



NEW WINE

# Living by Faith

Learning to Live in God's Supernatural  
Realm of Faith



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## COURSE GUIDELINES:

***In order to complete this course you must. . .***

- 1) Complete the entire classroom portion of live teaching.
- 2) Study all portions of the manual not covered during the live teaching session including all activities.
- 3) Do the Scripture Study in the Appendix at the Back of the Manual.
- 4) Read all articles on the Website under this course title in your language. You will find these articles under the title of this course at [www.prepareinternational.org](http://www.prepareinternational.org). Simply click on the flag of your nation in the website section called ***Online Reading Articles***.
- 5) Write a 4-5 page paper evaluating the learning you have done in this course. The paper should be a good evaluation of all that you learned. In the essay, answer well the following questions. . .
  - What were the three most important things you discovered about faith?
  - Describe the realm of the spirit known as glory or the heavenly places and how does this correspond to our faith?
  - In which areas of the faces of faith are you most developed in and which are your weaker? What must you do to become more mature in all areas of faith?
  - How will growing in faith change and empower you for greater fruitfulness in ministry?

## Part 1: Faith – the Operating Principle of the Kingdom

When Jesus arrived on the scene 2000 years ago, He began to teach and preach concerning the kingdom of God. As time went on, He chose a group of men to be His followers whom He would entrust the kingdom mission with. As He taught and worked with these men, we see one reoccurring theme through His ministry – FAITH. Jesus spoke often and much about faith. It seems that faith became the central law of operation in the kingdom. With it, you could live a kingdom life and without it, you received little from God.

Today, very few Christians know a great deal about faith or how to operate in the realm of faith. That is one of the reasons the general level of spiritual experience, transformation and power is very low in the body of Christ.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS COURSE IS TO . . .

Introduce you to the life of faith  
Expose the crippling power of doubt and unbelief  
Teach on the basic principles of living and moving in faith  
Encourage you to develop a life of faith for yourself and your ministry

### **Jesus' Big Faith Statement**

As you study the teachings of Jesus, you discover that He spoke often and much about faith. In fact, in the four Gospels, Jesus uses the word faith or believe 112 times. That is an incredible amount of references to one single topic in a very short amount of writing. Why is that?

Because Faith is the Principle the Kingdom of God operates on!

In the first few pages of Jesus' story, we find Him making a statement several times, "***It shall be done to you according to your faith .***" Matt 9:29

In this statement, Jesus Christ sets forth a ruling principle in His kingdom – men will have, possess, have done to them according to their faith.



Reflection: What does this statement and this principle imply for our life and ministry?

If I can have faith for a clear, God inspired thing, I can possess it.

If I do not have faith for that thing I will NOT possess it.

Faith therefore, is the life principle that enables a man to receive and possess from God or keeps him from it.

## Other Statements by Jesus About Faith

As we follow Jesus' ministry, we see Him make many statements to people about their faith and what it is doing for them.

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**Bible Study: Here are some positive examples of this principle at work.** Read the words of Jesus and determine whether they support the thesis that faith is the operational principle of the kingdom of God.

Matt 9:22; Matt 17:20-21; Matt 21:21-22; Mark 10:52; Luke 17:19

**Here are some negative examples of this principle at work.** Read the following passages and determine if they uphold this law of faith.

Matt. 8:26; Matt 14:31-32; Matt 17:19-20; Mark 4:40-41;

Positive:

"Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." Matt 9:22

O woman, your faith is great; it shall be done for you as you wish." Matt 15:28

If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

Matt 17:20-21

Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen.

22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Matt 21:21-22

And Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight  
Mark 10:52

And He said to him, "Stand up and go; your faith has made you well."

Luke 17:19

Negative:

"Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?"

Matt 8:26

You of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Matt 14:31-32

"Why could we not drive it out?" 20 And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith;

Matt 17:19-20

"Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"

Mark 4:40-41



## **The Apostle Paul and Faith**

The Apostle Paul in all of His writings upheld the teachings of Jesus passionately. In fact, in the letter to the Romans, he was inspired to quote an Old Testament passage summarizing the way a man is to live and carry on life in God's kingdom when he said, "**BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**" Rom 1:17

Jesus had said that in this new kingdom, all that we could receive and all that would be done unto us was through the power of faith and the Apostle Paul goes on to say that the very mode of life in God's kingdom would be faith. **The righteous man would live by faith.** That is, if we are to have any true spiritual life and power from heaven, it will flow into our lives by faith!

Paul was so passionate about this topic of faith that he spoke of it 161 times in his writings. He knew the secret that where faith is, there is great spiritual life and where there is NO faith, there is only outward religious tradition.

In Galatians 2.20, Paul gives us a glimpse into his own walk of faith when he says, ". . .the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God. . ."

What an incredible statement. Paul says that his entire life is lived in the foundational principle of the kingdom-FAITH. All that he did, he did with a living faith in Jesus Christ. That was the secret to his life and success in ministry.

## **Jesus School of Faith for His Followers**

As we see Jesus develop His 12 men to be world changers, we discover that He had many lessons that He taught them, but the one reoccurring lesson was the challenging of their ability to believe and move in faith. Jesus constantly poured in faith lessons! He had a major goal in the development of His first 12 ministers – a life of faith.

Jesus took these 12 men into a school of faith. Here is some of the ways He trained them:

**Demonstration** – Jesus constantly showed them His personal faith at work and then encouraged them to step out and try also.

**Teaching** – He constantly taught on faith as the means to obtain and move things in the kingdom

**Promises** – Throughout His time with His 12, He gave them many promises that would later be the anchors to their faith in Him.

**Challenges** – He constantly placed challenges before them where their faith would have to lead them into the supernatural realm to obtain answers. Sometimes they succeeded and sometimes they failed.

Very seldom does He ever rebuke them or reprove them, but in almost every occasion when He does, it has to do with their lack of faith and how unbelief and doubt hinder the flow of God's life and power.

When they were afraid of perishing in the storm, he said, "**Why are you afraid, you men of little faith?**" Matt 8:26

When Peter began to sink from doubt while walking on the water, Jesus said, "**You of little faith, why did you doubt?**" Matt 14:31

When the disciples could not cast the demon out of a boy: Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not drive it out?" 20 And He said to them, "Because of the littleness of your faith; Matt 17:19-20



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After the resurrection, “Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen” Mark 16:14

One day, after He had finished teaching His disciples one of the key principles of moving in faith, He concluded with this remark: **“However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”** (Luke 18:8) He seemed to look forward to a time when the kingdom of God might be reduced merely to a set of beliefs and traditions that people would adhere to instead of a life of vibrant faith whereby men and women interact and draw upon the living God.

