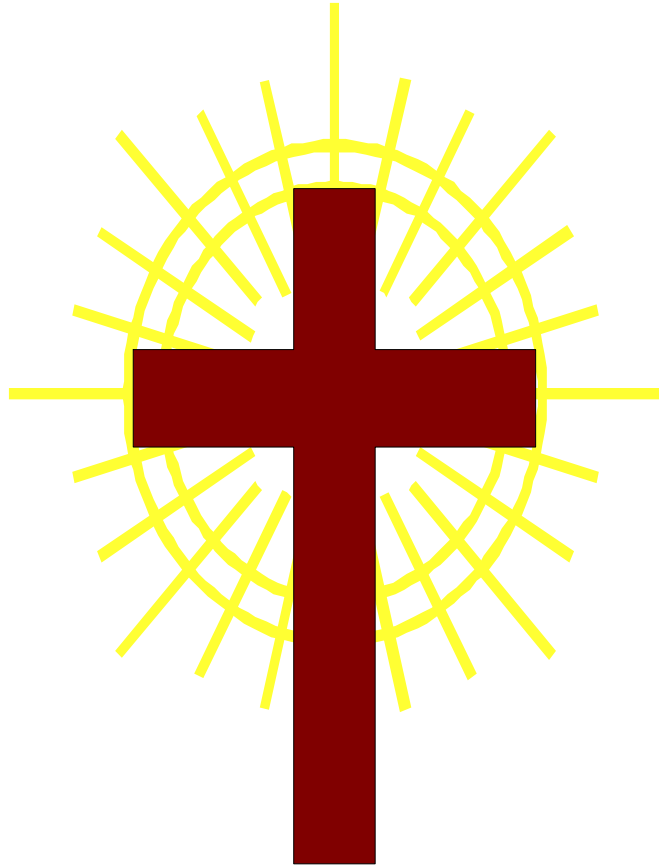


Faith



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FAITH

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Chapter 1

The Introduction to Faith

As an evangelist, in our travels to meeting after meeting, we come into contact with thousands of people, looking into their faces and seeing pain, agony, and suffering, people that are bound, some defeated, and so many people crying out for help. In many cases, it's as if you are looking upon a child that is being bullied by a bully that appears to be multiplied many times larger than that child. Seeing Satan continuing on to try to rob, to cheat, steal and destroy that which God has created in His own image (you and I - mankind). I see the need to put this powerful knowledge that, as God be my helper, this seven chapter book will possess, into your hands. That when that old bully, the devil, attacks you, he will find that you have the faith to stand.

Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all to stand. Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” Ephesians 6:13, 16

Faith gives a saint the power to stand and overcome. When a sinner uses the faith that God has dealt to him it gives the power to become a Christian.

“But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name.” John 1:12

As this scripture states: “...To them that believe on His name.” We will further explain this in Chapter 3 - “The Source of Faith” .

As a young minister God dealt with me on this scripture:

“I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh shall He find faith on the earth? Luke 18:8

In part B of this scripture He states; When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith?” This allows us to know that the thing the devil is going to try to do is to destroy faith. I believe that this is definitely the last days. I believe the coming of the Lord is at hand. I've noticed that it seems that a lot of

Christians are having a struggle with the basics and that people's minds seem to be under the attack of Satan's warfare. Some people that I come into contact with tell me in open statements that they really don't know what to believe any more and what's the use of going on. I believe the next chapters that follow will give you a reason to go on and the artillery to win the battle.

As a young child God began to show me what the purpose of my life would be. My mother had shared with me that God had spoken to her before I was born of what I was to do in life. I was to preach the Word. In 1978 God spoke to me confirming all things pertaining to this that had been revealed to me as a child. His Spirit impressed to me that my entire ministry, worldwide, would go under the heading of Faith, and believe me God has had me to pay a price to use that name - seeing all of my earthly possessions totally taken away twice; once by yielding to Him in obedience to make ready to fulfill my calling, and second to being taken by direct order of His Spirit that He must take that which I had in the natural that I might be fulfilled in the spiritual. I live, eat, and walk by faith. I believe that God is totally obligated to honor absolute faith from a sincere heart when it is operated in alignment with His scripture.

Just a couple of years ago, another minister (a good friend and faithful brother) and I were in a revival meeting together and he turned to me and said, as he looked at the word FAITH inscribed on the front of our Hammond organ. I know what faith stands for." It meant a lot to me and stuck with me. He went on to explain, "Faith is Forsaking All I Trust Him." So to sum up chapter 1, Introduction to Faith, forsaking all, if you will take and trust Him, you will see the powers of Satan come down and you will have all the products of faith.

