

Faith of Man

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

As we live spiritually within the Kingdom, we know it is the gift of faith that enables us to have a relationship with God and to receive His blessings in our life. Understanding that God's mercy and grace is upon His children, so must our faith be just as prevalent towards our Father. *Without faith it is impossible to please God.* Hebrews 11:6 It should become our desire to be an obedient child with wisdom in His Word. In doing so, we gain the knowledge and understanding of how to walk by faith.

When Jesus spoke to the disciples and the multitude of followers that gathered to hear His teachings, He was also speaking to all generations henceforth. Faith is God's gift, it is not something of our own making, nor is it required that we earn it. *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 This gift comes with instructions. If we begin to use our gift of faith without knowing the many facets of its functionality, we can miss out on valuable benefits.

An analogy would be likened to a cell phone. If we have not taken the time to read the manual that came with the new device, but instead continue to operate the phone based on our perception of how it works, we can miss many of its features. Just because we haven't made ourselves privy to various preprogrammed applications, doesn't mean they aren't accessible on the phone. Same holds true with faith. We receive the gift and are expected to study the manual, the Bible, to learn how faith operates in the Kingdom, so we will not be without the many blessings that come through faith.

As previously stated, believers can have faith and be in unbelief at the same time. You may think this is not possible, but revisit the disciples scenario. They questioned why their faith was not rendering a healing when it came to the boy who was dealing with seizures. Why couldn't they do the same as Christ because they had experienced the power of faith before, but in this particular incident it did not work? *And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is a lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?*

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Matthew 17:14-20 What did Jesus say to His disciples? He told them their faith was ineffectual because it was mixed with unbelief, and unbelief voided the power.

It isn't the quantity of faith that we should strive to obtain because there is no such thing. God gives every believer the same measure of faith. *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. Romans 12:3* One person does not obtain more faith than another, nor do we receive faith by degrees of performance, the better I serve the Lord the more faith He will pour into my life. Faith is administered the same to all children of the Father.

Our faith has to be pure, unadulterated, not diluted with unbelief. There must be absolute assuredness, unequivocal and unwavering faith. Many believe they have such faith, but do not understand why their faith isn't rendering God's power in their life. Check for unbelief. How do I know if I am in unbelief? What do I look for? The answer is simple when we begin to consider the definition of unbelief.

Again, in recalling the story of the boy with seizures, the father took his son to Jesus. *And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. Mark 9:17-24* Desperate for a healing for his child, the father said: "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." He openly admitted to Jesus that he believed, and begged Christ to remove any unknown unbelief. The father did not want to hinder a healing for his son should he be harboring unbelief. At first glance, you may interpret the father speaking to Jesus when he said: "But if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us and help us." as a statement of unbelief, but not so. Typically, when the word "if" is applied it denotes doubt. However, the father wasn't questioning Jesus' *ability* to heal his son, but rather would He be *willing* to do so. This is another distinction in understanding this scripture. When he replied to Jesus' question, the father said: "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." which shows his belief, but again, if there was anything that would be unknown to him that would block the healing for his son, he wanted Jesus to remove it.

Another thought to this scripture is that Jesus addressed the father or parent of the child, and not the child directly. Interestingly, perhaps it was because the child was under the age of thirteen which is recognized to be the official rite of passage into manhood for the Jewish males. We do not know if the father was Jew or Gentile, but we understand that Jesus would show no partiality. Also, note that when Jesus first set out to do His Father's works, He was twelve. *And when he was twelve years old, they went to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.* Luke 2:42 It was here that Jesus remained behind and was later found by His parents in the temple sitting among the doctors. *And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.* Luke 2:46-47

This scripture also reveals to us that parents are responsible for their children in their physical upbringing but also in nurturing them into a relationship with God. In Christ's authority and with the Holy Spirit, we may pray over our children with expectations of heavenly power in a time of need. However, a person must be wise in the truth of the principles of God's Kingdom.

Unbelief is a lack of trust. It's like saying to Christ: "I hear you, and I think I know what you are teaching me; however, my thoughts and feelings are leading me in another direction." We put our own human twist on the matter, and it weakens our faith in God's Word. We stagger and falter in His truth, unbelief. Then we make excuses with such traditional statements as, "It must be God's will.", or "It is what it is, can't do anything about it." which shows faith is not present. Excuses are merely another means of unbelief and will keep a person stagnant in their circumstance. When unbelief is present, it voids the power that comes through faith.

To identify how we fall into the trap of unbelief is to look at the human character. We slip out of our spirit person and listen to our soul, and consequently, we get out of sync with God's truth. When we are confronted with adversities such as a health crisis, or a financial matter, loss of employment, and so forth, our first reaction is fear. We look inward to ourselves, "What am I going to do?" Fear immediately takes hold. Remember, fear is a negative emotion governed by the senses and is not a Fruit of the Spirit for our spirit-filled life.

