

## A FEEL-GOOD FAITH

This just in: The CROSS was NOT a “feel-good” experience!

### **Luke 9:23 (NKJV)**

**23** Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

The faith which was once for all delivered to the saints (cf. Jude 3) often has little in common with the so-called “faith” of many professing Christians in our day. Many have been so dumbed-down with shallow teaching that they don’t even know the difference.

In fact, a faith that is connected to SOUND DOCTRINAL CONTENT is often considered suspect. Today it’s all about FEELINGS. A “healthy faith” is seen as one that makes you FEEL GOOD about yourself. After all, it’s all about you – so they seem to think. God exists to make you happy! Of course, this premise is exactly backward, as in reality, we were created by God for His pleasure. We are His slaves and serve at His pleasure for His glory. But last days’ madness has it twisted.

The acceptance of all things therapeutic has further catered to and fed this mindset. Problem-centered counseling is generally not concerned about God’s glory, but rather with the FEELINGS of the person(s) being counseled. The goal is to help them “feel good” about themselves and their situation. The goal is self-acceptance and to build self-esteem. In effect, the person shows up and says, *“Let’s talk about me, myself, and mine, and let’s continue to talk about this until I feel better.”*

God is valuable in so far as He helps them feel better about their problems. This is a form of idolatry as Christ is removed from the center and man is put in His place. Today many have a form of faith that is self-centered, emotionally-driven, and doctrinally-barren. And the tragic thing is that they don’t even realize they have a sick (at best) or a dead faith.

For many years the church has had a steady diet of high octane

“emotional teaching” that focuses on personal experience. Whole movements are built around experience with a series of proof-texting verses to drive it. Many people get excited about some experience they have had, but have no idea how it relates to the Bible. They don’t even feel (pun intended) the need to defend it from Scripture. The experience stands on its own in their minds. The important thing is that it makes them feel good. And so they bounce from one feel good experience to another.

Many Christians define WORSHIP in this way. If they “feel good” it’s considered great worship. If the speaker makes them “feel good”, he is good. The question is not did he teach the Word accurately, but did they enjoy him. The criteria is purely subjective. Consistently apply this dumbing down of doctrinal teaching and a prolonged emphasis on “feel good” experience through the years, and you end up with a very shallow and weak (and in many cases apostate) church. That’s where we are in America today!

Years of simplified messages full of emotional content have left many professing Christians with little or no appetite for the Word. They cry out for a “good feeling” experience and will not endure sound doctrine. A shift has taken place from focusing on God to focusing on ME and my feelings. This paradigm shift is precisely what the Bible says will define the “last days”.

## **2 Timothy 4:3–4 (NKJV)**

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Note the emphasis here is on their OWN DESIRES. It’s all about them and what they want. It’s all about what makes them feel good. It’s all about their “best life now”.

And they have an insatiable appetite for this self-focused teaching heaping “up for themselves teachers”. Sadly, many of the most well-known preachers and many of the largest churches now fit into this category. Along with this self-focused interest is a turning away from

the truth about God.

Feelings must always be the caboose and not the engine that drives our faith!