

## *Tuesday's Touch*

*...from Pastor Ed*

*...February 3, 2009*

### *The Foolishness of Faith*

*(please read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31)*

*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

*2 Corinthians 5:7*

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*Hebrews 11:1*

*...we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen.*

*2 Corinthians 4:18*

*Faith by definition involves things that can't be seen. The child of God develops a world view and orders his/her life upon principles that emerge from things unseen by the "natural man." This is utter foolishness according to the wisdom of this world.*

*The very nature of true faith presents the Christian with two abiding temptations in this present world. One is an unbridled desire to make the unseen seen; the other is to make the foolishness of the faith acceptable to the wisdom of this age.*

*On the one hand we may want our faith to be enlivened and bolstered by signs and wonders, or by personal divine revelations. We may even believe that supernatural manifestations will bring others to faith, forgetting that Jesus insisted that even though one rose from the dead it wouldn't produce faith in those who will not receive the testimony of the scriptures. (Luke 16:31)*

*On the other hand, we may find ourselves embarrassed by the foolishness of the gospel. So we strive to dress it up in intellectual logic and arguments to make it palatable to the wise of this world, forgetting that only God can resurrect the dead heart, and that He does it through the foolishness of the preaching. (if you skipped 1 Corinth. 1:18-31, please read it.) Even worse, some place the wisdom of this world above the scriptures seeking to 'reinterpret' various passages to suit the prevailing intellectual or scientific theories of the day.*

*"The Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block, and to the Greeks, foolishness..." (1 Corinth.1:22-23)*

*Now, this is not to deny reality and importance of wisdom. The regenerated intellect is stretched beyond all capacity in searching out the eternal truths of scripture, and in mining the glorious riches of Christ. Nor would we deny that God is a wonder-working God. I have both witnessed and experienced miracles of provision and healing. In God's wisdom and good providence he bestows such blessings according the good pleasure of His own will, when and how He sees fit. But these are not the 'substance and evidence' of faith. "For what one sees why does he yet hope for?" (Romans 8:24)*

*The 'substance and evidence' of faith are the spiritual truths deeply rooted in the very text of the Bible, brought to light by the Holy Spirit, and bearing fruit in our lives. "...it is in truth, the word of God, which works effectually in you that believe.." (1 Thess.2:13) (see also Romans 15:4)*

*True faith bears the witness of Habakkuk...*

*Although the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be in the vines;  
though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food;  
though the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in  
the stalls: Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my  
salvation. Habakkuk 3:17-18*

*Holy Father,*

*May we truly learn to walk by faith and not by sight, esteeming  
the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of this  
world. (Hebrews 11:24-26) May we gladly own the foolishness that  
is wiser than man, and direct our steps by it.*

*In the holy Name of Jesus,  
Amen*

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