Fear takes our thoughts in a direction away from God's Word. Fear grows until it is the only emotion we respond to, and we begin to question that His Word isn't going to hold true and present a solution. All the attention is focused on the negative circumstance rather than the power Christ has vested into each believer through faith. *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.* 1 Timothy 1:7 We must hold strong and allow our faith to command over fear.

With fear, worry becomes the aura that surrounds and binds us in unbelief. Our problem is constantly in the forefront, for we think, talk, study, question, and dwell on the matter until we are in complete bondage to the negative situation. Loving and happy thoughts are a distant memory as we concentrate on our crisis. In the midst of the affliction, we gravitate to the negative instead of standing firm in faith. What became of our faith? It only requires the unwavering faith of a mustard seed, "Ye of so little faith."

In our hour of need, we become just like the disciples before Jesus. Our measure of faith is overridden by our unbelief, and we have nothing to combat and counter an illness, a monetary crisis, a disparaging emotional problem, or any other situation. We must be mature in wisdom of our Father's Word, so we may be secure in truth to handle events that arise. *For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.* Romans 8:15 Give praise to the Lord for the gift of faith and hold to your faith with complete trust that God's Kingdom power will be effectual in your life.

An analogy in understanding how faith works would be as to the keys on a key ring. Most of us have several keys on a ring, but only the right one will unlock the door to our home. Likewise, only the correct key called Faith will unlock the door to the Father's Kingdom. *And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.* Matthew 16:19 Where our faith is will be what is reflected in the Kingdom of Heaven just as what is lost on earth by our lack of knowledge or directive will also be lost in the Kingdom. The connection that exists between the Kingdom and earth is based on our belief and faith. Whatever our need may be on earth, so is it understood in heaven; therefore, what we receive is by faith.

When Jesus taught His disciples, He explained the connection between heaven and earth, but because they were human and having not yet received the Holy Spirit it was difficult for them to comprehend His teachings. Though the men were eager to listen and accept His words, they still faltered with the understanding, for He spoke of things they had not heard of before and could not verify. Desperate as they were to believe and maintain faith, they often failed. Again, Christ would remind them of having so little faith and continue to teach them the lessons they needed to know before He left them.

It is no different today. The same lessons are being taught, but if we aren't listening with a discerning heart as we study the scriptures, we will be like the disciples stumbling in our faith. We must be absolute in our knowledge and strong to not waver.

Just as we are unable to measure mercy or grace, neither can we put a boundary on faith. These are spiritual gifts operating in the spirit realm of our Father's Kingdom. Faith is not a physical expression of our human senses. We attempt to evaluate faith and categorize it with an emotion by placing a natural application to it. Faith does not involve any emotional, or sensory mechanism. *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Hebrews 11:1 Faith is what carries our trust in whatever we may ask of our Father as our belief remains intact and undiluted until the unseen, spiritual or supernatural, becomes the seen, natural or physical. If we have the understanding of how to reach the Kingdom, we can bring forth on earth heavenly power by our faith. *If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.* John 14:14 Christ has given us authority on His name to call upon the Father with the key of faith.

It is not a complex matter. If our faith is not in direct alignment with God's Word, it will not gain us answered prayers, healing, and miracles. To move the mountain in our life, whatever it

may be, we must maintain an unshakable faith that no matter what our senses tell us, or our eyes show us, we know the truth that comes only in trusting God's Word.

Perhaps you have prayed and wondered why you didn't receive an answer. You pray more diligently hoping an answer will soon be forthcoming, but when there is no manifestation you begin to question if God heard your plea, or is He merely not going to supply for your need? Neither is the case. God knows all, and He hears our petitions and provided the answer long before the time came that we would seek Him. God is not withholding, but we have not come before Him in absolute faith without unbelief.

Everyone needs God in their life, whether they are accepting of this realization or not; and not only for salvation, but for all the blessings, promises, and gifts He desires to bestow upon His faithful children. *And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.* Mark 10:27

Each person is responsible for a relationship with the Father. We have been given the authority in Christ and with the Holy Spirit to approach the Almighty King within His Kingdom. God established the trinity for man, for those who seek Him in truth with the gift of faith. Be a child of God and walk by faith, not by sight. It is for today and forever.

Always and forever, we give praise, thanksgiving, honor, and glory to our heavenly Father; Christ, the Son; and the Holy Ghost who are all God, for His *everlasting love*. Glory to God in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Excerpt from book: Everlasting Love, God's Greatest Gift

For: Spirit Strong Living

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