

DIRECTION 4
(UNION WITH CHRIST THROUGH THE GOSPEL AND FAITH)

SUMMARY: "Here is what I have been saying to you up to this point: If you are going to live a holy life, you must be in Christ, and Christ must be in you through a mystical union...God has revealed the two ways his Spirit brings you into this mystical union and fellowship with Christ. What are those two ways? The gospel and faith. Through the Gospel, and through faith, you will be able to live in union with Christ as his Spirit works in you." p. 49

INTRODUCTION:

- A. GOD USES TWO MEANS BY WHICH HIS SPIRIT BRINGS ABOUT THIS MYSTICAL UNION AND FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE BELIEVER:
 - 1. THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD PP. 49-50
 - 2. FAITH, WHICH IS WROUGHT IN US BY THE GOSPEL PP. 50-54

- B. SAVING FAITH HAS TWO ELEMENTS:
 - 1. BELIEVING THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, P. 50
 - 2. BELIEVING ON CHRIST, AS PROMISED FREELY TO US IN THE GOSPEL, FOR ALL YOUR SALVATION, P. 50

- C. THE NATURE OF TRUE SAVING FAITH, pp. 50-52
 - 1. FAITH IS NOT
 - A. EMPTY MENTAL ASSENT, P. 50, 51
 - B. BELIEVING IN CHRIST FOR FEAR OF HELL, P. 51
 - C. BELIEVING IN CHRIST TO AVOID PUNISHMENT, P. 51

 - 2. FAITH IS
 - A. THE INSTRUMENT BY WHICH YOU ACTUALLY RECEIVE CHRIST AND ARE BROUGHT INTO UNION WITH HIM AND THUS ARE JUSTIFIED AND SANCTIFIED, P. 50, 54

 - B. GRASPING AND RECEIVING CHRIST AND HIS SALVATION, PP. 50-51

- C. DEEP, HEARTFELT CONVICTION OF HOW PRECIOUS CHRIST IS, PHILIP. 3:8-9; 2 THESS. 2:10; COL. 1:19; 3:1, PP. 50-51
 - D. LOVING EVERY PART OF CHRIST'S SALVATION- HOLINESS AS WELL AS FORGIVENESS, P. 51
 - E. BELIEVING THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL AND RECEIVING CHRIST PERSONALLY, PP. 51-52
 - F. TRINITARIAN, P. 52
- D. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OT AND NT FAITH, P. 52
 - E. BELIEVING AND TRUSTING ARE EQUIVALENT TERMS, P. 52
 - F. ERRORS REGARDING THE PROPER USE AND OFFICE OF FAITH, PP. 52-54 (NOTE: Don't miss Marshall's discussion as to why people remodel the Gospel into a conditional faith, pp. 53-54)
 - 1. FAITH IS TOO SMALL AND INSIGNIFICANT TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING MAJOR AT ALL. PP. 52-53
 - 2. FAITH IS SUFFICIENT FOR JUSTIFICATION BUT NOT SANCTIFICATION, P. 53

PROPOSITION: 5 FACTS CONCERNING TRUE FAITH AND WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT:

LESSON:

- I. WHEN YOU HAVE FAITH, YOU ACTUALLY ENJOY AND POSSESS CHRIST HIMSELF. P. 54
- II. THE BIBLE ALSO SAYS THAT WHEN YOU RECEIVE CHRIST BY FAITH, YOU PUT HIM ON, AND YOU ARE ROOTED AND GROUNDED IN HIM." P. 55
- III. CHRIST AND ALL OF HIS SALVATION ARE FREELY GIVEN BY GOD'S GRACE TO EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM. P. 55
- IV. ALL SPIRITUAL LIFE AND HOLINESS ARE TREASURED UP IN THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST, AND YOU RECEIVE THEM (I.E., ALL SPIRITUAL LIFE AND HOLINESS) THROUGH UNION WITH CHRIST. PP. 55-56

V. TRUE, SAVING FAITH, BY ITS VERY NATURE, IS ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO RECEIVE CHRIST AND HIS SALVATION, AND TO UNITE YOUR SOUL TO HIM. p. 56

3 REASONS WHY FAITH IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO RECEIVE CHRIST AND HIS SALVATION: PP. 56-61

- A. WHEN YOU BELIEVE IN CHRIST FROM YOUR HEART, YOU CAST AWAY EVERYTHING ELSE THAT KEEPS YOU DISTANT FROM CHRIST. P. 56
- B. FAITH IS DESIGNED TO GIVE YOUR SOUL A HOLY NATURE AND MINDSET, WHICH YOU RECEIVE OUT OF THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST. P. 57
- C. FAITH IS GIVEN TO YOU BY GOD TO STRENGTHEN YOUR SOUL FOR HOLY LIVING. SINCE THIS IS THE CASE, YOU CAN BE SURE THAT IT IS COMPLETELY SUFFICIENT TO ENABLE YOU TO LIVE A HOLY LIFE. PP. 57-58

OBJECTION: SOME PEOPLE REJECT TRUSTING IN CHRIST BECAUSE IT IS TOO EASY AND SIMPLE. PP. 58-60

ANSWER 1: THERE IS NO ACT OF OBEDIENCE THAT FAITH CANNOT PRODUCE. P. 58

ANSWER 2: YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE POWER AND WORK IT TOOK TO BRING ABOUT YOUR FAITH-UNION WITH CHRIST AND ITS PURPOSE. PP. 58-61

- 1. THE OMNIPOTENT POWER OF THE SPIRIT BRINGS YOU INTO UNION WITH CHRIST, P. 59
- 2. GOD GIVE(S) BELIEVERS IN UNION WITH CHRIST A HIGHER PRINCIPLE OF LIFE THAN ADAM, P. 59
- 3. CHRIST USES THE SAME POWER THAT CREATED THE WORLD TO BRING YOU INTO UNION WITH HIM. PP. 59-60
- 4. YOU ARE GIVEN FAITH AND DRAWN TO CHRIST AND ENABLED TO RECEIVE CHRIST. P. 60
- 5. TRUE FAITH HAS (A) HUMBLE, SELF-DENYING NATURE. P. 60

6. SALVATION BY FAITH REVEALS THE GLORY OF GOD'S GRACE! PP.
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