

# Faith

The most necessary possession of a child of God whilst caught up in this life on the way to the next is faith. Faith is belief as well as action, it is the dream and it is also the course of attaining the dream. Faith is inspiration to climb the highest mountain and it is constancy through the darkness of despair and uncertainty until the light of God's miraculous deliverance smiles upon us again. Faith is commitment and determination to be what God wants us to be, to conquer, and to obtain in and for the Kingdom no matter what the cost.

There are ways to obtain more faith and there are ways to build our faith, but it is a commodity that must reside in our hearts towards God. Faith is what God looks for and demands that He might show Himself Great in this earth. Revival waits for faith to take root in our hearts and minds until we are so sure and desirous of the rewards of it that we sacrifice and labour until God sends it.

Faith is also the Word of God itself. Paul refers to the "faith of God" in Romans chapter 3:

1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. 3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?  
4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;  
vs 1-3

The faith of God is His Word.

Hear the epistle of Jude vs 3:

3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Notice – "the faith" not "a faith"

The Apostle Paul writing to the Ephesians in chapter 4 vs 4-6

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

One faith is the faith of God which was delivered to the saints. It is to be contended for and preserved in our hearts because the corrupted, fleshly mind of man is without conviction and unscrupulous. Jude said to contend because that there were certain men crept in unawares – ungodly men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness and denying the Lord that bought them.

Notice what Jesus will be looking for when He returns:

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; 2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: 3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. 4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; 5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. 6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith. 7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them? 8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Lk 18:1-8

What will Christ be looking for when He returns? These verses in Luke teach us about faith. Prayer and belief in the goodness of God and His benevolence towards us is the beginning of the exciting adventure in store for the child of God as we press on to make it to the City of Gold. There are no short cuts, no 50% off sales and God sees to it that it is not nor ever will be that way.

14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Rev 17:14

Called, Chosen, and Faithful!!!!!! That's who will be with the Lamb for Eternity.  
That is His Church!

8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: 9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: 10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver

us;

2 Cor 1:8-10

### *The Source of Faith*

In our original text we read that "men ought always to pray, and not to faint". The example that Jesus gave in the next 7 verses is the recipe for saving faith. The determination of the widow against the callous and unjust judge to see her case handled is the route we must take to see and to become what God wants for His Kingdom on this earth until the day that He comes for us to catch us away in the rapture.

3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.  
Rom 12:3 (see also Jn 1:12 – the power to become)

Note: “the measure” not “a measure”

Measure – (Thayer) determined extent, portion measured off, measure or limit

17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ;  
Acts 11:17

This is Peter speaking to the rest of the Apostles after his adventure with Cornelius in Caesarea. The term “like” in this verse literally means equal ie the equal gift. The Holy Ghost is equal in every man. God does not give one person more or less Holy Ghost than any other. It is what we do with it, how much we give ourselves to it, it requires complete, total, and unconditional surrender to the will of God at all times and in all seasons of life to have more and the lack thereof to be less or without it.  
It takes faith to live for God!

14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.  
Gal 3:14

How do we receive the Holy Ghost? – “THROUGH faith”

God has given to every person the faith he/she needs to enter into and operate in His Kingdom. God is the ultimate source of Faith. We must tap into Him and His Greatness. We must make ourselves available to Him, and trust Him implicitly.

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. 8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.  
Jms 1:5-8

A man whose faith waivers is a double minded man.  
Double minded – (Thayer) uncertain, doubting  
Nothing wavering – (Thayer) wholly free from doubt  
Wavereth – (Thayer) to be at variance with one’s self, hesitate, doubt

There is something about a man that is double minded that competes with the will of God for his heart, soul, mind, and strength. True stability in Christ comes from unconditional surrender and trust in the operation of God in the Church. Determination and importunity in prayer destroys the distractions of this life and helps us to receive what we need from the Lord!

3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

2Cor 10:3-6

Believing IS fighting through the distractions of the flesh, the devil, and the world.

ALL of these things are contrary to God!

ALL of these things distract us from our Spiritual purpose!

Faith sees and imagines through the Word what God can do AND faith also sets goals and strives in the Word to sacrifice to see it come to pass.

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2

For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 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.

Heb 11:1-6

Without faith it is impossible to please God – BUT – THROUGH faith!

33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

vs 33-35

I suppose that it could be said that we live our lives in an effort to maintain the simplicity and experience the reality of these few verses above.

7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

2 Cor 5:7

So simple. Too simple actually. We must KEEP believing and striving for the excellency that God has enabled us obtain through the power of the Holy Ghost!

10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. 11 And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Matt 8:5-13

What could Jesus have heard to provoke Him to be so impressed by an individual? Simple faith in the power that was in Him. However, it is not just faith in the power, but faith in the infinite goodness of God and that God is desirous to help us.

