxville, TN 37933
Web: joshuagoodling.com
Email: joshua@joshuagoodling.com

Have You Still No Faith?

We read in Mark 4:35-41 "...When evening had come, he [Jesus] said to them [His disciples], 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, 'Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'"

Jesus' twelve disciples were still not certain about exactly who Jesus was. Notice, they called Him "Teacher". They knew obviously He was from God, because of what they saw Him do, but it wasn't until after Jesus' death and resurrection that they were finally all convinced that this was indeed the Messiah. Notice after this eye opening occasion, they still questioned "Who then is this....?" And, so it is easy to understand why they were still

uncertain about some things (many things actually), and were lacking in faith that nothing could happen to them outside of God's plan for them. Yet – beside this, Jesus still questions "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"

We on the other hand, have the entire Bible filled with truths, promises, and illustrations of God's work, amazing power, and peace giving protection, and yet we still many times allow the cares of this life, the problems we face, and the difficulties that lie ahead to cause us to doubt or at least "fear" what may come. When in reality – as long as we keep our eyes on Him, we have NOTHING to fear. It ALL depends on how much TRUE FAITH do we have in our Savior? If He can command the wind and the sea to obey Him, and they do instantly, He has NO PROBLEM taking care of EVERYTHING in our lives!

Many times, we miss out on life's best simply because we have no faith in God, or at least very little faith. Oh yes, we believe Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead, but can He handle that crisis we are facing today?? Have you STILL no faith??



Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?

TRUST and OBEY

Author: John H. Sammis (1887)

When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way;
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.



Faith Is Critical

In Genesis 12, God speaks to Abraham and the Bible tells us, "Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.'" (Genesis 12:1-3)

God promised that He would make of Abraham a great nation. However, for many many years God did not allow Abraham's wife to bear any children. In chapter 16, Sarah (Abraham's wife) finally got tired of waiting and told him to also marry her maid Hagar, so at least Abraham would have a child from which to create this great nation that God had promised. Of course, as soon as Hagar became pregnant with Abraham's first child, Sarah got angry that God had given Hagar Abraham's first born son and not Sarah. She thought she had to step in and make God's promise work.

The Bible tells us that Abraham was 86 years old when Hagar's son was born to Him.

Then, in Genesis 17, God again promises Abraham that He would make of him a great nation and that he would have many descendants, and by that time Abraham was 99 years old. And, in Genesis 18, God visits Abraham and tells him, "I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son." (Genesis 18:10).

Now, being almost 100 years old, Sarah laughed and the Bible tells us, "Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing. Sarah laughed to herself, saying, 'After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?' And the LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old? Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son.'" (Genesis 18:11-14)

It all seemed hopeless to Sarah, but in Genesis 21, we read, "So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the appointed time of which God had spoken to him." (Genesis 21:2)

God had years earlier promised that He would make of Abraham a great nation. And AFTER everything seemed hopeless, when it seemed impossible that He would actually make good on His promise, the Bible tells us "AT THE APPOINTED TIME..." Sarah had a son. Notice what God said to Abraham, "Is ANYTHING too difficult for the LORD?" God's promise to Abram was fulfilled. But NOT when Abram and Sarah expected it. It was when it seemed like it would NEVER happen that God gave them the son He had promised. It was not according to Abram's timing, but according to Almighty God's timing that it happened.

Sometimes we get discouraged and try to rush things in our lives. We wonder why nothing seems to be happening the way we think it should. We may even laugh at

God's promises as Sarah did, and say, "Well, that's never going to work for me, it's too late!". And like Sarah getting angry because God gave Hagar a son, but wouldn't let her have any children, we get angry because God seems to do things for OTHER people, but not us sometimes. However, God knows EXACTLY what He is doing!

We have to understand that God DOES NOT work on our time table or according to OUR plans.

Everything that He has promised WILL one day come to pass. Even when it seems IMPOSSIBLE for things to happen, NOTHING is impossible with God! We HAVE TO TRUST GOD! I CANNOT stress that point enough! The Bible CLEARLY tells us, "And WITHOUT FAITH it is IMPOSSIBLE to please him..." (Hebrews 11:6) Complete TRUST and FAITH in GOD are CRITICAL to living this Christian Life!



