

Term 1 - Understanding the Journey

Lesson 6

Our Faith – By the Word of God: Part 1

The Lord commanded us to walk in faith. We have great access to his Spirit and His Word by faith.

Romans 10:17 *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”* **Romans 1:17** *“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith”.* **Hebrews 11:6** *“But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

Our walk of faith endures until we see the Lord coming in the clouds. Faith activates all the gifts and promises of God and is designed to grow and mature as we walk with God. **Matthew 17:20** *“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 13:31-32** *“The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.”*

The Necessity of Faith

We learned about the importance of the Word as the foundation for our relationship with our Lord. Simply reading, hearing or studying the Word is not the complete plan of God for his Word. We are on a journey of faith. Without faith, the Word is just words on a page or a great philosophy. With faith, the Word becomes our bread of life. It changes our lives, feeds our souls and becomes the sovereign authority for our lives. **Hebrews 4:1-2** *“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”* **Hebrews 11:6** *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

We have a measure of faith that is activated when we are born again. Through water baptism, we have a revelation of His great resurrection and our faith begins to grow when we diligently seek Him. The following scriptures show the necessity for a growing, active faith in our Christian walk. We have been given a measure of faith - what we do with it is in our hands. **2 Corinthians 5:7** *“(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”.* **Hebrews 10:38-39** *“Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”*

Consider some of the highlights from these scriptures.

- There is no profit in the ministered Word unless it is mixed with faith
- It is impossible to please God without faith
- We walk according to what faith sees and not by our natural sight
- Those who are justified of God, live by faith

Faith is critical to our walk with Jesus. Every believer must be stirred to understand what faith is and how to make it grow. We look to the Word for instruction for how to grow our faith.

What is Faith?

The faith that God requires is succinctly defined in His Word. **Hebrews 11:1** *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* This verse is the beginning of the greatest chapter in the Holy Bible about faith. It recounts the faith of the men and women of God who went before us. Each account begins with two simple words “By faith”. We can see that they had faith in the Word of God. They walked in the commandments of God, no matter how impossible it seemed, how great the opposition was, or how long it took. In these accounts, we also see that there was noticeable substance to their faith. They walked according to God’s Word and they also received according to God’s Word. Their lives are evidence that God’s Word is true. Today, our unwavering belief in God’s Word calls us to action. This action is the faith that God speaks about in his Word. **2 Corinthians 1:18-20** *“But as God is true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.”*

God has promises for our lives that that we haven’t yet obtained. Faith says they shall be obtained. There are events in the world foretold in the Word that haven’t yet happened. Faith says they shall happen. The world says the Church is not relevant today and failing but the Word says in **Matthew 16:18** *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* Our faith is believing, confessing and walking in the words spoken by Jesus.

Our Faith – A Gift from God

Faith is crucial for every Christian. We are called to an unwavering belief in God’s Word. If you are like many Christians, it is one thing to read or hear the scriptures about faith. It is quite another to walk in faith daily, trusting the Lord's Word for all aspects of our lives. Some believe that sheer strength of character is enough. If this were so, would it mean that some would simply have an innate faith and others not? Thankfully, this is not so. “Whosoever believeth in him” spoken in John 3:16 is for everyone and not just for those who possess the right character.

In his infinite mercy towards us, our Lord has made provision for us to have the faith that he requires. He himself gives it to us as a gift. We can leave the gift of faith unopened with no benefit to our lives. All mankind has the same opportunity to walk in faith.

The Measure of Faith

The measure of faith is the ability for all mankind to believe and respond to the Word of God. **Romans 12:3** *“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.”* The measure of faith was activated when we heard the Word and when his Spirit touched the depth of our being.

This demands a response from us (faith is our response). We see an example of this when Peter ministered the Gospel after he was baptized in the Holy Ghost. **Acts 2:37** *“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?”* This is the Word being mixed with faith in Peter and in those who heard Peter minister the Gospel. The measure of faith is a gift of God so that all men might be saved.

The measure of faith is given so that we can begin to believe on the Word of God and the sacrifice of God’s son Jesus Christ. When a lost soul hears the Word ministered by a faithful believer, the measure of faith can come alive and the person can choose to act. This is his grace for our lives. God searches continually all over the world for this to happen. It is why we should witness Christ Jesus in faith, believing that everyone we interact with has been given the ability to believe. **Ephesians 2:8** *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”*

Faith as a Fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Spirit are the Christ-like qualities that we begin to develop in Christ Jesus through being born again of His Spirit and baptized in water unto resurrection life. **Galatians 5:22-25** *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* In this verse, faith is the fruit of receiving Jesus as saviour. We begin to take on His qualities, including faithfulness. It is not something we strive to achieve. It is simply believing the Word when He says we are now new creatures in Christ Jesus. **2 Corinthians 5:17** *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

We should never question whether our faith is enough to fulfil all the Word of God. The faith that is given to us is the same faith that was in Jesus Christ. It is given that the Word of God would be completely fulfilled. While we have this faith, we may not all move in the fullness of it. We are still in fleshly bodies that have a will against the Word of God. Our responsibility is to deal with our flesh so that the Spirit may reign in our lives. **Romans 8:13** *“For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”*

The faith that is a “fruit of the Spirit” is a result of the measure of faith and it serves a different purpose in our lives. Whereas the measure of faith was for us to believe, the fruit of the Spirit faith is given so that others may believe. This faith is to be evident in our lives through the way we live and also by the faith we use to do the works of the Lord. **Luke 4:18-19** *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”* We can do this by the faith that is now in us as a fruit of His Spirit.

