

...for by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear, Verse 6, But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

My subject this afternoon is faith. Faith is much emphasized in the Bible. The N. T. constantly speaks of justification by faith. This whole 11th chapter of Hebrews is devoted to the subject of faith. It takes up many of the great characters of the O.T. and shows how the mainsprings of their lives their faith. We hear about faith on every hand. I would like to take just a few minutes with you this afternoon to think about what faith is and what it is not. First let us notice what it is not. Faith is not just a mental attitude. Mental attitudes are important, it makes a big difference in our lives whether we are looking on the bright side of things or on the gloomy side. My aunt had a friend who once wrote her letter in which she said, "Oh, I feel so sad to think that it's already May. Soon it will be 4th of July and then summer is almost over. Then the summer is half over." She was always looking on the gloomy side of things. No wonder she was miserable. If we look on the bright side, think cheerful thoughts, it does us good, both physically and mentally. It is a fine thing in life to have positive thinking. But this is not what the Scripture means by faith. Faith is something much more than this. ~~A mental attitude~~

After all, a mental attitude may be based on a false idea. Bret Harte has a story about a man who dropped in the early days out in the west at a home and found that --to ask information about the right road to take and was cordially invited by the owner of the house to stay for dinner. Staying, he found soon that other guests were arriving. The man of the man was very happy. He said tonight my wife is getting back from a visit to her friends--to her family back east. She was all excited. The friends sat around and waited.