I CAN DO ALL
Things
THROUGH 

CHRIST WHO

strengthens me
◆◆◆◆◆ PHILIPPIANS 4:13

Have FAITH In GOD

The captain of a steamer ship tells of his experience of meeting George Mueller.

“One of the most extraordinary things happened which, has completely revolutionized the whole of my Christian life. Up to that time I was one of your ordinary Christians. We had a man of God on board, George Mueller, of Bristol. I had been on the ship’s bridge for twenty-two hours and never left it. I was startled by some one tapping me on the shoulder. It was George Mueller:

“‘Captain, he said, ‘I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon.’ This was Wednesday.

“‘It is impossible,’ I said.

“‘Very well, if your ship can’t take me, God will find some other means of locomotion to take me. I have never broken an engagement in fifty seven years.’

“‘I would willingly help you. How can I? I am helpless.’

“‘Let us go down to the chart-room and pray.’

“I looked at that man of God, and I thought to myself, what lunatic asylum could that man have

come from? I never heard of such a thing.

“‘Mr. Mueller,’ I said, ‘do you know how dense the fog is?’

“‘No,’ he replied, ‘my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God who controls every circumstance of my life.’

“He got down on his knees and prayed one of the most simple prayers. I muttered to myself: ‘That would suit a children’s class where the children were not more than eight or nine years old.’ The burden of his prayer was something like this: ‘O Lord, if it is consistent with Thy will, please remove this fog in five minutes. You know the engagement you made for me in Quebec Saturday. I believe it is your will.’

“When he finished. I was going to pray, but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray. “First, you do not believe He will; and second. I believe He already has. And there is no need whatever for you to pray about it.’ I looked at him, and George Mueller said..

“‘Captain. I have known my Lord for forty-seven years, and there has never been a single day that I have failed to gain an audience with the King. Get up, captain, and open the door, and you will

find the fog is gone.' I got up, and the fog was gone!"

George Mueller had learned the VITAL and IMPORTANT lesson in the Christian life. God CAN and WILL do what He promises to do in our lives. God has promised to meet and supply ALL of our needs, and when we FAITHFULLY trust Him, obey His Word, and seek with all of our hearts to follow Him, He CAN and WILL do AMAZING things in our lives.

Many people are like that ship's captain. They claim to be a Christian, yet they really have no faith in God as it pertains to their daily needs and life. Oh, they trusted Him as their Savior, but somehow they feel although He can save them from their sin and provide them a home in heaven when they die, He is unable to handle the day-to-day difficulties or problems they may face. That is one of the reasons so many Christians fail to see God really work. They don't TRULY believe He will. Oh, they believe He "could if He wanted to...", but they doubt.

Read at what James wrote in James 1:5-8, "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and

without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

Time and again during Jesus' earthly ministry, people came to Him asking him to heal them or their loved ones and constantly Jesus said, "If you BELIEVE..." or "according to your FAITH..."

Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "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."

God is able to do ANYTHING at all. We simply must learn to give Him COMPLETE control of EVERYTHING in our lives and then TRUST that He who created us will do what is PERFECT and RIGHT. When we start following Him and doing what He commands, we have NOTHING to worry about. We can place our faith and our life in His hands and allow Him to do what ONLY GOD CAN DO!



FAITH in GOD

Proverbs 3:5-7

Trust in the Lord with all your
heart,

and do not lean on your own
understanding.

In all your ways acknowledge
him,

and he will make straight your
paths.

Be not wise in your own eyes;

fear the Lord, and turn away
from evil.

You CAN TRUST HIM

In the early 1900's a man was driving his Model T Ford outside of Detroit. He was driving along when suddenly the automobile sputtered and stopped. He opened the hood, and not knowing anything about automobiles sat there for over an hour trying to figure out what the problem was. Soon another Model T pulled up behind him, and the driver got out and walked up to the frustrated driver. "You seem to have a problem sir." said the driver. The first driver replied, "Yes, but it's no use, I can't get it running – I'm sure you can't do anything either." The newly arrived driver walked over to the engine, tinkered around for a few moments and "VROOM!", the engine fired to life and was running fine. He walked back to the now amazed driver, shook his hand and said, "My name is Henry Ford. Have a nice day!"

Obviously Henry Ford knew a LOT more about the Model T than that frustrated driver. After all, he had designed and built the Model T.

