

## Faith Is Our Story

Heb 12:1-2

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 **fixing [*consider attentively*] our eyes on Jesus, the author [*original and chief leader*] and perfecter [*completer; consumater*] of faith [*conviction; moral credence; what we have settled on due to consistent persuasion and argument*],** who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our most told inward story is what we are most convinced of.

What has ...

- Had the deepest impact (experientially)
- Been sown into and it's harvest has been eaten and re-sown
- Been on repeat in our inner dialogue

... IS our faith.

Not what we believe to be factually true. Not what we say we believe in. Not what we know is "right".

**What has us – what we've allowed to mark the deepest place within us – IS OUR FAITH.**

And OUR FAITH – what we are most convinced of - is the story we tell the world.

FAITH is meant to be authored and finished by JESUS.

- HE is to have had the deepest impact on us experientially
- HE is to be sown into and harvested to be eaten and re-sown
- HE is to be on repeat in our inner dialogue

**And what our faith is determines our stability in the darkest, hardest times.**

JESUS is the rock upon which our life is to be built. HE is to be our FAITH.

Our FAITH – what we are most convinced of – becomes our foundation upon which we build anything and everything in our lives.

What matches our FAITH will be most readily received and cemented in place within us.

Other things (good or bad) can come in but won't connect and have the same resonating impact within us or outwardly if they don't match our foundational reality.

- Until FAITH is altered (with a deep experience or new, repetitive argument), it remains.

### **How to Alter or Shift Faith**

\*\*READ Proverbs 1:1-9 and Proverbs 3:19

- Wisdom, by nature, is foundational.
- If it heals, it always goes BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Reacting to Reactions or Responding to Real Need (**Connection to Education**)

Example: Socialism is a response to a real need/concern: *Poverty and it's corresponding lack of equal access to opportunity and resources.*

- To the socialist, this response is compassion.
  - o **When FAITH is not rooted in Jesus, this makes sense**
- The overwhelming Christian response is to attack socialism.
  - o This response does not invite people into a different/better FAITH
  - o It encourages a war of the flesh
- **Instead, we are to be offering a heavenly response to the genuine need/concern.**

**Response REVEALS our FAITH.**

- A response to a response is a REACTION. And reactions rarely solve real problems.
- Socialism in many ways is a reaction as well.

Capitalism at it's core is a fundamental trust in the individual's drive and competency to pursue and create opportunities.

- It's based in FREEDOM. You can pursue and create as little or as much as you want.
- Those who are rich in drive and/or competency thrive in freedom
- As a result, they become wealthy (money AND opportunity)
- This wealth is meant to be...
  - o Enjoyed by the one who created/amassed it
  - o Saved and sowed for future generations to start off better than the prior
  - o Shared with those who lack the drive and competency to pursue it themselves

Capitalism has the lure of greed within it. Many fall victim to it and never make it to #3 above.

Where there is no sharing, no compassionate engagement of the poor and needy, gaps emerge.

These gaps widen and become impassable as more and more \$ and opportunity are in the hands of those whose drive and competency is high.

Socialism is also a reaction to the greed of capitalism.

Instead of weaponizing Christianity to combat socialism, the gospel is ALREADY EQUIPPED to answer the real and genuine need of the broken human condition.

When our FAITH IS IN JESUS, the eyes of our hearts respond to the real need/concerns of people HE loves.

If our FAITH is rooted in fear, we will react to the world's response and war at the outer edges.

Meanwhile, the root problems are never addressed.

Example: Christianity based upon Genesis 3 or Genesis 1 / Ephesians 1

- Genesis 3 Christianity will encourage FAITH based upon avoiding penalties (REACTION IN FEAR)
  - o Starts with the enemy
- Genesis 1 / Ephesians 1 Christianity encourages FAITH based upon a loving Father (RESPONSE TO LOVE)
  - o Starts with God (Proverbs 1:7)

\*\*The more we trend to the extremes of any spectrum (conservative/liberal for example), the more FEAR factors into education.

- We move from educating TO something
  - o This is **empowerment** which leads to FREEDOM
  - o Inherent in FREEDOM is **TRUST**
- To educating FROM something
  - o This is **protection** which leads to SLAVERY
  - o This is **indoctrination**
    - An inner slave master meant to tell us what to do when the one who taught it isn't present
    - A system of thought meant to run on repeat within the child so it becomes their FAITH

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it"

Prov 22:6 “Point your kids in the right direction — when they're old they won't be lost.”

Original language – “...according to his way”.

There are 2 key take-away's from this verse:

1. Education is FORWARD toward something
2. Education is intended to be according to the “way” of the child (his nature; aptitude)
  - a. Indoctrination doesn't consider the way of the child
  - b. It is bent on a specific code overwriting whatever is in him

An “educator's” FAITH will ALWAYS determine what and how a child is taught.

Follow this reasoning...

1. FAITH is what has us.
  - a. What event/experience has had the deepest impact on us
  - b. What inner dialogue we have had on repeat that we are now convinced of
2. FAITH, by nature of what it actually is, becomes our STORY.
  - a. What consistently comes out of us, our inner “due north”
  - b. The theme of our thought and emotional life
3. Our STORY becomes our curriculum.
  - a. We are designed to communicate what we are most impacted by or most convinced of
  - b. What we are convinced of is what we will attempt to convince others of

**This is EDUCATION.**

Unless we have a deeper experience or intentionally create a new inner narrative, we WILL educate our children to our FAITH.

If we are not educators by career, we will gravitate to an educational system most aligned with our FAITH.

Christians are just as guilty of indoctrination as any other FAITH.

- Christian education starts with God and encourages PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
- **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP leads to pure FAITH built on the ROCK who is Jesus.**
  - o Anything FAITH other than the ROCK will be a stumbling block to them later in life
- All information provided the child is based upon that ROCK

KEY\*\*: Education is offered to the child and encouraged to be submitted to Jesus in PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP.

The goal of education from the heavenly perspective:

- A person who trusts their heart has been shaped by its Author
- A person who brings all information learned before Him, determining what is good with Him
- A bold, open, trusting person who learns for the rest of their life
- A skillful, excellent, diligent person who continually strives to improve and grow
- A productive, generous person who teaches others in the same ways