

The Influence of Faith

Christian Faith

Luke 10:1-3, 17 (NIV)

¹ After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. ³ Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. . . .
¹⁷ The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

I. Historical

A. Heritage

2 Timothy 1:5 (NIV)

⁵ I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Isaiah 37:35-36 (NIV)

³⁵ "I will defend this city and save it, for my sake and for the sake of David my servant!" ³⁶ Then the angel of the LORD went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning--there were all the dead bodies!

B. Imperfect

2 Samuel 11:14-15 (NIV)

¹⁴ In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it with Uriah. ¹⁵ In it he wrote, "Put Uriah in the front line where the fighting is fiercest. Then withdraw from him so he will be struck down and die."

C. Inheritance

Deuteronomy 7:9 (NIV)

⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

II. Influence

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Luke 11:21-26 (NIV)

²¹ "When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. ²² But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils. ²³ "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me, scatters. ²⁴ "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' ²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. ²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."

A. On Guard, v.21

Deuteronomy 6:6-9 (NIV)

⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

B. Challenges Assumed, v.22

C. Living Faith, v.23

D. Spiritual Vacuum, vs.24-26

III. What Response?

A. Personal faith

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

B. Spiritual Health

C. Community

1 Corinthians 12:13-16 (NIV)

¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Now the body is not made up of one part but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

¹⁶ And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body.

D. Courage of faith

Acts 4:12-13 (NIV)

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." ¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Prayer

Almighty God, I believe Jesus of Nazareth is your son, forgive my sins. I choose Jesus as Lord of my life this day. Open my heart to you as never before. Give me a new awareness of spiritual reality. Give me boldness to let my faith be made evident. Send your Spirit into our midst to confirm your Word in power and truth. In Jesus' name, amen.