The same is true with our Christian life! God knows a LOT more about how to live our life than we do. We can sit here all day and try to figure out ways to not do what He commands us, ways to change Christianity to meet our wants and desires, and ways to not have to give up so much to follow Him, but like that frustrated driver – NONE of those things will work!

In Mark 8:34, Jesus was speaking to

the people who were assembled, and the Bible tells us, "And He summoned the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me."

You see – it's NOT about US....It's about JESUS! That's the CENTRAL point to Christianity – following Jesus Christ! Nothing else matters.

You say, "Oh, but my career matters, who I marry matters, my finances matter..."! No – We are to follow Him. And when we follow Him, He will GUIDE us in all of those choices and decisions. Yes, they "matter", but not the way WE think they do. Following JESUS comes first. But – UNTIL we follow Him, He can't guide us. I know it's a HUGE step to give up control of everything. I struggle with it myself...that's not our human nature. But, that's the way God works.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil." (Prov. 3:5-7).

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matt. 6:33-34).

Just as Henry Ford knew exactly what to fix to get that Model T running, God knows EXACTLY what is important in our lives. It isn't His goal to destroy and ruin our lives. No – He wants to give us the best life possible – by trusting COMPLETELY in Him and His Word.

Remember – you CAN trust Him! You have to step out by faith and do it though. We too often say “Yes, I trust God...BUT....” That attitude doesn't work. We must trust Him completely.

Psalm 34:8 challenges us, “Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!”

“Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.”

— Corrie ten Boom

“To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.”

— Thomas Aquinas

“A little faith will bring your soul to heaven; a great faith will bring heaven to your soul.”

— Charles H. Spurgeon

“I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

— C. S. Lewis



Saving Faith

Author - J. C. Ryle (1816 - 1900)

There is a dead faith, as well as a living one.

There is a faith of devils, as well as a faith of God's elect.

There is a faith which is vain and useless, as well as a faith which justifies and saves.

How shall a man know whether he has true saving faith? The thing may be found out! The Ethiopian may be known by the color of his skin; and the leopard may be known by his spots. True faith may always be known by certain marks. These marks are laid down unmistakably in Scripture. Reader, let me endeavor to set these marks plainly before you. Look at them carefully — and test your own soul by what I am going to say.

1. He who truly believes in Christ — has a NEW HEART. It is written, "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature — old things are passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Cor. 5:17.) A believer has no longer the same nature with which he was born. He is changed, renewed, and transformed after the image of his Lord and Savior. He who minds first, the things of the flesh — has no saving faith. True faith, and spiritual regeneration, are inseparable companions. An

unconverted person — is not a genuine believer!

2. He who truly believes in Christ — is a HOLY person in heart and life. It is written that God "purifies the heart by faith," and that Christians are "sanctified by faith." "Whoever has this hope in him, purifies himself." (Acts 15:9; 26:18; 1 John 3:3.). A believer loves what God loves — and hates what God hates. His heart's desire is to walk in the way of God's commandments, and to abstain from all manner of evil. His wish is to follow after the things which are just, and pure, and honest, and lovely — and to cleanse himself from all filthiness of flesh and spirit. He falls far short of his aim, in many things. He finds his daily life, a constant fight with indwelling corruption. But he fights on — and resolutely refuses to serve sin. Where there is no holiness, we may be sure there is no saving faith! An unholy man is not a genuine believer!

3. He who truly believes in Christ — works godly WORKS. It is written, that "faith works by love" (Gal. 5:6). True belief will never make a man idle, or allow him to sit still, contented with his own religion. It will stir him to do acts of love, kindness, and charity, according as he sees opportunity. It will constrain him to walk in the

steps of his Master, who "went about doing good." In one way or another, it will make him work. The works that he does may attract no notice from the world. They may seem trifling and insignificant to many people. But they are not forgotten by Him who notices a cup of cold water given for His sake. Where there is no working love — there is no faith. A lazy, selfish professing Christian — has no right to regard himself as a genuine believer!

