Wednesday's Wisdom

a weekly short note from Mike Minear

Belief Defined

Leroy Brownlow

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1) It gives reality or foundation in the mind for the things hoped for, even though the evidence is unseen. It causes a person to feel as if the things were real and to act as if he actually saw them.

He walks not with the eye of physical sight, but rather with the eye of faith - seeing the unseen. "For we walk by faith and not by sight" (II Corinthians 5:7), It was by faith that Moses "endured, as seeing him who is invisible" (Hebrews 11:27).

• This definition of faith is illustrated in matters other than religion. If we have occasion to go to Berlin, it is the b belief that there is such a place that causes us to act as if it is so. Belief in the integrity of another moves us to act as if it is the truth, even if it is not. Belief that a certain business venture will be profitable motivates us to act as if it is so, though it may not be.

As long as faith continues, whether it is well-founded or ill-founded, it gives reality to that which is believed.

- Faith is the yardstick by which your portion in life will be measured to you. "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29)
- Belief is a flame in the heart; without it, the spark of life is gone. Nothing is more chilling than doubt. "and they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us..." (Luke 24:32), It was faith that did it.

Faith will give you the substance to live 365 days a year.