

**Our Hope
& Faith,
Our
Anchor**

- “This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil.”
- Hebrews 6:19

Shifting Standards of Faith

Change of the Concept of Faith

- **“I close my eyes, I see His Majesty, I close my eyes, and feel His love for me.”**
 - Jay Conner (2006)
- **“I have seen you walk down a dusty road, I have watched you stumble from you heavy load. In my heart I struggled, but I always knew the Holy Redeemer from heaven was you...My eyes have seen Your glory, my hands have touched Your face. My heart still burns within my breast, from the warmth of Your embrace.”**
 - Ken Young (1987)
- **“I believe that I should...” / “I feel it is right...”**
- **“Surely God would be pleased with...”**

The Postmodern turn of Faith

- **Moving definitions of faith**
 - Faith is about personal experience
 - Faith is personally and culturally defined
 - Faith is relational and felt
- **Examining Impacts**
 - Impact on framing of the Word
 - Impact on evangelism
 - Impact on fellowship

Impact of Framing the Word

- Individual / Postmodern turn sees the Word as:
 - Pictures or scenes
 - Love Letter
 - Personal testimony
 - “Not an instruction manual for Christians today”
 - “What does this mean to me?”
- What the Word affirms for itself
 - Absolute Truth – John 17:17
 - Transcendent – Rom. 1:16; 1 Timothy 2:4
 - Universal – Jude 3
 - Unchanging – Hebrews 13:8
 - Binding – 2 Thess. 2:15; Philippians 3:17

Impact on Evangelism

- The view of faith impacts evangelism
 - 2 Corinthians 4:13
- If faith is not something that is objective, then why share it?
 - Acts 17:30
- Emphasis on witnessing through living, not through the word
 - Acts 8:4
- Focus on scene or emotion and not on message
 - 1 Peter 1:23

Impact on Fellowship

- **The historical problem of shifting “The Faith”**
 - Romans 14:1,22
- **Standard became an issue of personal “genuineness”**
 - 2 Peter 2:1-3; 2 John 9-11
- **Sowing the Wind, Reaping the Whirlwind**
 - Hosea 8:7; Galatians 6:7

Psalm 11:3-4

- “If the foundations are destroyed, What can the righteous do?” The LORD is in His holy temple; the LORD'S throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.”

Heb. 2:1

- “For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.”