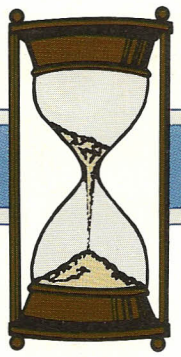
OUR  TIMES

...the Word is BELIEVE NOW

Denominations may have "articles of faith," but how many people really have faith? An intellectual faith is not enough. To withstand all onslaughts, believing requires the knowledge and solidarity of the integrity and accuracy of the Scriptures.

Faith not of God-dependence is of self-dependence. Hope is the preeminent virtue stimulating our believing endurance. The tangible biblical evidence to support a man's hope is speaking in tongues. Love of God in the renewed mind motivates a man's believing and his hope.

On one occasion I heard one of my dear friends say, "The wilderness of materialism, factualism, the idolatry of senses worship, superficial education and animalistic competition are eroding our finest beliefs. If the link of love is snapped, our believing hope is broken. If love goes, there is nothing left of life but an enduring unredemptive nothingness, a sad reflection, a living death, a sideshow of jostling comedy and tragedy."

Our age of rationalistic and factual philosophies and our educational system have caused us to read our believing faith out of existence. We are left bankrupt. Form-bound theology, bickering, ecclesiasticism and ecumenical man-made unity, have warped and twisted our believing. Thomas Edison said, "We don't know the millionth part of one percent about anything. We have only a lot of hypotheses about things."

But, the Word is truth. Even Jesus Christ does not tell us what prayer is, he simply tells us it works. It goes beyond our experience, our logic and our reason. No limitation can stand against the invisible power of dynamic believing. We must quit reading and reading and get down to the business of believing. Books may point out the way, but only by traveling and walking the way will you know. You must act upon the promises of God boldly.

If you contribute to the illusions of life, helping people to escape from the real demands life makes upon them, the world will give you fame and will pay you well. Prosperity is the glittering lure. It is a clever appeal to compromise. It is the tempting bait of the promise of power and position.

Your responsibility is to accept and trust God's ability. Even to believe one of the promises of God and to put it into application and action produces fruit after its kind. People get sidetracked from the NOW by the habitual patterns of the past. God is an eternal NOW. His Word is NOW, because He is NOW. Believing, carried out, is contagious. If you want a personal Magna Carta of freedom and wide-open roads, the Word is BELIEVE NOW.

Unbelief holds nothing except the continued penalty of a misspent past. Most tense, busy people of this so-called free world are in their own prison houses. They are earth gazers, like the cripple at the Temple gate called Beautiful. They are as prisoners huddled together in man-made canyons of fear and doubt. They are aliens to liberty and exiles from life. All of their successes are defeats. Feverishly and nervously they turn on all the Broadway lights as though this can in any wise compensate for the dungeon darkness within. Being tormented, vexed and frustrated, they struggle and blunder through their fear, anger and resentment, as bitter as sour lemons. Lost souls in an age of greed and self-deception. They are convicts in the prison of despair, longing for peace, yet there is no peace. They are neurotic derelicts who wear upon the surface a mask of respectability, but within have decay and death. Time has not changed the disease except to make it more visible, intense and universal.

Do not be deceived by men's appearances. Their faces are cleverly masked. They are but gilt tombs in which pale and lonely souls linger and yearn. Their minds are overfed with the food of THINGS that money and power buy. They need the true God. You can meet God at every corner of your life or you can miss Him.

Victor Paul Wierwille