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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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I Timothy Book Study (#24)

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SHIPWRECKED FAITH (01)

Our lesson text reminds the spiritually advancing believer to hold fast to the revealed Directive Will of God so as not to become shipwrecked in our faith.

The most famous shipwreck in the 20th century was the Titanic. It is said that the three most written about subjects are Jesus, Civil War, and Titanic.

“She was touted as the safest ship ever built, so safe that she carried only 20 lifeboats – enough to provide accommodation for only half her 2,200 passengers and crew. **This discrepancy rested on the belief** that since the ship’s construction made her ‘unsinkable,’ her lifeboats were necessary only to rescue survivors of other sinking ships. Four days into her journey from Southampton, England to New York City, at 11:40 pm on the night of April 14, 1912, she struck an iceberg and sank with only 705 survivors. Experts agree it was because of insufficient lifeboats.” (Wikipedia)

The parallel to our lesson is the words, “**this discrepancy rested on the belief.**” Some spiritually advancing believers in the Church of Ephesus had become shipwrecked in regard to their faith because of the “discrepancy of belief.” (1 Tim.1:3-7, 20)

This lesson will examine four key words in our lesson text regarding a SHIPWRECKED FAITH.
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1. The first key word is keeping (echo) (present.active.ptc.nsm). Echo means to have and hold as one’s own.

The present tense of keeping involves consistency of inhale and exhale (cycling) of the truth of Scripture (2 Tim.3:16-17; John 8:32).

It explains how we have and hold (keep) faith (Rom.10:17). It also shows that the results of having and holding of one’s faith is a good conscience (1 Tim.1:5, 19).

(Col.1:23) “If indeed you **continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away** from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.” (Acts 15:11)

2. The second key word is rejecting (apotheo) (aorist.middle.ptc.nplm). Apotheo has the middle voice meaning some have chosen to thrust away faith and a good conscience.

Apotheo is translated in the NASB as **repudiate** in:

- (Acts 7:39) (Stephen to Jews in Jerusalem)
- (Acts 13:46) (Paul and Barnabas to Jews in Pisidian Antioch)
- (Rom.11:1-2) (Paul about the Jews/ rejected gospel).

(Acts 13:46-47) “Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, ‘It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you **repudiate it** (gospel of Christ) and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. For so the Lord commanded us, ‘I have placed You (Christ) as a light for the Gentiles, that You may bring salvation to the end of the earth.’” (Isa.42:6; 49:6; Luke 2:32-33)

3. **The Third key word is suffered shipwreck (nauageo) (aorist.active.indicitive.3pl). It is the finite or main verb of keeping and rejecting (our participles).**

- **Keeping** (p.a.ptc) the faith prevents suffering shipwrecked faith.
- **Rejecting** (a.m.ptc) the faith results in suffering shipwrecked faith.

The difference between these two volitional poles is the difference between positive and negative responses to the revealed Directive Will of God (1 Tim.1:18-20).

- **Primary Positive Volition (PV)** is consistently attending classroom assembly for learning and living the directive will of God.

(Heb.10:25). “Not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, **but encouraging one another**; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”

- **Secondary Positive Volition (PV)** is consistently applying the revealed Directive Will of God to all human experiences of the Christian Way of Life (CWL) (The Faith Cycle).

(1 Cor.16:13). “Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.”

4. **The fourth key word is faith (pistis). Notice that it was used twice in (1 Tim.1:19).**

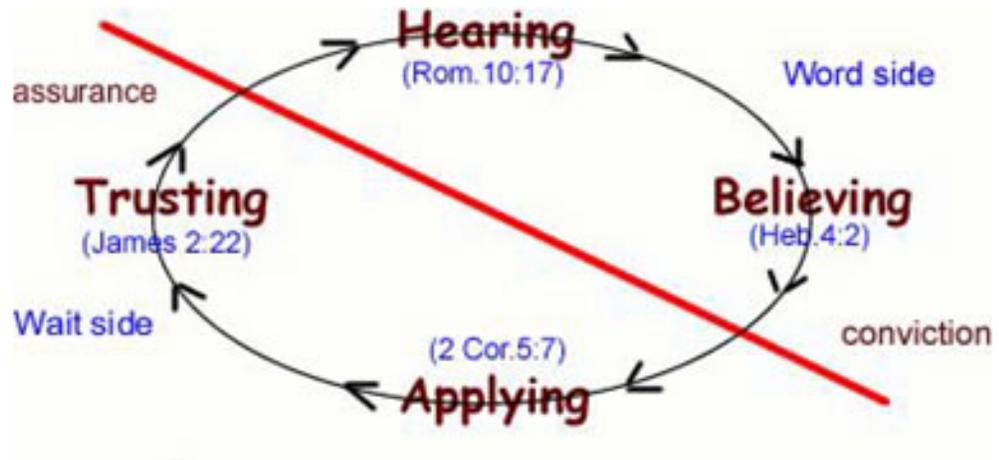
- It was used the first time to promote a positive volition with “Keeping faith.”
- It was used the second time to warn of danger of negative volition resulting in “shipwrecking faith.”

Pistis requires a reliable working object that is always worthy of fulfilling the promises of the Word of God.

(Heb.11:1) “Now **faith** is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

In the faith cycle, there are four important principles associated with bring the Directive Will of God to fulfillment in the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

- **Hearing**
 - “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.” (Rom.10:17)
- **Believing**
 - “For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.” (Heb.4:2)
- **Applying**
 - “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Cor.5:7; Ps.27:13-14)
- **Completing**
 - “You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was preached.” (James 2:22)
 - “And being fully assured that what God had promised, **He was able also to perform.**” (Rom.4:21)



“For it is **God who is at work in you**, both to will and to work His good pleasure.” (Phil.2:13)