

Yaks and Faith

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1"

We learn 2 things about faith:

- It is first about confidence; conviction.
- Secondly, the object of that faith is in "things not seen."



Eyewitnesses

"We are witnesses of this." (Peter as quoted in Acts 3:15)

"What we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life (Jesus)...we declare to you." (John as quoted in 1 John 1:1-3)

Intellectually Convinced

"The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus." Acts 3:13

"But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer." Acts 3:18

Peter and John, as were the other Apostles, were intellectually certain that Jesus was the promised Messiah. They were not operating out of a mental vacuum.

Application: Are you at a place in your spiritual journey in which you are investigating Christianity?

Recommendation: *Simply Christian: Why Christianity Makes Sense* by N.T.Wright

Emotionally Passionate

"By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see." Acts 3:11-16

What led these men to such a resolute stand to defer glory to Jesus Christ?

Application: Ask someone close to you to honestly answer that question: "As you observe my life, what am I all about?"

Willfully Committed

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus." Acts 3:19-20

Peter and John possessed something that their opponents knew nothing about. They knew "first hand" of the blessings that come to those who repent and turn to Christ. The riches of forgiveness, guilt free living, and the refreshment that Christ brings to those who follow him – this meant more to them than anything.

"A life of faith calls us to gamble our lives on Jesus Christ. I've got a friend who always reminds me that Jesus promises us at least four things – peace, power, purpose... and trouble. God doesn't promise a carefree life; he promises peace and joy in the midst of the trouble (John 16:33). There is a danger in too much security, and he knew it. As one writer prays, 'Oh Lord, secure me from security, now and forever.'" Tim Hansel – "Holy Sweat"

Application: Do you want to be all about Christ? Do you want to love him more deeply and know him more closely?

Recommendation: Obey him.

"Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him." John 14:21

"What saves a man is to take a step. Then another step." C.S. Lewis