Does this speak of our day? Does this speak of you and your ministry?

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**Application:** Have you allowed Jesus Christ to take you into the school of faith? Have you come into fellowship with Him, chosen to follow Him and begun the SCHOOL OF FAITH that He took His first followers into? Are you moving deeper and deeper into the life of faith?

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## Part 2: The Different Faces of Faith

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### What is Faith?

Faith is . . . a divine ability given by God and developed in the human heart enabling man to interact with God and obtain things from the unseen spiritual realm.

Through faith, a man leaves living life in the purely natural way and begins to live a supernatural existence. He begins to draw upon the Lord and His mighty promises obtaining many answers for life and ministry.

### What Faith is NOT

It is important as we begin to look at what faith is, to understand what it is NOT. Faith is NOT . . .

Hope – Hope is often a step in the journey to faith over an issue, but it is NOT faith yet. Hope is a confident expectation of a good outcome, but hope lacks the power to truly obtain from heaven. Many of our prayers are merely prayers of hope NOT faith.

Faith is NOT a creative power – Only God can create. Many teach that faith is the great creative power and God gives man the ability to create. Only God is creator, yet through faith, we can connect with Him and be a channel of His creative power upon the earth.

Faith merely obtains what is already there for us in God and the realm of the Spirit

### Five Faces of Faith

Before we look further at the laws and principles of moving in faith, let's take a look at the different ways faith might operate in the life of a believer. Perhaps you will find one or more of these working steadily within you, but it is Jesus' desire that we have a full faith life with all of these manifestations of faith working in us.

### #1 Belief - Appropriating Faith

The first way that faith is manifest in our lives is through believing and receiving or as some have called it the *appropriating power of faith*. Appropriate means to take possession of and to make it your own! This is the operation of faith that enables a man to see God and His promise and reach into the unseen world and obtain an answer from heaven and draw back into the time / space world a supernatural work or provision.

Jesus taught this principle and operation of faith over and over to His men. After they had seen Him simply speak to a fig tree and the power of God hit the fig tree and it withered, they were amazed at which Jesus said, *"Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' it will happen. 22 'And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."* Matt 21:21-23

In this single statement, Jesus reveals the great appropriating power of faith. He clearly tells us that through faith, we can both speak to things releasing the invisible power of God and can reach into the heavenlies for answers to prayer. (See also Matt 9.1-2, 9.22, 9.29, 15.28; Mark 5.34, 10.52, 11.22-24)

The first and clearest purpose of faith is to receive things from heaven! Many have some false spiritual view of this and have all kinds of excuses, but Jesus Christ wants His children to receive ALL that He has for them!



The word 'believe' is the Greek word *pisteuo* which is the verb form of the word for 'faith' – *pistis*. It denotes action, not some passive waiting attitude.

**Debit Card Illustration:** Man gives another \$1 million and leaves in a bank. He sends the man a debit card and gives him the right to withdraw the money for certain things in life. The man MUST go to the bank and make withdrawals or the deposit is worthless to him. He must use the DEBIT CARD. Through the debit card, the money that is in an unseen place to you, you only have a person's word about it, can be withdrawn and placed right in your hands. That which lies in the unseen, is brought into the seen through the use of a debit card.



**Reflection:** Is your faith alive and growing? Are you constantly receiving from the Lord? Are you living a supernatural life or are you still caught in doing what YOU can do for yourself? Describe someone you know with a powerful faith that is constantly interacting with God and receiving from Him?

There are two ways this believing aspect of faith can work in a person's life:

**Seed Faith** – Both Jesus and Paul taught over and over about the concept of seed, sowing and reaping. (Matt 13, Mark 4:26-28, Gal. 6:7-9) Something must be sown with faith and over time and the application of faith there will be a harvest. This is the application of faith in which you believe God for His promise to be fulfilled but there is a time period of your faith being planted into the Lord and its fulfillment coming to pass. This is to believe and see the work of God over time. It may be weeks, months or even years before you see the promise fulfilled.

**Illustration:** Prayer for the salvation of a loved one, sowing of finances and over time reaping an increased financial harvest, prayer for freedom from sin for some other person or self.

**Miraculous Faith** – The second application of this believing aspect of faith is miraculous faith. It is the application of faith which brings a miracle immediately or within a very short period of time. Healing and other miracles come in this form. It is to believe and see God's mighty hand RIGHT NOW working for you. This is the kind of faith that brings forth healings, deliverances, and mighty miracles upon the earth.

## #2 Trust

This is another way that faith works in the life of a believer. The 'believe' activity of faith is an aggressive reaching into the Lord to obtain His promises but trust takes a different approach. 'Trust' is also a verb, but it is a much more passive word. The Gr word is *peitho* which means to rely upon, depend upon, lean upon, rest in. In the Old Testament, the corresponding word means to *hide in a refuge*.

Heb 2:13 " I WILL PUT MY TRUST IN HIM."

Faith's second operation is also an action we do, but a much more passive one. It is the activity of placing your trust in the Lord and resting in Him while truly depending on Him to do something. This second aspect of faith, must often follow the first for we reach out and exert a great burst of appropriating faith and then we must set our heart to trust and rest. The trust factor of faith keeps our heart before the Lord in faith until we see the answer from Him.



### #3 Obedience

When Paul begins his epistle to the Romans, he gives his express goal of bringing to pass in their lives a certain kind of obedience- the obedience of faith! Rom 1:5 *“through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,”*

From this and many other Scriptures, we discover that a third way faith appears in a person's life is obedience. There are many in His body today who say they have faith, and yet they do not obey Him. This is NOT biblical faith. All of the men and women of faith in the Bible were also people of devotion and obedience. Obedience is a product of faith in the human heart.

It is very simple, if I really believe God and trust Him then I will do what He says.

### #4 Perseverance and Patience

As you begin the faith journey, there will arise in your life another way that faith in God manifests itself. It will show up in the form of long-term perseverance and patience. As we begin to both believe God aggressively for His promises in our lives and then follow up with trust and obedience, the next application of faith will be to wait upon the Lord in perseverance.



