

**GENERAL SUBJECT: WALKING IN THE STEPS
OF ABRAHAM'S FAITH TO CARRY OUT GOD'S ECONOMY**

Message One

God's Economy in Faith

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 1:4; Heb. 11:1, 6; 12:2; Gal. 2:16, 20

I. God's economy is in faith—1 Tim. 1:4:

- A. Faith is the unique way for God to carry out His New Testament economy with man—Heb. 11:6.
- B. In the New Testament faith bears two denotations—objective and subjective:
 - 1. In the objective denotation, faith refers to the entire revelation of the New Testament concerning the person of Christ and His redemptive work—Acts 6:7; 14:22; Rom. 16:26; 1 Cor. 16:13; 1 Tim. 1:19b; Jude 3, 20.
 - 2. In the subjective denotation, faith refers to the act of believing—Luke 18:8; Mark 11:22.
- C. The economy of God is a matter in faith, that is, in the sphere and element of faith, in God through Christ.
- D. God's New Testament economy, which is to dispense Himself into His chosen people, is not in the natural realm nor in the work of the law but in the spiritual sphere of the new creation through regeneration by faith in Christ—Gal. 6:14; 3:23-26:
 - 1. By faith we are born of God to be His sons, partaking of His life and nature to express Him—v. 26; 1 John 1:12-13; 2 Pet. 1:4.
 - 2. By faith in Christ we are put into Christ to become the members of His Body, sharing all that He is for His expression—John 3:15; Rom. 12:4-5.
- E. Faith is the principle by which God deals with His people in the New Testament—Gal. 3:22-24:
 - 1. This faith characterizes the believers in Christ and distinguishes them from the keepers of law; this is the main emphasis of the book of Galatians.
 - 2. The law of the Old Testament stresses letters and ordinances, whereas the faith of the New Testament emphasizes Spirit and life.

II. Faith is the unique requirement for people to contact God in His New Testament economy—1 Tim. 1:4; Heb. 11:1, 6:

- A. The faith in Christ by which the believers are justified is related to their appreciation of the person of the Son of God as the most precious One—12:2:
 - 1. The experiential definition of faith is that faith is the preciousness of Jesus infused into us.
 - 2. Genuine faith is Christ Himself infused into us to become our ability to believe in Him; after the Lord Jesus has been infused into us, He spontaneously becomes our faith.
- B. When we believe in Christ, we enter into Him; we believe ourselves into Christ and thereby become one spirit with Him—John 3:15; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- C. Faith is the way for God's people to apprehend, comprehend, grasp, enjoy, and participate in all that God is to His people through His having been processed.

- D. The faith of the Son of God refers to the faith of Jesus Christ in us (v. 16), which becomes the faith by which we believe in Him—3:22; Rom. 3:22, 26:
1. As we behold Him, hear Him, and treasure Him, He causes faith to be generated in us, enabling us to believe in Him—Matt. 17:5; Heb. 12:2.
 2. He becomes the faith in us by which we believe in Him; this faith is the faith in Him, and it is also the faith that belongs to Him.