

Factors of Effective Faith

1. **Effective Faith is built on Genuine Knowledge of God**
 - a. This means knowing god, not just knowing about Him.
 - b. We come to know him as Creator through his creation (Romans 1:18-21)
 - c. He reveals himself to us through His word (2 Timothy 3:16,17)
 - d. We come to know Him in a personal way through Jesus Christ our redeemer (Philippians 3:7-14)

2. **Effective Faith is Spiritual Power at Work.**
 - a. James says that “Faith without works is dead.” (James 2:17,26)
 - b. Faith takes the power of God’s Spirit (Gal.5:22-23) and God’s word (Heb.4:12) and puts it to work in life (Mt.5:13-16, Eph. 2:10)
 - c. Power is the characteristic of the growing Christian. (Eph.1:18,19; 3:14-19; Col. 1:24-29; 2 Peter 1:5)

3. **Effective Faith Turns Personal Faith into Public Ministry**
 - a. Every believer in Jesus Christ is an Ambassador of the Lord. (2 Cor.5:14-21)
 - b. Every believer is a Priest of God (1 Peter 2:5-9)
 - c. Every believer is a minister to other believers (1 Cor. 12:4-11)
 - d. We all have a teaching ministry to others by our words and deeds (Heb.5:11-14; 1 Thess. 1:3-10; 1 Peter 3:1)
 - e. Paul sees this as a mission of obligation, opportunity and honor in Romans 1:14-17.

4. **Effective Faith will always Result in Persecution.**
 - a. This world hates Jesus Christ (John 15:18-24), it also hates and persecutes those who most reflect him (Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:12)
 - b. It is the highest honor a believer can attain, to share in his Master’s sufferings. (Phil.1:27-30; Col. 1:24; 1 Peter 4:12-14)

5. **Effective Faith Follows a Path of Continual Refining and Purifying**
 - a. This is the principle of “faith to faith” of Romans 1:17
 - b. Proverbs 4:18 compares this path to the growing light of dawn turning to day.
 - c. Major themes of this subject are:
 - i. Cleansing (Ephesians 5:26; John 13:10)
 - ii. Spiritual Growth (1 John 1:7)
 - iii. Confession and correction (1 John 1:9; 2 Tim 2:19)
 - iv. The Path of Correction is outlined in James 4:6-10

In Daniel 12:3 we see the ultimate end of those who pursue and attain to effective faith. Our resurrection bodies will shine like the stars in heaven, some faintly others brilliantly. Our effectiveness in this area will determine our eternal brilliance.