22 And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. 23 The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. 24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? 25 And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? 26 If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? 27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 28 If then God so clothe the grass, which is to day in the field, and to morrow is cast into the oven; how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? 29 And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. 30 For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.

32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Lk 12:22-32

#### Little faith – Great faith

21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Matt 15:21-28

The Apostles were irritated with this woman, but Jesus was moved to help her. Why? Her determination and persistence impressed Jesus. He saw in her the spirit of Jacob, Rizpah, Daniel, Joseph, David, and Jeremiah ( and so many more).

Look at the things that this woman overcame:

- 1) The Apostles refused her case
- 2) Jesus rejected her
- 3) Jesus insulted her

In spite of these obstacles this woman saw something in Jesus that drove her on until Jesus' resistance was conquered by her persistence. Jesus knew how far he was willing to go, but faith in the heart of this woman of Canaan forced her to forsake all pride and adopt the attitude of "whatever it takes". She was rewarded!

one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray,  
5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; 6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? 7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. 8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his **importunity** he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. 9 **And I say unto you, Ask**, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Lk 11:5-10

Importunity – (Thayer) persistent in entreaties  
(Webster 1828) Pressing solicitation; urgent request; application for a claim or favor, which is urged with troublesome frequency or pertinacity

Verse 9 tells us to ask and verse 8 tells us HOW TO ASK! We are to ask with importunity!

An indomitable spirit!

Indomitable – (Webster 1828) untamable

8 And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord. 9 And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself. 10 And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me. 11 Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.  
Gen 33:8-11

This is the famous account of Jacob meeting Esau for the first time after the birthright situation. The man that Jacob feared most in these verses became subject to his persistence. Esau refused Jacob's gift at first, but Jacob's importunity won the day and the victory that Jacob wrestled for the night before in prayer gave him power in the human realm also.

PRAYER AND FAITH **CANNOT** BE SEPARATED!!

28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

Gen 32:28

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council: and the high priest asked them, 28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:27-29

The Apostles were out of the enemies' control! The Apostles were untamable!!

Fear cannot tame faith!  
Circumstances cannot tame faith!  
Contrary opinions cannot tame faith!  
Emotional uncertainty cannot tame faith!

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 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.

Rom 8:35-39

### *Building Faith*

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Rom 10:17

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,  
Jude 20

The Word of God and prayer build faith! We must know the Word and we must pray in the Spirit in order to please God! Paul said faith cometh by hearing the Word, not reading, singing, or writing, but hearing! This is because there must be a third party to our relationship with God that objectively judges our experience in God.

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

1 Cor 1:21

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Eph 4:8-12

1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. 2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

1Thess 4:1-2

17 When I therefore was thus minded, did I use lightness? or the things that I purpose, do I purpose according to the flesh, that with me there should be yea yea, and nay nay? 18 But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. 20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

23 Moreover I call God for a record upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth. 24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

2 Cor 1:17-24

This tells me that God uses the Ministry to open our understanding to what God is presently doing and what is expected of us by the Word!

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

Heb 4:1-2

- When we hear the Word of God and mix it with faith -  
This builds our Faith!

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Eph 6:10-18

I want you to note the underlined phrase in the verses above:

the word of God: 18 Praying always

Notice the colon (:) after "God" and before "Praying".



The Nestle Greek New Testament 1904 text reads a little different than the KJV. Instead of the colon between the words "God" and "Praying" the words "by means of" is used. I do not believe that there is any violence done to the original text in this comparison.

Consider the rendering of the Nestle Greek Text:

"the Sword of the Spirit, which is [the] word of God, ***by means of all prayer*** and petition"

Very simply, we take on the whole armor of God through prayer and supplication in the Spirit!

Note the promise of God by the pen of Zechariah:

10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, ***the spirit of grace and of supplications:***  
Zech 12:10

The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of grace and supplications!

The Word of God and Prayer are the pillars that will keep us through all things! It is our love for God that will make or break us.

There is NO FAILURE in the Word of God and Prayer!

"I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH STRENGTHENETH ME"  
Phil 4:13

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and ***having done all***, to stand.  
Eph 6:13

Having done all - (Thayer) having gone through every struggle of the fight

Hear the mighty Apostle's words to Timothy:

12 Fight the good fight of faith,

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. 16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Tim 6:12, 2 Tim 4:7-8, 16-18

We can make it! We can do it! We can take it!  
The Word of God gives us our Spiritual authority and genuine legitimacy as children  
of the Most High to conquer and to resist anything or anyone that would try to keep  
us from our God given place as a Church in these last days.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;  
that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness  
into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the  
people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy

1Peter 2:9-10