Bible Study: Rom. 8.25; Eph. 6.18; Heb. 6.12

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Rom 8:25 “But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.”

Eph 6:18 “With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints”

Heb 6:12 “. . .so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

The scriptures teach us that we must apply perseverance and patience into our faith to obtain God's promises. In teaching on prayer, Jesus often taught the principle of perseverance in faith during prayer in order to obtain the promises of God (Luke 11.5-8 & Luke 18.1-8)

Too many of us have never learned the persevering, patient side of faith which keeps our faith fixed on its target in the midst of waiting, delays, apparent defeats, and many attacks of the enemy.

### #5 Good Works

One last way that faith will manifest itself in our lives is through good works. The Bible teaches that we were created in Christ Jesus for good works and these will be the demonstration of our faith.

James 2:14-21 (selected verses) “What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? . . .17 Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself. 18 But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works." . . .20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?”



Good works will always follow biblical faith, for faith brings us into a living connection with God and God's own life begins to flow into us causing us to want to do what He is doing. Jesus said it like this. . . John 14:12 *"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also. . ."* Jesus says very plainly that His own works will fill the life of the man who genuinely believes in Him.

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Application: Assess your life in these five areas mentioned above by answering the following questions on a scale from 1-10 with 1 = non-existent in me and 10 – being always true about me:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Believing, appropriating faith works actively and aggressively in my life?
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I believe God for miracles and they occur often in my life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Seed faith operates daily in my life. I am able to plant my faith in a promise of God and keep it there until the answers come.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. My prayers are answered regularly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The trust aspect of faith is strong in my life. I am able to rely upon and rest upon the Lord in every area of life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I obey God fully because I trust Him and believe His word.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Obedience is a joy and not a difficult 'job' in my life.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. I am able to persevere in faith and not give up in the middle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. I finish what I begin in the Lord.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10 My life is filled with the good works of Jesus and I know this is a sign of my belief in Him.

### Part 3: Moving in Faith – The Faith Life

So far in our study of faith, we have learned several basic principles:

- Jesus placed faith and the lack of it at the top of His list in His men's development and in the lives of all who came to Him.
- He made it clear that this attribute would determine what you received in His Kingdom and how much power flowed through your life.
- There are several ways faith will manifest itself in people's lives.

#### ***An Informal Definition of Faith***

When God created man, He created him to interact with the world He placed him into. God gave man senses to reach out and 'grasp' this world in and experience it fully. With hands, we can 'feel' the world around us, with sight, we can 'see' the world, with smell, we can 'get the scent' of things, etc..

In the same way, God gives man spiritual senses to interact with the realm of the Spirit and 'grasp' the good promises of God – FAITH. Faith is a spiritual sense given by God, which must be developed and used to grasp that unseen realm and make it reality in our daily lives.



Discussion: With another person, discuss how faith is like the natural senses given us. Make as many comparisons as you can think of. Is your faith operating like your five sense, but in the spiritual realm?

### The Biblical Definition of Faith

Heb 11:1,2 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval."

#### #1 Assurance or Substance

= Gr. – hupostasis – literally ‘to stand under’ solid confidence, complete assurance or actual substance – The word used for a title deed for a piece of property.

This is NOT hope! It is absolute assurance. It is having the legal title deed of ownership in your heart before you ever see it with your eyes.

**Illustration:** Man from another country is buying a large, expensive piece of property to build a mall. There are many months and even years of work until one day, the title deed is placed upon his desk. He has not been delivered the actual piece of land, but when he has the title deed, he has the land. He calls the crew, "Get ready men, we are about to build. I have the assurance, the substance of this land right here on my desk!"

#### #2 Of Things

= Clear cut specific things that already exist. Not things that will be, but things that already exist but are not yet seen or possessed.

Eph 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"

Paul tells us of tremendous deposits that have been already deposited into our accounts and await us to withdraw them. He says that . . .

*we already have been blessed. . .and yet many of us are not experiencing these blessings.*

*With every spiritual blessing . . .these are clear cut specific things – things – things that are already there for us in Jesus Christ! These things are revealed to us in the promises of God in Scripture.*

*These things already exist and are awaiting us in the heavenly places in Christ – Many have interpreted this to mean that we must wait for heaven to get there, but this is a grave error. Many blessings DO await us in heaven, but that is NOT the thrust of this Ephesian letter. These blessing are reserved, stored for us in another realm – sometimes called the heavenly places, sometimes referred to as glory, sometimes the realm of the Spirit.*

It is the work of faith to enter the eternal realm of the Spirit, the heavenly places and take hold of, appropriate the great things that already exist for us there!



Bible Study: See also – Col. 3.1-4, Phil 4.19, 2 Peter 1.3-4

### #3 Hoped For

This is where the power of hope begins to work for us. Hope is the building material that biblical, possessing faith comes from. We begin with nothing, discover a hope of one of these clear cut things God has for us, begin to believe and trust until faith comes or rather, until we come to faith. Once we come to faith, we have it!

Hope is a confident desire and expectation that something good is coming our way, but it is NOT faith. When it is hope, it is still in the future, but when faith enters our heart over the thing with God, we have it. It is ours even if we don't see it in the natural yet. At this point, we can begin to give thanks and rejoice even though it may not as yet become a reality in the 'seen and felt' world.

Where does this hope come from through which faith is made of? From the promises of God. When men begin to get a hold of the promises of God and they begin to 'hear' them for themselves and 'see' them for themselves, then hope for these clear cut things begin to fill the heart.

But we must NOT stop at hoping for these things. We must take them into the presence of God through believing prayer, confession, and thanksgiving until we come to faith. Sometimes this process happens very quickly and at other times, it takes weeks, months and even years, but once faith has come, we no longer hope for it even if we don't see it, we have it. It is as surely ours as if we held it in our hands.

#### LOOK AT THE FAITH PROCESS:

A person hears or sees a promise from God

Hope enters the heart and mind

The person through believing prayer, confession, and thanksgiving holds that promise before the Lord

The promise is kept there before the Lord in faith and patience (Heb. 6.12)

A divine assurance of the promise being given comes into the heart – this is biblical faith.

The actual THING is then or at a later time manifested into the 'seen' world.

### #4 Evidence of Things Not Seen

This is another piece of the puzzle of what faith is and how it operates. When we move from hope into faith, we have evidence in our hearts that it is ours even though we do not yet see it.