Chapter 2

What Is Faith?

Faith is that free gift from God that has been dealt in a measure to every individual that God has created. Faith is the power to believe. Faith is the opportunity and the privilege to believe. It is the right to accept, but one must understand that it is a gift from God and that we must cherish, protect, and safeguard our faith from being damaged or destroyed through unbelief or sin. Satan is going to try to destroy your faith, but knowing that the more your faith is exercised and the more it is tried, the stronger it becomes until the point that, no matter what Satan does, he can't turn you around.

“That the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold which perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:7

The natural definition of faith is to have total trust and confidence in someone or something. In chapter 3, The Source of Faith, we will cover where our faith must rely. The “Faith Chapter”, Hebrews 11, starts out in verse 1 to give us the scriptural definition of faith.

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

This means that faith is spiritually seeing it before you physically see it. It's knowing that having God's promise of something is just as real as if we already held it within our own hands, being that God cannot lie and He is not slack upon His promises. Faith is saying NO to the devil and YES to God. Faith is that which enables a sinner to become a Saint, a blind man to see, the deaf to hear, the lame to walk, that which is afflicted to be healed. Faith is that which drove Noah to build the ark. Faith is that which led Abraham to be willing to sacrifice Isaac, allowed the children to Israel to pass through the Red Sea on dry land, caused the walls of Jericho to fall, allowed the saints of old to subdue kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtain promises, stop the mouths of lions, quench the violence of fiery furnaces, escape the edge of swords, in weakness be made strong, see their dead raised. And God changing not, and Jesus Christ being the same yesterday, today, and forevermore, enables you to receive the same, and to give you the assurance

that we shall not all sleep but in a moment, in a twinkling of the eye we shall be changed. Faith gives us the right to be resurrected in the first resurrection.

Chapter 3

The Source of Faith

God is the source of our faith through His Son, Christ Jesus, who shed His blood upon Calvary for you and for me. Paul explains in Hebrews:

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2

Author meaning the beginner, and the finisher as it states, and understanding that God will not withhold any good thing from us. Paul stated also to the Corinthians in I Corinthians 15:15 that if Christ be not raised then all our preaching and all your faith would be in vain, and that the dead would not raise and all that had fallen asleep in Christ would perish; and that if in this life we only had hope in Christ, we would of all men be most miserable. But verse 20 goes on to tell us that Christ is risen from the dead and become the first-fruits of them that sleep. Verse 24 says that He shall deliver up the Kingdom to God, put down and rule with authority and power. Verse 25 states that He must reign until His enemy is underfoot. Verse 26 proclaims that the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. So then we may say as Paul again stated in Romans 8:31, “If God be for us, who can be against us.” Being fully persuaded that nothing - and I mean nothing - not the devil or any of his works can stop us.

“For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38,39

We are a new creation in Christ Jesus. By faith we have been born-again into the family of God. So tell the devil that He that which is in you is greater than he that is in the world.

So to sum up the source of your faith - faith is the product of God's Word in you causing you to rise victorious over sin, unbelief, doubt, and all other things that Satan would try to throw your way.

Chapter 4

How To Get More Faith

The apostles asked Jesus in Luke 17:5,

“ Increase our Faith.”

He went on to explain in verse 6,

“If you had the faith as a grain of mustard seed you might say to this sycamore tree, be thou plucked up by the roots, be planted in the sea, and it should obey you.”

This opens up an understanding to us. God expects us to use the faith which He has given us. Paul in Romans 12:3, Part B, states, “...according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith.” So then, the building of your faith can be explained by this illustration. If you, being in a normal mind and a normal physical body, would allow yourself to lay down and become in a position flat on your back as a sick person or a person in a coma not using your muscles, in just a few short weeks you would become weak and lifeless. When you would try to stand you would find that your legs would not even carry you. So then faith is like our muscles. If we never use or exercise our muscles they will not develop, as a matter of fact they will deteriorate. So then we understand that if we want our faith to become strong we must exercise it. Take God at His Word. Act upon what the Word says and you will become stronger and stronger.

Paul gives us in Romans 10:17 another scriptural formula: “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.” The scripture also points us to God as our total source and that by receiving His Word in us our faith is continually increased. Our spiritual growth is determined by what we spiritually take in. Your physical body, if all you took into it was junk, it would become weak and cease to grow. So then with this understanding, we must feed the inner man within us with sound doctrine and gospel truth and then you will be able to say to this mountain be moved and it will be moved. Jesus said in Mark 9:23, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.”