4. He who truly believes in Christ — overcomes the WORLD. It is written, that "whoever is born of God, overcomes the world — and this is the victory which overcomes the world — even our faith" (1 John 5:4). A true believer is not ruled by the world's standard of right or wrong, of truth or error. He is independent of the world's opinion. He cares little for the world's praise. He is not moved by the world's censure. He does not seek for the world's pleasures. He is not ambitious of the world's rewards. He looks at things unseen — he sees an invisible Savior, a coming judgment, and a crown of glory which never fades away. The sight of these objects, makes him think comparatively little of this present world. Where the world reigns in the heart — there is no genuine faith. A man who is habitually conformed to the world — is not a genuine believer!

5. He who truly believes in Christ — has the witness of the Holy Spirit. He has hopes, joys, fears, sorrows, consolations, expectations, of which he knew nothing before he believed. He has internal evidences which the world cannot understand. Where there are no inward pious feelings — there is no faith. A man who knows nothing of an inward, spiritual, experimental religion — is not a genuine believer!

6. He who truly believes in Christ — has a special regard to the person of CHRIST Himself. It is written, "Unto you who believe — Christ is precious" (1 Peter 2:7). That text deserves especial notice. It does not say "Christianity" is precious, or the "Gospel" is precious, or "salvation" is precious — but Christ Himself! A true believer's religion, does not consist in mere intellectual assent to a certain set of propositions and doctrines. It is not a mere cold belief of a certain set of truths and facts concerning Christ. It consists in union, communion, and fellowship with an actual living Person, even Jesus the Son of God. It is a life of . . .

faith in Jesus,

confidence in Jesus,

leaning on Jesus,

drawing out of the fullness of Jesus,

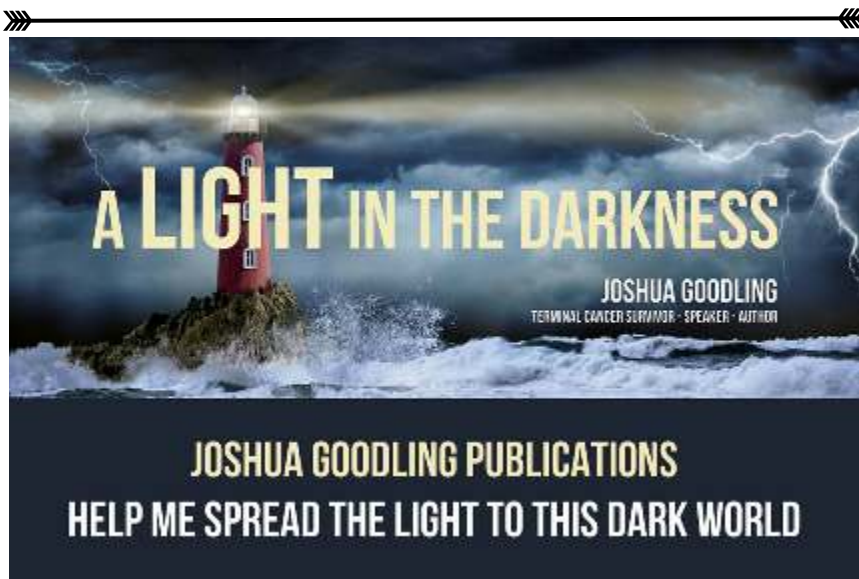
speaking to Jesus,
working for Jesus,
loving Jesus, and
looking for Jesus to come again.

Such life may sound like enthusiasm to many. But where there is true faith, Christ will always be known and realized, as an actual living personal Friend! He who knows nothing of Christ as his own Priest, Physician, Redeemer, Advocate, Friend, Teacher, and Shepherd — knows nothing yet of genuine believing!

Where these marks of which I have been speaking, are utterly lacking, I dare not tell a man that he is a true believer. He may be called a Christian, and attend a

Christian church. But if he knows nothing of these marks — I dare not pronounce him a believer. He is yet dead in trespasses and sins. Except he awakes to newness of life, he will perish everlastingly.

Show me a man who has these marks — and I feel a strong confidence about the state of his soul. He may be poor and needy in this world — but he is rich in the sight of God. He may be despised and sneered at by man — but he is honorable in the sight of the King of kings. He is traveling towards heaven! He has a mansion ready for him in the Father's house. He is cared for by Christ, while on earth. He will be owned by Christ before assembled worlds, in the life which is to come!



WWW.JOSHUAGOODLING.COM/SUPPORT



JOSHUA GOODLING PUBLICATIONS