Evidence = Gr. Elegechos = convincing proof given in a court of law so that those who did not SEE the crime have enough evidence to give a verdict that it really happened.

This is the work of faith to completely convince us of something we have never seen, but we have so been convinced that it is as if we had actually seen it with our very eyes.

**Illustration** of a Court of Law and the attorney giving so much evidence that the people who did not SEE are convinced that it is so!



Discussion: What is the difference between hope and faith? How do you know when you have come to faith and are still not in hope? What part does hope play in the journey to faith? How do you move from hope to faith?

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### **Where Does Faith Come From?**

Many seem to teach that faith can be worked up in the human heart. It puts all of the responsibility for producing faith upon us. We must simply work harder to really believe deep in our hearts. Many are in bondage today trying produce something that God never asked them to produce, for faith comes from God alone. It is a power to believe and receive given by God, but it must be developed by man.

Rom 12:3 “...as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.” The Bible tells us that God has given men a measure of faith. Faith is an eternal attribute of God and can only come from Him.

Eph 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;” The Bible goes on to teach us that we are saved by grace through the power of faith. Even this faith is NOT OF OURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD!

Mark 11:22 “And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God.” Jesus teaches us to have the faith of God. The translation in the English NT is not accurate. The word ‘in’ is not present and the tense of the verb have denotes more fully, this rendering. . .have the faith of God. It is critical that we learn to receive faith from the Lord. Peter speaks of this when he says, “To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours. . .” 2 Peter 1:1

#### ILLUSTRATION OF FOOTBALL, RECEIVING FAITH

AS we begin to receive faith into our lives, we must do something with it. If we do not begin to use it through believing and trusting, our faith will become weaker. If we do use it, we will grow strong in faith. (See Rom 4.19-20)

### **The Process of Faith**

Let’s go back and summarize for clear understanding the world of faith that Jesus describes for us in the Bible and how we are to operate in it.

#1 There are clear cut things awaiting for us in Jesus Christ (Eph 1.3, Col. 3.1-4, Phil. 4.19)

#2 These things already exist in the eternal realm of the Spirit biblically called the heavenly places or glory.

#3 These clear cut things are revealed to us in the promises of God.

#4 We first receive the promise of God which begins to work of hope within us.

#5 We carry this hope in the form of a promise into God’s presence and hold it there through believing prayer, trust and thanksgiving.

#6 We maintain this faith posture until the assurance of the answer comes to our heart. This is often called ‘coming to faith’ or ‘praying through’. At this point, we are somewhat like a pregnant woman. She has a baby within her growing until it comes forth fully in the natural.

#7 We then should thank God for the answer and declare our faith boldly calling those things that are not as though they were until we see the manifestation in the natural realm. This is critical in the life of faith, thanksgiving and faith declaration!

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**Bible Study:** You can clearly find this process in the following verses: Eph. 1.3; Col. 3.1-4; Phil. 4.19; 2 Pet 1.3-4; Matt 21.21-22; Mark 11.22-24; Heb 11.1,6)

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## Part #4: The Fight and Testing of Faith

As we begin to walk further and further into the life and power of faith, we will discover that there are many battles and tests of faith. Faith does not come naturally or easily into our lives and God will see that it is tested to become pure, powerful and useful and the devil will fight against faith at every turn.

If you are endeavoring to move out into a life of faith, beware of the fight and testing of your faith. It is NOT an easy life, but it is a glorious one.



**Reflection:** Think of a time when you went through a testing of faith by the Lord or in a fight of faith with the enemy. What happened? How did you respond? Did you pass the test or win the fight?

### ***The Fight of Faith***

At the end of his life from a prison cell, Paul, the mighty apostle and man of faith wrote a few short letters to his spiritual son Timothy to who would carry on much of his work. Toward the end of the first letter, Paul challenges Timothy in the fight of faith that he will undergo in the years ahead. . .

“Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate. . .” 1 Tim 6:12-13

**Fight the Good Fight of Faith** – The devil hates faith perhaps above all things but love. He cannot stand faith for it is the power of God in a human heart to lay hold of the eternal promises of God and bring them into the here and now world. He will fight against faith coming into hearts and lives in many ways. . .

By keeping you from the Word of God hearing His promises or at best by having you read the word and pray in a ritualistic manner so that no life or power comes to you.

By Fighting to delay the promise coming so that you might give up on your faith and go on without having received the promise (Dan 10)

By sending the spirit of doubt and unbelief to hinder your coming to faith in the faith process. This often comes through unbelievers or ‘well meaning’ but doubt filled Christians.

Robbing you of the object of your faith before it comes to pass. (John 10.10) (*Illustration of someone who is saving to buy a house.*)

By sending some other form of attack or trial your way to discourage you and get you to give up on your faith in this specific area.

Paul speaks of this fight of faith three times in his writings to Timothy (1 Tim. 6.12-13; 1 Tim. 1.18-19; 2 Tim 4.7). As we investigate these scriptures, we learn a few things about this fight. . .

#1 **Lay hold of the Eternal life to which you were called** – the great and overall work of faith in our lives is to lay hold of eternal life on THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN and demonstrate to the



world who God is and what He looks like. Many believe and teach that eternal life is a place that we go when we go to heaven, but scripture teaches . . .

That we will be raised on the last day to live with Him eternally and calls it eternal life. (Matt 19.29; 25.46)

That we can live in the power and vitality of God's own eternal life now by the life and power of the Spirit. (John 6.40; John 17.3; Gal. 6.7-8; 1 John 1.1-4, 3.15; Col. 3.1-4; Eph. 3.17)

Eternal life is. . .the life and power of Jesus Christ by the reality of the Holy Spirit living within you. It is the summation of the promises of God made to the New Testament believer. Most of the promises of God point to some aspect of eternal life operating within a person's life.

The devil's great fight is to keep followers of Jesus out of eternal life's experiential power now and to keep them operating in their own nature and their own power. If he can do this, he immobilizes us from being what the Father desires of us and from being a large threat to his kingdom.

**Lay hold** = Gr. Epilambanomai - to seize, to take possession of – this denotes an aggressive activity to take hold of something until it becomes your possession.

This cannot be talking about going to heaven for that would become a works mentality of earning our way to heaven. It is rather speaking of a mighty operation of faith in our hearts to reach out by faith in the promises of God to seize this free gift of eternal life in Jesus and begin to live it and manifest it to the world around us.

**#2 Maintain the Good Confession** – This is another secret in the fight of faith, maintaining the good confession of our lives. Paul speaks of Timothy's good confession in light of Jesus Christ's good confession before Pontius Pilate and indicating to Timothy that we must do it Jesus' way in this fight of faith.

What confession is Paul speaking about that Jesus made and how does that relate to our personal fight in this world of faith?

In John 18, Jesus having been beaten mercilessly the night before, no longer resembling a man according to Isa 52 & 53 finds himself standing, bound and bloody before Pilate. Pilate begins to question Jesus whether or not He is a king and whether or not He has a kingdom. After a few minutes of questioning, we find this mighty GOOD CONFESSION that speaks about. Jesus powerfully asserts that He does have a kingdom after which Pilate says, 'So you are a king?' To which Jesus replies, "YOU BET I AM! IT WAS FOR THIS I WAS BORN AND FOR THIS THAT I HAVE COME!"

What does this mean for us in the great fight of faith? Everything on the outside of Jesus Christ's life at this point looked like complete ruin and failure. He was under the power of the Jews and the Romans, He had been beaten to a bloody mess and was about to be scourged and crucified, all His men had deserted Him. Everything had outwardly fallen apart, He could probably hear the powers of darkness already beginning to cheer and rejoice.

It is under these circumstances that the Son of God makes the mighty confession of His faith – **I AM A KING AND I HAVE A MIGHTY KINGDOM. YOU BET I AM!**

Paul is teaching us that there will be times in the faith life when all of the powers of darkness seem to be winning. The world is against us, we can hear the cheers of demons as we are going down, but this is when Jesus gave us an example of the fight of faith. We are then to make the GOOD CONFESSION of what He has promised us in confident faith no matter what the outward looks like!





#3 **Fight with the power of God's Prophetic Promises** – in 1 Tim. 1:18-19, Paul teaches Timothy to use the prophetic promises over his life to fight the good fight of faith. He goes on to say that by utilizing these promises previously given to us, we can **“Keep Faith”** – that is, we can stay into the realm of faith when all sorts of things attack us because we know how to hold on to God's promises over our lives.

Too many people give up on faith when things become difficult – and they will. We think that God has not answered our prayers or that there is NO WAY God can come through. By holding onto and claiming the promises, even in the midst of absolute difficulty and darkness.



**Reflection:** Think of times when you have been in the fight of faith, how have you responded? Have you won the fight or lost it in times past? What will you do next time to win this fight?

### ***The Testing of Our Faith***

Often God will see that our faith is thoroughly tested in many different areas so that it is a powerful and pure faith, able to obtain its goals and objectives regularly. Only a purified and tried faith is able to win the victories that God desires us to win in His name.

“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2-4

“In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ . . . obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls”. 1 Peter 1:6-9

In the 1 Peter passage, it teaches us that the testing of our faith is like gold going through the fire. The fire comes against the gold and all that is NOT gold comes to the surface. This is one of the ways our faith is tested by the Lord and by life itself. We face all sorts of difficulties and trials and what is really deep within us comes to the surface. We have trials in the form of financial crisis, sickness, problems, relationship problems, etc. and all of these bring the surface the reality of lack of reality in our faith. These questions are answered when our faith is tested:

Can we go to God and obtain things when things are difficult?

Can we trust God when everything else seems to tell us He is not there?

Can we persevere when the answer does not come or when it is long delayed – this is one of the ways our faith is tested – delayed answers.

Have we been trusting in God or our own abilities?

God will many times bring us to the very end of all of our own resources so that we are totally dependent upon Him and then we will either move into the faith/trust realm or we will back away from the thing we were going after.

In the Bible, some of the ways God tested people were. . .

Delayed answers to prayer



Taking them to the wilderness / desert for a season of life  
Facing them against giants or armies far beyond their ability  
Telling them to send most of their army home and trust entirely in Him  
Persecution and tribulation  
Asking them to perform some miracle when they had NO resource at all

If we are going to be men and women of faith, we must pass the tests and fight of faith as did the great men and women of the Bible. We must know that they are coming, expect them, face them, embrace them, dig into God like never before and be like a bull-dog on a bone, not letting go of God or His promise until we come through victoriously!



**Bible Study:** Study the following Scriptures and Examples and discover as many principles of dealing with the fight and testing of faith that you can find.

Scriptures: James 1.2-5; 1 Peter 1.6-9; 1 Tim. 1.18-19; 1 Tim. 6.12-13; 2 Tim. 4.7; John 16.33; Rom. 8.35-39

Examples: Abraham's testing in waiting for Isaac (Gen. 12-22); Joseph's trials in ascending to the throne of Egypt (Gen 38-41); David's road to the throne of Israel (1 Sam. 16-End of Book); The testing of the Children of Israel in the Wilderness (See esp. Deut. 7-8)

## Part 5: The Crippling Power of Doubt and Unbelief

As you study the Scriptures, you see a second force working upon the earth that seeks to block the activity and work of faith. This second spiritual force is the power of doubt and unbelief. There seemed to be several great enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ as He walked upon the earth. .

The devil and his demons

The religious spirit especially working through Religious Leaders of Israel

Natural weaknesses in human beings

But above all of these things, it appears that the only thing that stops the flow of Jesus' love and power into people's lives is doubt and unbelief. It is difficult to point to many other causes for blockage to the flow of His grace and power for faith releases grace and grace causes His great power to flow.

In Mark 9.19-25, a man seeking a miracle from Jesus said, "If you can do anything. . ." He was putting the emphasis on if Jesus could or if He would. That is where we often make the mistake I feel. Jesus has clearly said what He can and wants to do both through His promises and His life story! His response to the man is His response to us today, "If I can?" "All things are possible to him who believes!" Jesus seemed to be saying, "Sir, it is not My desire or Ability that is the question, that is clear! The question is, can you believe?"

Today, we have many excuses, most are very spiritual sounding, on why His love and power are not flowing more in our ministries, churches, and cities. We have excuses like God is not moving because of His sovereign will, God did not heal because of this or that, but we do not see Jesus often making these same excuses. He points over and over to the blockage being in the hearts of men in the form of doubt or unbelief.



