



Little Faiths

P E T E D A U G H T R Y

Little Faiths

by

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This booklet is taken from the Christian Dynamics series, lesson #30, taught by W. W. "Pete" Daughtry. This and other doctrinal series can be ordered on mp3 CD by writing to the church. A list of available recordings and publications will be provided on request.

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Preface

Before you begin your Bible study, you should be sure that you are in fellowship, under the control of God the Holy Spirit, so that He can make spiritual truth understandable to you. You can do this by naming any known sins to God the Father and accepting the forgiveness provided by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.

1 Jn. 1:9 “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”[†]

If you have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, the issue for you is faith in Him. The Lord Jesus Christ made perfect provision for your salvation and eternal security. You need only tell God the Father that you accept the accomplished work of Christ on your behalf.

Jn. 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

2 Cor. 5:21 “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Eph. 2:8, 9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Acts 16:31 “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...”

[†] This and subsequent notations from Scripture are taken from the New American Standard Bible (NASB).

LITTLE FAITHS

In Matthew 8, our Lord said something interesting to His disciples. In the midst of a storm on the Sea of Galilee He said, "Why are you cowards, why are you full of dread and fear, you short-time trusters, you little faiths (*olegos pistos* in the Greek)?" It was easy for them to trust when things were calm, when there was no storm. But when the storm came, they had no faith with which to face it. I am afraid this is true of a lot of us. We are short-time trusters, "little faiths."

Recently I ran across something I thought interesting and applicable to this study.

I was regretting the past and fearing the future. Suddenly my Lord was speaking: "My name is 'I AM.'" He paused. I waited. He continued, "When you live in the past with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not 'I WAS.' When you live in the future, with its problems and fears, it is hard. I am not there. My name is not 'I WILL BE.' When you live in this moment, it is not hard. I am here. My name is 'I AM.'" (*Mallicoat, Helen. Hallmark Cards, Inc. 1977*)

Something that the disciples failed to realize was that our Lord Jesus Christ had already taught them who He is. He is the all-powerful Son of God. He had already instructed them in great detail in the Sermon on the Mount about what not to fear, what not to become anxious about, and of course, all of this instruction went right out the window when they faced the storm. It sounds familiar, does it not? Yes, they got into the boat. They did have the courage to do that, and that is to their credit, but it was calm when they got into the boat. During the calm, they had listened to the teaching of the Word of God. Now it was time for application. However, when the storm arose, our Lord said they became cowards, full of dread. Is it not interesting that He asked, "Why are you cowards?" indicating that they should not have been?

Let us step back and see what is going on in this scene, recorded for us in Matt. 8:23-26. Our Lord is sleeping in the boat. The storm has arisen and is now confronting the disciples. It is tossing the ship around the Sea of Galilee. They are frantic, and our Lord continues to sleep. *He is asleep!* He is not running around the deck screaming at them to haul down the sails. He is sleeping, and they should take note of that. He is a picture of trust, faith-rest, dependence on God. The disciples fail to read the signs; all they can see are the circumstances they are in. They are short-time trusters.

There are dangers in being short-time trusters. Individuals who always find themselves regretting the past or rushing forward to the future, trying to live in the future, make their lives hard. They are constantly questioning God's provisions: "Is He really

going to provide for me in this situation?” We forget that God has promised in Matt. 6:30-34 to provide everything we need in time as well as in eternity. Jesus told them,

“But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith! ³¹ Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ ³² For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

³⁴ “So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”

Sometimes we, like these disciples, become short-time trusters. We look at the circumstances, and they become more real to us than the promises of God. That is just the opposite of what should occur with us as believers. The doctrines and the promises of the Word of God should become more real to us than the circumstances of life. If they do not, we will never make it to spiritual maturity. We will become loser believers.

God has a purpose for your life. To understand and trust His divine purpose for you, you must reach the place of spiritual maturity. You must develop a personal sense of destiny, the point in your life where you have a settled conviction that God has a purpose for you and that you are here to represent the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul told the Philippians, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Phil. 1:21). Paul’s attitude was that whether he lived or died, it was a victory. He could equate living and dying as being the same. He understood God’s purpose for him and knew that God’s provision for him would be over and above anything he could imagine. He knew that in Christ he could forget the past and not worry about the future. He knew that in both life and death he was the victor through Christ.

People who live in the past and people who are always occupied with the future (95% of which never turns out the way they think it will or plan for it to) are people who spiritually vacillate back and forth, never sticking with the Word of God. They are in faith one minute, out of faith the next; in fellowship, out of fellowship; in Bible class, away from Bible class. These are the believers who are short-time trusters. They do not understand that God’s Word is spiritual food designed for the nourishment of their souls. If the body does not get proper nourishment, it becomes sickly and weak. The same is true of the soul. If the soul does not get proper spiritual nourishment, it cannot function in faith. Short-time trusters, “little faiths,” reflect spiritual malnutrition, constantly living

in the past or the future, not willing to trust God for today, and they lose sight of His provision and purpose for their lives.

I encourage you to learn from the Lord's admonishment of the disciples so that you do not become a "little faith." Become strong in the Lord by growing "in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 3:18).



Albany native, W. W. "Pete" Daughtry was called to be the pastor-teacher of Albany Bible Church shortly after the church was formed in 1974. He attended Emmaus Bible College in Chicago, Illinois, and has studied intensively for over 40 years under the teaching of R. B. Thieme, Jr., of Berachah church in Houston. The principle focus of Pete's teaching pastorate has been to clearly present the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the procedures for living the unique spiritual life provided for believers in the Church Age. In addition to Little Faiths, Pete has authored The Shield of Faith, Mothers are Human Too, The Believer's Field Manual on Suffering, and others, all available through Albany Bible Church.



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