

A life characterized by faith.

*“And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your **faith** might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:3-5)*

- Biblical faith is a form of knowledge; to practice biblical Christianity, one must know biblical Christianity (you cannot practice what you do not know).
- People live their lives according to what they know, not what they believe. Knowledge produces belief, which results in confident action
- Faith and reason are not in conflict – we are called to a reasonable faith, not a leap of faith
- Biblical faith produces correct thinking – a new framework or orientation of the mind
- Biblical faith is active, not passive; it is exhibited by actions/decisions (Hebrews 11; James 1)

A life that manifests love

*“And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to **fear** the LORD your God, to **walk** in all his ways, to **love** him, to **serve** the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deuteronomy 10:12)*

- The God who is love calls us to himself; the call of the Gospel is for people to turn from being God-haters to God-lovers
- Love is rooted in truth; you can't love someone unless you also tell them the truth
- Truth must govern our emotions; truth provides direction and discipline for our emotions (the emotions of fallen people lie to them about what is real, what is true and what is valuable).
- Love is a decision; we can act lovingly whether we feel lovingly toward someone or not.

A life oriented toward obedience

“Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.” (1 Peter 1:22, 23)

- The change of mind and heart results in our will/volition; we come to desire what God desires; value what God values.
- Discerning and following God's will becomes less and less a “burden.”
- We come to loathe our sin and acknowledge our need for the continued filling of the Spirit.