When His men were filled with fear in the midst of a storm, He points to their small faith – Matt 8.26

When Peter begins to sink after taking a few steps of faith out onto the water, Jesus says, “Why did you begin to doubt?” Matt 14.31

When His men could not cast a demon out, the disciples asked Him why they could not do it. He pointed again to their lack of faith. Matt 17.20

In speaking to His followers about finances and daily needs being met, He tells them that they only have little faith. Luke 12.28

In His home town, He could only do a few minor miracles because of the unbelief in the entire town. Mark 6.1-6

The Children of Israel were not able to enter the promised land because of unbelief and disobedience. (Heb 3.18-4.2)

Doubt and unbelief cripple us to really laying hold of God and His promises today just as it did in Jesus’ day. It will keep us from entering into the life **and** ministry Jesus has promised us, just as it did the Children of Israel thousands of years ago. It is one of the chronic diseases of Man’s heart!



Reflection: How do you see unbelief working in your own life? List all of the ways you see it? How do you feel about it? Is it a real problem within you? What about your church?

After teaching on persevering faith, Jesus makes this statement, “**However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?**” Luke 18:8

He seemed to look forward and see that He potentially would have a Church and a people on the earth who did NOT live in the realm of faith but their lives were more characterized by doubt and unbelief.

He knew that Satan could not stop Him, religion could not stop Him, and sin could not stop Him. One thing could – a people who claimed to be His but who were not filled with faith, but rather with unbelief.

### ***New Testament Words Dealing with Unbelief***

Unbelief if not just the absence of faith, it can be much worse than that. Just as faith is a spiritual force sent into the human heart by God, unbelief is a dark spirit that is at work upon the earth to cripple the people of God and block them from moving into the supernatural realm. Here are several NT words dealing with this hindering attitude:

**Apisteuo (Gr)** – most often translated unbelief. This word denotes a natural weakness in the human heart to faith for in a supernatural God and supernatural workings. This problem lies in the heart of all men. It is the natural weakness of people to believe in the working of an unseen supernatural God. It is best characterized by the words of the boys father in Matt 9.24 when he says, “I do believe, but help my unbelief!” Help the natural weakness of my heart as I try to believe you for this miracle.



**Oligopistos (Gr)** – this word is often translated littleness of faith or smallness of faith and is used by Jesus of His disciples several times when they tried to believe but the miracle did not come forth. It denotes a faith that is not quite developed fully enough to see the answers come forth. (See Matt 8.26, 16.8, 17.20, Luke 12.28) This is another term Jesus usually used for His own disciples. He spoke to them as children who were maturing and yet some things were deficient in the maturity of their faith. There were lessons yet to learn and development yet to occur. It is a faith that is growing and yet is not able to lay hold of some things yet God has promised.

**Apistia (Gr)** – Usually translated unbelief. This is a much stronger word than Apisteuo. It has more of an understanding of a deliberate refusal to believe. (See Matt 13.58, Mark 6.6, Mark 16.14, Rom 3.3, Rom 4.20, Heb 3.12, 19) Although this is not overly clear in Scripture. It appears that there is a second problem of heart unbelief that is more serious than merely natural human weakness. It is the refusal to believe! It is the refusal to believe His word and even your own eyes or ears when you hear and see. This is a stern rebuke to His hometown in Mark 6.6 & Matt 13.58. It is a rebuke to His own after His resurrection when they see Him with their own eyes but refuse to believe their own eyes and ears in Mark 16.14. It is the ultimate rebuke of a heart in the Children of Israel who although they saw and heard Him speak and work on their behalf over and over, they refused to believe (Heb. 3.12, 19)

**Distazo (Gr)** – Translated doubt. It literally means to waver between two opinions. To look at one and then the other and to go back and forth. (See 14.31, 28.17) This is one last problem in the human heart with unbelief. It is the tendency to begin believing God, but then looking around at other things and beginning to waver back and forth. Maybe He will move, maybe He won't. When we get into doubt, we lose all supernatural footing and sink into the sea around us like Peter. Best examples of this is Peter and the water incident in a negative manner, of Abraham NOT wavering through unbelief (Rom 4.18-20). James calls this a double minded man in James 1.6-7. Jesus said that if we had faith and did not doubt in our heart, anything was possible to us (Matt 21.21-22).



Discussion: Which of these is most prominent in your life? How do you see these at work in the lives of those you minister to? How are they limiting the activity of Jesus Christ? Do you really believe that the blockage to His power is on Man's side or is it on His side in heaven?

### ***Where does Unbelief and all its forms come from?***

Unbelief has its roots in several things. We must discover them in our own lives and root them out!

#1 **A Natural Knowledge of Jesus** – In His hometown of Nazareth, they could not believe in His supernatural words or power because they had grown up with a non-supernatural Jesus for 30 years and now, how could He be doing these miracles. (See Mark 6.1-6) That is many of our problem today. We have grown up with a non-supernatural Jesus and we just can't cross the barrier into a supernatural faith now. Paul says in 2 Cor. 5. 16 says that there was a time when they knew Jesus Christ according to the flesh, but they do so no longer.



WE must begin to renew our minds to a supernatural Lord and a supernatural life. This is normal and this is all that we will settle for.

**#2 A Religious Spirit** – a second cause of unbelief is the work of the religious spirit. This spirit always attacks the supernatural works of Jesus and tries to lower our lives into a set of rules and safe doctrines but limits faith and power. We see this at work through the religious leaders of Jesus day. This is particularly true of the Pharisees. Jesus said to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees.

**#3 A Rational, Humanistic Mindset** – This is clearly the case in Jesus' day for the Sadducees. Jesus said to beware of their teaching also. These men were not nearly so religious, but they totally were rationalistic and had to understand everything with the mind. They denied miracles, the spiritual realm, and even demons and angels. This is a major problem in our cultures today. In Daniel 10 speaking of spiritual warfare, the Angel that met with Daniel told him that the Prince of Greece was soon to come and make war against the people of God. This occurred in 330 BC when Alexander the Great's men swept the modern world spreading the Hellenistic message of deification of the human mind and a throwing off of superstition. We are still a product of this today! Paul, in 2 Cor 10.3-5, speaks of our warfare and he speaks of throwing down everything that exalts itself against God and His ways. The first thing he speaks of is the Greek word *logismos* from which our word logic comes from. To move in the realm of faith, we must throw down the Lordship of Logic although we do not disregard it entirely.

