

Faith In Action (part 4)
Eight Things You Need to Know about Faith
2.17.2019

Review

Today is Part 4 of this series. In past messages we've looked at the *why* behind exercising faith.

We looked at Satan's fall from heaven to the earth, and his subsequent gain of power on earth from Adam and Eve when they sinned.

God gave Adam (the human race) a time-limited authority over the earth. Adam gave that authority to Satan when he sinned. Satan now has a legal right to steal, kill, and destroy.

Jesus defeated Satan when He was raised from the dead, and has given us believers back the authority that Satan gained from Adam which Adam was given by God.

We Christians are the only ones on earth with authority over Satan and his kingdom.

Matthew 28:18-20 - NKJV

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Today, for this period of "Adam's lease," God has to have permission to invade earth with His ability and power. Our prayers and our faith give God permission to invade our lives and circumstances with His grace, His mercy, and His provision!

Last time we looked at four main reasons we have life problems:

1. The sin nature and personal mistakes
2. The curse on the earth because of man's fall
3. Demonic intrusion into your life
4. Failure to listen to the Holy Spirit

Living by Faith Removes You From Satan's Control.

1 John 5:4

For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory through our faith.

Romans 8:2 - NKJV

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Smith Wigglesworth quote:

There's something about believing God that will cause God to pass over a million people just to get to you!

Today - Eight Things You Need to Know about Faith

We'll cover the first four today.

1. Faith is a gift given to you by Jesus.

If you want to pick up the internet from your phone, you have to turn on the wifi receiver and connect. It's the same with faith.

God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are in the realm of the spirit. And it takes faith to connect to them to receive what you need.

When we are saved, Jesus gives us all the faith we need to navigate through life and receive everything we need from Him.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - NKJV

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Romans 12:3 - NKJV

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

You may say, well, I don't have enough faith for this or that. But in reality, you have all you need given to you as a gift from God. It's enough to navigate through life and receive everything you need from Him!

A little bit goes a long way!

Matthew 17:20 - HCSB

Because of your little faith, He told them. "For I assure you: If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

You have all the faith that you need to receive from God. Use it every day!

The problem with most believers is that they only use faith for emergencies.

Or as a last resort when nothing else works!

Example - Jerry Savelle - Exercise faith for everything!

Me- pray about everything and expect God to answer!

2. Faith can be increased by meditation and practice of the Word.

You may say, *I don't have enough faith.*

We all have the same number of muscles. but some use what they have been given more than others!

Romans 10:17 - NKJV

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

Faith is like muscles. You have them all at birth, but they must be exercised to work.

The *capacity for faith* comes from knowing the Word. Then faith is actually developed as you exercise the Word of God against the circumstances of life.

Mark 4:24 - AMP

And He said to them, Be careful what you are hearing. The measure [of thought and study] you give [to the truth you hear] will be the measure [of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you — and more [besides] will be given to you who hear.

Colossians 3:16 - NKJV

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Be aware of what you consume mentally. If you have a pain and the first thing you do is to google it, you just put your faith in the wrong thing. Put your faith in the Word of God.

I take time every single day to develop my faith.

There will never be a time in your life that you do not need faith, either for yourself or for someone else.

An athlete doesn't wait until the game begins before he exercises! Most people wait until crisis time before they seek to develop faith.

If you wait until you need faith to get it, you'll be at a disadvantage.

3. Faith takes the place of what cannot be seen or felt until it actually appears.

Hebrews 11:1 -NKJV

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

Substance - Greek - Hupostasis - Hupo = under, stasis = a standing

A standing under, that which stands, or is set, under a foundation. Used in the technical sense of a title deed, standing under the claim to the property to support its validity.

Evidence

Something that furnishes or tends to furnish proof; that which supports the existence of something

Examples:

Footprints on the shoreline

A wake following a ship

A white streak in the sky

Toys scattered in the yard of a home – kid lives there!

Hebrews 11:1 - AMP

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Hebrews 11:1 - NCV

Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.

2 Kings 6:13-17 - NLT

Go and find out where he is, the king commanded, so I can send troops to seize him. And the report came back: "Elisha is at Dothan." (14) So one night the king of Aram sent a great army

with many chariots and horses to surround the city. (15) When the servant of the man of God got up early the next morning and went outside, there were troops, horses, and chariots everywhere. "Oh, sir, what will we do now?" the young man cried to Elisha. (16) "Don't be afraid!" Elisha told him. "For there are more on our side than on theirs!" (17) Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open his eyes and let him see!" The Lord opened the young man's eyes, and when he looked up, he saw that the hillside around Elisha was filled with horses and chariots of fire.

Dr. J. Oswald Sanders:

Faith enables the believing soul to treat the future as present and the invisible as seen.

Examples: My Knee. My Back.

1980 - A job in Tulsa

4. Faith is never future. Faith is always in the present tense.

Hebrews 11:1 - NKJV

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

Hebrews 11:1 - NLT

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

Hebrews 11:1 - AMP

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Hope is always something in the future.

Faith takes hope, and acts as though it has it right now.

Example - 1981 - man in hospital

Example - Financing for building

If you are afraid, you are not in faith; you are in hope.

Well, I hope this works. No faith there.

Faith is a confident expectation.

1. Faith is a gift given to you, a believer, from Jesus to use to receive from Him.
2. Faith can be used and increased by meditation and practice of the word.
3. Faith takes the place of what cannot be seen or felt until it shows up.
4. Faith is never future. Faith is always in the present tense.

Action Points:

1. You have the faith you need from Jesus to be victorious over every obstacle life brings.
2. Take time every day to build up your faith. Go to the Word of God first when problems come.
3. Faith replaces what you need or have asked for *until it shows up*.
4. Make sure that you are believing that *right now* your needs are met, and not at some point in the future. Hope is future; faith is now.