Jude verse 20 tells us;

“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”

We find that praying is essential in building our faith and that, to go a step further, to say praying in the Holy Ghost, letting your spirit pray to God. Paul, in Romans 8:26 and 27 writes these words that explain:

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

One must pray, receive God’s Word, and live a life of obedience for our faith to be increased, but so many people forget and leave out one of the most important things, “Faith worketh by love.” We must love one another. Even our enemies. Then we will see our faith begin to work for us. Paul, in writing to the Corithians in I Corinthians 13:1-3 tells us:

- 1) “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2) And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3) And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity it profiteth me nothing.” The King James version uses the word charity, which means love. So when we have carefully examined ourselves, forgiven those that have wronged us and sought forgiveness from those that we have wronged, our faith can be established totally.

In concluding this fourth chapter we must cover one more point. We must cover works. For without works our faith is dead. James 2:22 says that by works was faith made perfect. So we must show forth our faith by our works. As we go - God will go with us.

Chapter 5

The Products of Faith

By faith we are born into the Kingdom of God. We are justified by faith according to these scriptures:

“Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.” Romans 3:28

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
Romans 5:1-2

“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law shall not flesh be justified.” Galatians 2:16

We receive all the promises of God by faith and we receive healing through faith. Jesus told the woman in the ninth chapter of Matthew that had the issue of blood for twelve years that by her faith she had been made whole. So by faith we are saved, we are sanctified, we receive the promise of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues, divine healing, and by faith we overcome the world as He has overcome.

Chapter 6

Why We Need Faith

First of all let's look back to the "Faith Chapter", in Hebrews 11:6.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him; for He that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

We find in this verse that without faith it is impossible to please God. We also must establish two other key points. We must accept that He is, and we must accept that He is a rewarder of those that seek Him. The devil will jump out and say, "Here I am!" A person does not have to do anything and the devil is there. But God must be sought after. The more we seek after Him the more He will reveal Himself to us.

Faith is the key that unlocks all our spiritual and physical blessings. Faith is the key that unlocks the heart of God. Faith also purifies the heart of man. Through faith we are sanctified from our sin.

It is impossible for us to have spiritual insight without applying faith, for God's Word tells us that we must walk by faith and not by sight, and that the just shall live by faith, and that all of our victory is established through faith, and by our faith we shall overcome this world. God's Word is so power-packed and full of scriptures that give us the power over the enemy. If you can receive that by faith through Jesus Christ you have been given all power and all authority, and you are hid in the hollow of His hand, He will lift you up in the last days. Take this scripture:

"And they overcome him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death."

Revelations 12:11

Using point one, they overcome by the blood which has already been shed, and by the word of your testimony, you can overcome. Don't be afraid to use your faith. Declare war on the devil and his kingdom. Quit saying I can't and start saying I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me. Start claiming Matthew, Chapter 12, verse 37:

For by thy words thou shalt be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.”

You will find that as you confess it, God will bring it to pass; knowing that when the enemy rushes in like a flood, God will raise up a standard. And when the devil tries to tell you that your back is against the wall and there is no way out, just simply make sure that your delight is in the Lord and lift up your face unto God. Make your prayer to Him, pay your vows, and start decreeing, and watch God establish it, and watch His light shine upon your path. Knowing that the steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord and as you call upon Him, He shall answer showing you many things. Knowing that He has made heaven and earth by His great power, nothing is too great for Him and He will hasten His Word to perform it. So delight thyself in the Lord and He shall give thee the desires of thy heart.

Chapter 7

The Dangers Of Not Using Your Faith

First of all you cannot be established unless you believe. Revelations, chapter 21, verse 8 points out that unbelief is a sin that will earn you a death penalty in an eternal lake of fire. Romans 14:23 tells us that whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Also, one of the scriptures covered in a previous chapter, Hebrews 11:6, states that without faith it is impossible to please Him.

God's Word also states to us in James the first chapter, verse 6, that if we expect to receive anything from God that we must ask Him in faith, not wavering. God's Word speaks very strongly against those that waver. He likens them to the waves of the sea and states that he shall not receive anything of the Lord. This is counted as double-mindedness and he will be unstable in all his ways.

So then, let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God and keep His commandments for God shall bring every work unto judgment. So take the faith that has been once delivered to the saints and earnestly contend for that faith so that you proclaim as Paul,