

FAITH:

From Vision to Obedience

Session Three

Called to Holiness

Spring 2005

Symphony of Grace

(2 Peter 1:5-7)

- Faith
- Moral goodness (virtue)
- Knowledge
- Self-control
- Steadfastness
- Godliness
- Brotherly-love (Philia)
- Love (Agape)

*Practices for making your
calling and election sure*

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Listen & Discussion

- Two dimensions to faith
- When faith can go badly wrong
- When faith is consider unnecessary

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Web Page for Class Materials

home.pacbell.net/aharkin/faith2love

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer browser window displaying a web page. The page title is "Called to Holiness Class - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Hewlett-Packard". The address bar shows the URL "http://home.pacbell.net/aharkin/faith2love/". The page content is organized into two main sections: "SESSION MATERIALS" and "HANDOUTS".

SESSION MATERIALS

Number	Date	Title	Slides	Exercises
1	April 24	<i>Grace upon Grace</i>	PDF	WEB PDF
2	May 1	<i>Getting the Vision</i>	PDF	WEB PDF
3	May 15	<i>Faith to Virtue</i>		WEB PDF

HANDOUTS

Class Essays

<i>Symphony of Grace</i>	PDF
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Class Materials

<i>2 Peter 1:3-5 Progressive Graces Chart</i>	PDF
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Reference Documents

<i>Summary of Athanasius' The Incarnation</i>	PDF
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Where Faith Goes Wrong

- Bonhoeffer Documentary Footage
 - His description of pre-war II Germany
 - Rise of Nazism
- Laurence Nees Interview clip

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Was there fear for self preservation? (two levels ... No and Yes... Not just following orders, but what I was doing was right.... To protect myself and my nation)

vision
- there was no threat or coercion to work within the

the jews, etc.
- nazis feared the lack of power after WWI and blamed

- took initiative to protect themselves

Competition in how to interpret their fuhrer's vision

initiatives from below, and vision from the top

disent/varying opinions was acceptable

"objective" oriented versus directive oriented

creativity not suppressed or considered disobedient

How did this all happen? According to Nees

- one thing, is a big fear of people or communities of absolute faith, thought faith was a positive faith,

- Himmler and Herst admired JW faith and wanted that faith in their people for the fuhrer

Some Questions

Consider how to address the questions:

- What makes a faith the Christian Faith?
- What could be shared with those fearful of those who claim an absolute or certain Christian Faith?
- What might be ways to discern a false faith and leader? What would be ways to respond?
- What was interesting/alarming about the description of the Nazi faith and how it was lived out?

Where Faith is Lacking

- Mars Hill Audio interview with RR Reno
 - Prometheus and Petronius
 - Author of “In the Ruins of the Church”

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Two Words

“follow me”

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As we go forward...

- We have faith in a Person
- We have faith in Someone who brings reality
- We have faith in His goodness and love
- We have faith in His power
- We will not step away from faith,
but step up in faith

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Faith in A Person

Not a set of laws, principles, ideas... these things can become obstacles if they are not subject to the Triune God.

In speaking about Love, CS Lewis said "to dissect it, is to murder it"... so to make that comment more general, since God is love, we do not want to dissect Jesus into principles, commands and ideas... in so doing we are attempting to subject Jesus to a set of principles we have elevated an idol that we can more easily reason with, rather than surrender ourselves to the living holy God, for Jesus fulfills is Lord over all.

Faith in Someone who brings reality

God reveals His salvation to the level we can understand and as we mature we understand our citizenship in his kingdom, and see how real His kingdom is and how dark and unreal our previous world was

Hebrews demonstrates to great lengths of the superiority of Jesus over any other possible thing to have faith in

Do we think Jesus has relevant things to say about our lives to the point that we have faith to make the changes?