**#4 The working of a literal Spirit of Unbelief** – Although it cannot be clearly proved through Scripture, I feel that there is definitely a spirit of unbelief at work in the hearts and minds of men trying to keep them in bondage to doubt and unbelief. It is fighting through the above mentioned things

God **HATES** unbelief and all of its lesser forms and so must we. WE must discover it within ourselves and root it out in every way. We must bring our lives into a living union with Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit and Word to allow Him to renew us in faith and cleanse us from the unbelief in our hearts.



**Bible Study:** Look at and study the passages in this part of the course. Put yourself in these situations and see what really lies within your heart. Journal as you study. Other passages: Matt 13.53-58; Mark 6.1-6; Mark 9.19-25; Mark 16.14; Romans 4.16-21; Romans 11.20-23; Heb. 3.12-4.2



**Reflection:** What are you going to do about the unbelief and doubt at work in your life and church? How are you going to confront it? When will you begin?

## Part 6: Miraculous Faith-Moving into Miracles

As we study and begin to move out more into the realm and life of faith, one area of faith needs particular emphasis – **MIRACULOUS FAITH**. Miraculous faith is the operation of faith that brings forth miracles and mighty works of God before people's very eyes. Today, God is restoring this kind of faith to many, but there are still many parts of the Church of Jesus Christ that are NOT moving in miraculous faith.



**Bible Study:** Study the following passages and discover what should be the normal operation of this miraculous faith as far as Jesus and the New Testament describes.

Mark 16.16-19; John 14.12; Matt 10.7-8; Matt 17.19-21; Mark 11.22-24; Acts 3.16; Acts 4.29-31; Acts 6.5; Gal. 3.5

### 3 Factors to Miraculous Faith Operating Freely

#1 **A climate of faith produced by a praying people** – In Luke 5.16-17, we find an important phrase. Jesus had just finished a time of prayer and the Bible records that “*the power of the Lord was present to heal.*” That is, there seemed to be the right environment created for healing miracles. (See Acts 4)

When a people of God come together over and over seeking from Him the working of miracles and deliverances, they begin to change the environment they live and dwell in and God's miraculous faith begins to operate. Here are some signs of this environment of faith. . .

There is a faith and expectancy generated  
Unbelief and contrary spirits to miracles are driven out  
Miracles become common in the community not just the elite

When chronic unbelief rule the atmosphere, as is did in Jesus' hometown, even Jesus could not do great miracles there. (Mark 6) When Jesus did a major miracle, especially raising the dead, He often removed the negative, wailing, unbelief from the room. (Luke 8.51) Peter did the same thing (Acts 9.39-40).

Do NOT let negative, unbelieving people sit in the front rows of your meetings. Fill these with faith-filled, positive people.

#2 **An anointed person who has become a channel of faith** – There must be people in the community who have been with Jesus and received real living faith from Him. These people have paid a price to become channels of miracles for others. They have paid the price of being much with the Lord and pioneering a heart and life that God can fill and use. They have broken through the crippling power of unbelief and are channels of faith. Here are some of the marks of a channel of faith:

Has received real faith from God  
Has received an anointing of power from the Lord (Acts 6.5)  
Lives a holy life under the discipline and leading of the Spirit  
Has a life of intimate communion with God (John 14.10-12)  
Is able to hear His voice (John 5.19, 30)  
Obeys with child-like faith and obedience to the voice of God  
Speaks the word of faith rather than always praying about everything (Mark 11.23-24)  
Is filled with compassion like Jesus (Matt 20.34, Mark 1.41)



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Is not timid or afraid to stir up and use the gift given to them (2 Tim. 1.6-7)  
Is eager, humble and hungry to be taught new things by the Spirit of God.

As you seek to become a powerful channel of faith, you must come to understand the concept of **impartational faith**. You very seldom see Jesus or one of the 12 apostles ever pray for someone for a miracle. They gave them something through the laying on of hands and faith declaration.

In **Acts 3.1-10**, we see a great miracle take place through Peter. “. . .what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene — walk!” We see in this passage, Peter knew that he had something and he **gave him something**.

The concept of laying on of hands in the Scripture is the understanding that God the Holy Spirit has come upon you and His power can now flow through you. When you lay hands on someone and speak the word of faith, you can expect miracles to occur. This is impartational faith! I have the ability to be a channel for the Rivers of Living Water to flow through for others to be healed.

#3 **A People who have learned to be good receivers of God’s miracles** – a third ingredient to moving in miracles is teaching people how to be good receivers. In the Bible, sometimes it was Jesus’ faith that released God’s power to heal, but at other times, it was the faith of the people who sucked it right out of Him. He often said, “*Your faith has made you well.*”

Examples of good receivers - Matt 9.22; Matt 9.29; Matt 15.28; Mark 5.34

We must teach people about God’s promises and power. We must teach them how to receive

**Conclusions:** It is possible to see miracles when only one of these factors is present, but the chances of consistent miraculous working by God becomes much greater as all three of these factors are developed over time.



Application: What must you do to become a channel of faith for the Lord Jesus Christ to use? Are you involved with a praying community who are creating the atmosphere of the miraculous? Have you learned and are you teaching others to be good receivers of the miraculous working of God?

Notes



## Part 7: Building a Life of Faith

How do we become people of faith? How do we begin this journey into a life of vibrant, possessing faith?

### **Coming to Him**

We must clearly know that faith comes from God and God alone. As said before, we cannot work it up, but we must learn to come to Him to receive faith and then begin to use what He gives us.

**Hebrews 11.6** says that the first step in the faith life is coming to Him. We must learn to seek the Lord and let Him begin the faith process in our lives. At first we come to Him in general ways, seeking Him, but as we seek Him, He begins to do two things – **SPEAK TO US & REVEAL THINGS TO US!** It is in this revelation and hearing that faith begins to operate.

**Romans 10.17** tells us that faith comes by hearing Christ speak to us. As we come to Him, He begins to speak to us. These words we hear from Him form promises in our hearts. Many times this is through the Scriptures in the promises of God's word, but at other times, He speaks specific promises to us about the situations of our lives.

In **Gen. 15.1-6**, we see a second way that faith moves into the human heart, it is through revelation – SEEING SOMETHING. God took Abram outside and said *look at the stars, this is how many descendants you will have*. The Bible records, "**THEN Abram believed God. . .**"

We must develop a life of coming to Him, hearing and seeing! As we hear and see things from Jesus Christ, the promises of God become like seeds in our heart and as we continue to bring these to Him in believing prayer and thanksgiving, finally faith comes and we then are able to possess the specific object He has promised us.

