

B. What is the object of biblical faith? That is, in what are we to believe?

Let me suggest three objects or spheres of biblical faith, from the most general to the most specific, and let the kind of faith in these spheres be named respectively "general faith," "special faith," and "saving faith." Each one of these has as its object a sphere or realm of revelation corresponding to it.

Let me remind you that **FAITH IS A BELIEVING RESPONSE TO A WORD FROM GOD**. Let me also suggest that the term "a word from God" refers to revelation that operates within a specific sphere and has a defined content.

1. The first object or sphere or realm of revelation is general revelation, and the faith that operates within that sphere may be called "general faith."

General revelation refers to revelation which extends throughout the world and reaches all human beings, whether that revelation is expressed in the external universe or in human nature. In general revelation God tells us something about His characteristics or attributes and His works. What we call external general revelation reveals God's characteristics of glory, wisdom, goodness, and power, and His works of creation and goodness. What we call internal general revelation reveals God's characteristics of holiness, justice, and truth, and His works of providence and judgment.

Since general revelation is "a word from God," we can properly call a *believing response to general revelation* "general faith."

The human response to this Word is either faith in and worship of the Creator, or rejection and displacement of the Creator in favor of humanly constructed "gods" (or idols).

It should be recognized that God is actually telling us something about Himself in general revelation, and therefore we can actually learn something about Him and His creative activity from this revelation. This establishes a basis for the study of the material world as the theater of God's physical and biological activity, and the study of humanity as the theater of God's intellectual, moral, and spiritual activity. A *believing study (via general faith) of these categories of truth* provides a rationale for Christian disciplines in various fields of the natural and social sciences.

2. The second object or sphere or realm of revelation is special revelation, and the faith that operates within that sphere may be called "special faith."

Overhead