

"For the life was manifested and we have seen it and bear witness and show unto you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested unto us . . . That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you." Christianity is a religion of truth.

Christianity is a religion of faith, yes. But faith does not mean you get an idea and hold it in your head. That's not what faith means. Faith doesn't mean it doesn't matter whether it's true or not. That kind of faith can have a tremendous effect upon us. I saw that in my own experience when I was in seminary.

I came to my last year in seminary, and near that seminary was a university which had a very fine small hospital for its students which was open to the seminary students. I had been there for nearly 3 yrs. and never gotten any use out of it, that infirmary. One day I thought I certainly would have to because I felt I really had a fever. I felt miserable. I thought I'm going over there and go to bed in that infirmary. I got my suitcase and packed it, and it was about 4 or 5 blocks to walk, and every few steps I had to stop and rest. Finally I got there. I went in and said, I've got a fever and would like to go to bed.

The lady said, We'd certainly be glad to put you to bed if you have a fever but she said, Let's take your temperature. She stuck a thermometer in my mouth. After a while she took it out, looked at it and said, You are perfectly normal. You have no fever at all! She said you can go to bed here if you want to but there's nothing wrong with you. I picked up that suitcase and walked all the distance back with never a stop! I did not feel the least bit tired. It shows the effect of an idea on the mind.

You can imagine something and call it faith. But it doesn't last very long that way. That which is lasting must be faith not simply in an idea whether to ~~xxx~~ true or not but ~~be~~ must be related to what is true. Here is a boy in the second floor of a burning building. It's all dark underneath. The boy says, I'll burn up if I stay here. I've got to get out. I'm just going to believe my father is down there in the darkness and he'll catch me!! He jumps from the window and if his father isn't there he lands on the rocks and is maimed and perhaps killed. That's not faith, that's credulity. Presumption.

Here's another boy in the second floor of the burning building. He hears his father's voice. He can't see him. It's dark. He can't see him but hears the voice, and the father can see him in the light of the fire and the father says, Jump! I can catch you right here. And the boy says, I don't see you. I don't think you are there. I'm afraid to jump. Afraid I'll get hurt. That's lack of ~~xxxx~~ faith. But the boy who says, Yes, I heard my father's voice. I know he's there. I will jump without fear because he says he will catch me, and I can trust him to do it. That is faith. Faith is belief founded on evidence. Christian faith is faith founded on statements of the Bible. This is our father's book. This is our Father's teaching as to what