### **The Renewing of the Mind**

A second key area we must develop in the life of faith is our thinking. Paul said that our lives are transformed by the renewing of the mind (Rom. 12.2). Many believers have never taken the time to renew their mind and they are still living under the bondage of the old, carnal thought processes. Renewing the mind is NOT just thinking about spiritual things; it is developing a whole new way of looking at God and the world around you so that your mind can be a channel of God's faith and not your own natural unbelief.

Here are some things you must do in the renewal of the mind:

**Make war on all negative thought.** Faith will not operate in the atmosphere of negative thinking. This does NOT mean that we deny difficult situations or obstacles, but it does mean that we see them and think about them in a spirit of positive faith.

**Train yourself to think in terms of Miracles.** Most of us have grown up in a non-supernatural way and we must work together with the Lord to train ourselves to think in terms of miracles. In John 6.1-14, Jesus feeds the five thousand. In the story, He turns to Phillip and asks him to feed them. Phillip's response was absolutely natural and unbelieving. He never factored in the possibility of the miraculous. Andrew on the other hand, steps forward and offers a few fish and loaves. He didn't understand how it could happen, but there was the spark of miraculous faith in his offering. Because of this, Jesus performed a great miracle.

**Begin thinking in terms of abundance, success, and victory.** In the Scripture, there is never, never teaching about God being a God of half way provision or victory for His people. Both the stories and the promises of God reveal Himself to be a God of great abundance and absolute





success for His people. We must drive out all poverty, *just enough*, thinking in every area of life and see God for who He is and ourselves for who He says we are!

**The Faith Affirmation Process** – How do we renew our minds? The Bible says that *God calls those things that are not, as though they were* (Rom. 4.17). This is one of the great keys of the Bible. It is the process of getting into God's word under the leading of the Holy Spirit and forming faith confessions about your life. As you make a faith declaration over and over, you are declaring your future as though it were today.

## **The Motivating Factor of Love and Compassion**

Another key factor in the development of the faith life is growing in love and compassion. In Jesus' life, at least eight recorded times, compassion for another's need was the motivating force for His faith to go into action.



Bible Study: Matt 9.36; Matt 14.14; Matt 15.32; Matt 20.34; Mark 1.41

Faith is not just some magic formula to get things from God. It must work together with love. Paul says that *faith works through love* in Gal 5.6. Somehow, these two divine attributes that God desires to give and develop within us, must work hand in hand. To try to move into a life of faith, without laying down your life for Christ's sake and others is a dead end street.

## **The Words We Speak**

To move further out in the faith life, we must begin to regulate what comes out of our mouth. Many people begin a faith life, but sabotage their own progress with their words. We cannot have faith in our hearts and then speak negative words of doubt and unbelief. **WE MUST CHANGE THE WAY WE SPEAK!**

Prov 21:23 "He who guards his mouth and his tongue, Guards his soul from troubles."

Prov 18:20-21 "With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; He will be satisfied with the product of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit."

The Lord's brother, James, teaches us that we must tame the tongue, it is a restless evil setting things on fire from Hell. With it, we bless and then turn around a few minutes later and release curses upon our lives and circumstances. We must learn to speak positive, faith filled words and refuse to keep turning to perverted negative words of doubt.

## **Risk: Taking Steps of Faith**

We must add RISK – THE STEP OF FAITH - together with these other elements or our faith will never work. We must do something with the faith God gives, and this something most often comes in some form of risk or step to take.

Heb. 11.8 says that Abraham obeyed, going out when God called him, not knowing where he was going. He simply obeyed and took a step of faith.

Peter had to take a step of faith when Jesus, walking on the water, said to him, "COME." The only way he was going to activate his faith was to literally step out and take a genuine faith step.

When Jesus sent out His 12 on their first missionary journey, He told them to take no money with them and to live by faith.



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The bottom line of the life of faith is the faith step which is a risk. We must step out of the boat and stay on the water until we see God come through with His promises. Don't let fear hold you in bondage or you will never move out in faith.

### ***Persevere!***

One last word – persevere. In this life of faith, Jesus teaches over and over that if we are to receive the promises of God, we must persevere. Many give up when the answers are delayed longer than they would like, but they never receive the prize, but we must mix patience and perseverance with our faith walk to obtain the promises He has for us.

Luke 18.1-8 – Jesus teaches through the story of the widow that consistent perseverance gains the answer from the Lord.

Heb. 6.11-12 – God teaches us that we must hold on to our faith, persevering in it so that we might obtain the promises through faith and patience.

Biblical Examples – Abraham and the promise of Isaac, Joseph and the fulfillment of his dreams



**Application:** We have now studied the life of faith. It is time to do something with it. You must begin to put to use the lessons of this course immediately. Choose one or two major areas that some powerful work of God is needed in. Find the Biblical promises for this and seek God for any specific promises He might give you. Begin to faith journey of obtaining this great work of God on your behalf.

***“Attempt Great Things for God, Expect Great Things from God!”***

William Carey

*Notes*

## Scripture Appendix On Faith

**Old Testament Examples of Faith:** Study the following examples of faith in the Old Testament. What can you learn from each person's life?

- 1) Noah – Gen. 6-9
  
- 2) Abraham – Gen 12-25
  
- 3) Moses – Exodus 3-15
  
- 4) Joshua – 1-6
  
- 5) David – 1 Samuel 17

**New Testament Examples of Faith:** Study the following examples of faith in the New Testament. What can you learn from each person's life?

- 1) The Faith of the Centurion – Matt 8. 5-13
  
- 2) The Faith of the Four Friends – Mark 2.1-12
  
- 3) The Faith of the Syrophenician Woman - Matt 15:21-28
  
- 4) Peter and John – Acts 3-5
  
- 5) Ananias – 9.10-19

### **Key Passages on Faith:**

- 1) Mark 11.22-24
- 2) Luke 11.5-13
- 3) Luke 18.1-8
- 4) Matt. 17.14-21
- 5) Acts 3.16
- 6) Romans 4.16-21
- 7) Gal. 3
- 8) James 2.14-26
- 9) James 5.13-18
- 10) Heb. 11 & 12.1-2