

Faith in Action (part 7)
8 things you need to know about faith (pt 4)
3.17.2019

Review

Today is part 7 of this series. In past messages we've looked at the *why* behind exercising faith.

Hebrews 11:6 - NLT

And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

We live in a fallen world. Because of the first man Adam's sin, Satan our arch-enemy has a legal right to steal, kill, destroy, and maim human life.

We have found that in Christ we have spiritual authority over Satan and his minions and can push him out of our lives.

And, we push him out by faith!

February 17 and March 3 - we looked at the first 4 points of 8 things you need to know about faith.

1. Faith is a gift given to you by Jesus.
2. Faith can be increased by meditation and practice of the word.
3. Faith takes the place of what cannot be seen or felt until it actually appears.
4. Faith is never future. Faith is always in the present tense.

And last week, we looked at point 5:

5. Faith cannot be separated from words.

Words are a creative power!

Your words are YOUR faith speaking.

Look back to what you've been saying, and you'll know what you are believing.

What are you saying deep inside with your *self-talk*?

Today, we will look at point 6:

6. The key to receiving by faith is to believe that you receive.

Mark 11:24 - NKJV

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Faith is *always* past or present tense. It is never looking for something in the future.

Make sure when you're asking the Lord for something that you keep it in the past or present tense.

If you just hoping that one day in the future things will be different, you'll not receive from the Lord. It's not hoping one day in the future that things will be different, but it's believing that God has already answered, or is answering your prayer that brings results!

Notice what God said to Joshua...

Joshua 6:1-2

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in. (2) And the Lord said to Joshua: See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor.

God spoke to them in the *past tense* about Jericho. The walls were still up. Yet God had promised that the city was *already* theirs!

Notice what God said to Abraham...

Genesis 17:5

No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you a father of many nations.

Romans 4:17

(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed — God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did.

Abram's name meant "exalted father."

Abraham means "the father of a multitude."

Romans 4:18-21 (NIV)

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (19) Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead —since he was about a hundred years old —and that Sarah's womb was also dead. (20) Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, (21) being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.

And that is the faith principle - believe that you receive what God promises, and it will materialize.

Notice what Jesus said to God about Lazarus:

Jesus spoke in the past tense when praying for Lazarus to be raised!

John 11:41

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

Notice what Jesus said to ten lepers who wanted to be healed:

Luke 17:11-19 (NLT)

As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, he reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. (12) As he entered a village there, ten men with leprosy stood at a distance, (13) crying out, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" (14) He looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. (15) One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, "Praise God!" (16) He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. (17) Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? 18 Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" (19) And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you."

Leviticus 14:1-32 give the instruction for those healed of a skin disease like leprosy...

Again, here Jesus encourages the men to act like they are healed by going to the priests - *the principle of believing you receive.*

Think, speak, pray, and act as though you already have what you believe.

I wonder when, I'm not sure, how long will it be are signs of hope and not faith.

Mark 11:24 - NKJV

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

Mark 11:24 - Amplified

For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it].

Mark 11:24 – New Century Version

So I tell you to believe that you have received the things you ask for in prayer, and God will give them to you.

Mark 11:24 – God’s Word

That's why I tell you to have faith that you have already received whatever you pray for, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24 – English Standard Version

I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you've received it, it will be yours.

Mark 11:24- Complete Jewish Bible

Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, trust that you are receiving it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:24 – Bible in Basic English

For this reason I say to you, Whatever you make a request for in prayer, have faith that it has been given to you, and you will have it.

Action Points:

1. Remember that faith takes the place of what God has promised, but that is not yet manifested in your life.
2. Be sure to practice Mark 11:24 when asking God to do things for you. Our part is to believe we receive. His part is to provide.
3. In every way you can, in conversation and in action, act as though you believe you receive what you asked for from the Lord.

