

THE LIFE OF FAITH

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AUDIO VISUAL MINISTRIES

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LESSON 8 (c) HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF LIVING FAITH

1. ST FRANCIS OF ASSISSI

REVIEW

Last lesson traced N.T. Church based on concepts of :-

(i) COMMUNITY

ACT 2:44 NIV All the believers were together and had everything in common.⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

(ii) COMMITMENT

DEATH OF ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA for pretended commitment (Acts 5:1-11)

(iii) CALLING OF BARNABAS

ACT 4:36 NIV Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement),

Called to missionary work at Antioch

ACT 11:24 NIV He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord.

Prepared to work for living

1CO 9:6 NIV Or is it only I and Barnabas who must work for a living?

(iv) Costly sacrifice of Paul

Paul chose this way of sacrifice

2CO 11:24 NIV Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one.²⁵ three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was wrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea,²⁶ I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers.²⁷ I have laboured toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.²⁸ Besides everything I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.²⁹ Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? ³⁰ If I boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying.³² In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me.³³ But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands.

HE WORKED FOR HIS LIVING

ACT 20:34 NIV You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.

2CO 11:7 NIV Was it a sin for me to lower myself in order to elevate you by preaching the gospel of God to you free of charge?

HE RECEIVED SOME GIFTS FROM THOSE TO WHOM HE HAD MINISTERED

ACT 28:7 NIV There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably.⁸ His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.⁹ When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.¹⁰ They honoured us in many ways and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

UNFORTUNATELY EARLY CHURCH DECLINED though COMMUNITY CONCEPT CARRIED ON IN MONASTIC COMMUNITIES. RICHES INCREASED AND THEY LOST EVANGELISTIC VISION OF PAUL FRANCIS OF ASSISSI WAS USED TO RECAPTURE EVANGELISTIC VISION OF ITINERANT MINISTRY TO THE POOR

LUK 4:18 NIV "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

Born 1181 to PIETRO BERNANDONE, rich merchant in Assissi

1202 Set OUT on crusade and had to return due to illness

Touched leper and thrown out of home, adopted simple clothes

GOD SPOKE TO HIM FROM

MAT 10:7 NIV As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.⁹ Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts;¹⁰ take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or staff; for the worker is worth his keep.

MAIN TEACHINGS;

(1) LOVE OF POVERTY
(2) JOY OF THE LORD AND SINGING

EPH 5:18 NIV Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.¹⁹ Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual Songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(3) LOVE FOR NATURE AND ANIMALS

(4) Believer to work in order to give to others, but no provision made for tomorrow

MAT 6:34 NIV Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

(5) TRUST IN GOD TO REPLACE TRUST IN POSSESSION

LUK 18:22 NIV When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

(6) POVERTY SEEN AS IMPOSED BY MISSIONARY WORK AND NOT TO GAIN MERIT FROM GOD

PHI 3:9 NIV and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in His death,¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead .pa

(ii) GEORGE MUELLER OF BRISTOL (1805-1898)

Sold all and gave it to poor to live by faith.1830

MAT 6:19 NIV "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be .22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.23 But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!24 "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.

MAT 6:25 NIV "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?27 Who of you by worrying cannot add a single hour to his life ?28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labour or spin.29 Yet I tell you that even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these.30 If that is God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? **MAT 6:31** NIV So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

MAIN TEACHINGS

1.AVOID ANY DEBT

ROM 13:8 NIV Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

2.SHOW THAT GOD IS ALIVE and alone CAN help.No gifts from unconverted

ACT 28:2 NIV The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold.3 Paul gathered a pile of brush wood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand.4 When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live."5 But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects.6 The people expected him to swell up or suddenly all dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.7 There was an estate nearby thAT belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably.8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him.9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.10 They honoured us in many ways and when we ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.

3.NO MONEY APPEALS

PHI 4:11 NIV I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.

4.LIVE BY DAILY DEPENDENCE ON GOD

MAT 6:32 NIV For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

5.REFUSED GIFT FROM THOSE IN DEBT OR WITH CONDITIONS

EXERCISE NO 8

IN YOUR OWN WORDS, GIVE THE PRESENT CHALLENGE OF THE FOLLOWING VERSES:

(1) Matthew 10:7-10 (2) Matthew 6:19-21 (3) Psalm 31:19 (4) Psalm 34:22 (5) 2
Corinthians 3:5 (6) 2 Corinthians 20:12 (7) Acts 27:25 (8) 2 Chronicles 20:12
(9) Psalm 118:8 (10) Mark 9:23

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