Gift of Faith

The gift of faith is for the perfecting of the saints. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11** *“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.”*

The Lord did not give a single man everything necessary for the building of His church. Rather, the Lord gave different abilities or gifts and tasks to many men and women. The Lord gave certain tasks to some individuals that require an extraordinary level of faith to accomplish. These tasks are beyond believing for yourself or believing for others. They require believing in the face of strong opposition from the enemy and even from those who you may count as brothers or sisters in Christ Jesus. Noah, Moses, Abraham, King David, Isaiah, Joshua and many more were given such tasks. They could not be accomplished by any natural strength or skill but rather required a special “high-powered faith”. This is the Holy Ghost gift of faith. It is given by the Lord to those that He asks to undertake the most challenging tasks in the building of His Church. The Lord knows the opposition and challenges associated with the dispensation of the Holy Ghost. He does not ask us to do things that we would fail in. The gift of faith is the Lord’s provision for us to fulfil or succeed in the tasks that He has asked us to do.

While the Lord gives us faith, we all have responsibility for nurturing and using the faith as the Lord intended. In our next lesson on faith, we will look at what the Lord says concerning the challenges to our faith and instruction on overcoming these challenges.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

SCRIPTURES	QUESTIONS
<p>Luke 8: 43-48 <i>(43) And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, (44) Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. (45) And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? (46) And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. (47) And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. (48) And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did the woman seek out Jesus (hint Matt 9:21) 2. What was operating in her to cause her to believe? 3. Did the woman just touch the hem of his garment? 4. Was her faith in word only? 5. What was the substance of her faith? 6. Was the purpose to heal her issue of blood only?
<p>Romans 10:6-11 <i>(6) But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) (7) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) (8) But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; (9) That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (11) For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. What is our righteousness of? 8. What attributes of the Word are described in these scriptures? 9. What are the acts of faith described in these scriptures? 10. What is the substance of faith described in these scriptures?
<p>Luke 7:1-10</p>	

<p><i>(1) Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum.</i></p> <p><i>(2) And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.</i></p> <p><i>(3) And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.</i></p> <p><i>(4) And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:</i></p> <p><i>(5) For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.</i></p> <p><i>(6) Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:</i></p> <p><i>(7) Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.</i></p> <p><i>(8) For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.</i></p> <p><i>(9) When Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.</i></p> <p><i>(10) And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.</i></p>	<p>11. What did the centurion believe by the measure of faith given him?</p> <p>12. What did the centurion use his faith for?</p> <p>13. What did the centurion do or say that caused Jesus to comment on his great faith?</p> <p>14. Was there substance and evidence of the centurion's faith?</p>
---	--

ANSWER KEY

Read **Luke 8: 43-48**

1. The woman believed that Jesus had the power to heal her if she just touched His garment.
2. She believed because of the measure of faith given to her by God to respond to Jesus.
3. She touched his garment but in doing so touched His heart causing virtue (power) to be released.
4. No. Her faith caused her to act. By that faith, she sought Jesus out and touched his garment.
5. The substance of her faith caused the healing of her issue of blood and gave her a blessing of peace.
6. The woman was healed and her faith was confirmed and strengthened. The event was a witness to those who were there that Jesus' Word is true.

Read **Romans 10: 6-11**

7. Our righteousness is of faith (believe)
8. The Word is nigh (with) thee. The Word is in thy mouth. The Word is in thy heart. The Word is of faith
9. The acts of faith were to confess with thy mouth and believe in thy heart.
10. The substance of faith is righteousness through believing and salvation through confession.

Read **Luke 7: 1-10**

11. The centurion believed that Jesus had the authority from God over sickness.
12. He used his faith in Jesus for the benefit (healing) of his servant whom he loved.
13. He recognized the God-given authority of Jesus (thou art the Christ) to heal his servant. He had faith in Jesus' authority to cause real things (substance) to happen. He also recognized that God's authority through Jesus is so great that it did not require Jesus to be there in person. Jesus speaking (putting the Word into the air) was enough.
14. Yes. The centurion's servant was healed. The centurion's faith was confirmed. The people that were there received a deeper understanding of what it means to have faith.

Notes: