

Faith in a Faithless World

A Message from Jesus Ministry

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Faith in a Faithless World

We live in a world that has lost sight of God. Our politicians and atheistic attorneys have moved to throw God out of our schools, government offices, courtrooms, and all public events. These people have, in effect, told God to get lost.

The Apostle Paul spoke of our days, “This know also, that **in the last days perilous times shall come**. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away... So do these also **resist the truth**: men of corrupt minds, **reprobate concerning the faith**” (II Tim. 3:1-8).

Jesus Christ was very frustrated with those living in Palestine, “...O faithless and perverse [corrupt] generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you [put up with you]?...” (Matt. 17:17).

Today we live in a faithless world. This society has become even more annoying to our resurrected Lord than the generation at His first coming. He said to the Church in our age, “...‘These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; **‘I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot**: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm [spiritually], and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, ‘I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing [spiritually];’ and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked [spiritually]: **I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see**. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent’”” (Rev. 3:14-19).

Only a few today care about having faith in God. Many refuse to believe in, much less have faith and trust in the Creator of all things. Jesus wondered out loud about our time when He said, “...Nevertheless **when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?**” (Luke 18:8).

Faith and trust are synonymous. You can’t have one without the other. You can not have faith in someone that you can not trust!

Bible Definition of Faith

In chapter eleven of the book of Hebrews, we find a detailed account of what it means to live by faith. Please read the whole chapter. It begins with the biblical definition of faith. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things

not seen” (Heb. 11:1). “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**” (Heb. 11:6). To grow in faith, we must first believe God will do what He has promised!

Faith then, is the confidence we have in God and His ability to perform what He said He would do! We live by faith in the promises of God, having complete confidence in Him!

The Beginning of Our Faith

Where do we get our faith to believe? How do we begin thinking about God or His Son Jesus Christ? We notice that in our society some believe and others have no interest. Why this phenomenon?

For all of us who are now Christians, we didn’t come to believe in Jesus Christ all on our own! “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father... Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures” (Jas. 1:17-18). It was the Father who drew us into a relationship with His Son. Jesus said, “**No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him**: and I will raise him up at the last day” (John 6:44). So, we learn that every good and perfect gift comes from the Father who draws us into an understanding of Jesus and gives us the faith to believe.

All spiritual gifts come from the Father through His Spirit. “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the LORD. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. **In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you,**’ says the LORD...” (Jer. 29:11-14 NLT).

It is the Father who causes us to begin to search for the Truth. And if we ask the Father to reveal Himself to us, He will begin to open our minds to the understanding of His Son. We are told in the book of Luke, “And I say unto you, **Ask**, and it shall be given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; **knock**, and it shall be opened unto you” (Luke 11:9). “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?*” (Luke 11:13).

It is through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit that the Father draws us to Him through His Son Jesus Christ and gives us the faith to believe. If we ask the Father for understanding, then continue to seek answers in His Word, He will lead us into all truth. But that is not the end of our faith or the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Believing God

How does having faith in God get started? Isaiah records how this process begins. “...To this *man* will I look, *even to him that is* poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth

at My word” (Isa. 66:2). You are to have the humility of a little child, being open and respectful to the Word of God. It all begins with a teachable attitude. Jesus said, “...**Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven**” (Matt. 18:3). Respect the authority of Jesus to direct your life, then obey His instructions.

So many today read the Word of God, then think they have the authority within themselves to interpret the Bible to suit themselves and their own beliefs. They want to tell you what they feel the Bible says and give you their own interpretation of it. They then set themselves up as the supreme authority in place of God! This does not respect Jesus Christ as the Word of God! People need to realize, “...that **no prophecy [or instruction] of the scripture is of any private interpretation**. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost” (II Pet. 1:20-21).

We must humble ourselves before the Word of God and let God’s Holy Spirit lead us into all truth! “...When He, the **Spirit of truth**, is come, **He will guide you into all truth**: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, *that* shall He speak: and **He will show you things to come**. **He shall glorify Me**: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall show *it* unto you. All things that the Father hath are Mine: therefore said I, that **He shall take of Mine, and shall show *it* unto you**” (John 16:13-15). The Bible will interpret itself; scripture with reveal scripture. “For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little” (Isa. 28:10).

Jesus has been given the authority to release to our understanding the pages of the Bible (Rev. 5:5). Are we willing to allow Jesus to guide us through the power of the Holy Spirit into all truth? “**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God**” (Rom. 8:14). “For we walk by faith, not by sight” (II Cor. 5:7).

Are you willing to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you into an obedient, responsive relationship with the Father through His Word?

Have you chosen to work hard to obey God? Are you willing to surrender your will to the Father? Or, are you a lazy Christian and think the gift of salvation is enough for you? If you are a lethargic Christian, God will have to use other external forces to determine your faith and trust in Him.

Learning to Live by Faith

How do we learn to live by faith and trust in God? We Christians must study the Word of God every day, asking the Father to reveal to us His Son. “So then **faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God**” (Rom. 10:17). We grow in faith when we study the Bible regularly and apply the instructions to our lives.

The Apostle Paul testified of his conversion and faith, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (Gal. 2:20). We, as Christians, were also crucified with Christ and now live by faith in the Son of God. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:26).

The idea of living by faith began many centuries ago. Abraham was called “the father of the faithful” for good reason. “For the promise, that **he should be the heir of the world**, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but **through the righteousness of faith**” (Rom. 4:13). For, “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was **strong in faith**, giving glory to God; and **being fully persuaded that, what He [God] had promised, He was able also to perform**. And **therefore it [his faith in God] was imputed to him for righteousness**” (Rom. 4:20-22).

Did you notice that Abraham’s faith was based on God’s promises? That is why he didn’t doubt. If you base your faith on “hope and a prayer,” what do you have? Hoping against hope is not the foundation for Christian faith!

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’” (Rom. 1:17). This is why it is so important to study the Bible. We learn what God has promised through studying what He has said in His Word.

Jesus began to explain to His disciples how faith in God works, “Therefore I say unto you, **Take no thought for your life**, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, *shall He* not much more *clothe* you, **O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or, ‘What shall we drink?’ or, ‘Wherewithal shall we be clothed?’** (For after all these things do the Gentiles [unbelievers] seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you**. Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof” (Matt. 6:25-34).

Do we see that believing and trusting God for the things He has already promised is the key to walking by faith? If we believe God and don’t worry about the things He has already promise us, we, like Abraham, can have our faith in God accounted unto us for righteousness.

Believe Without Doubting

The point Jesus was making in the above verses was that we are to believe and to trust God without doubting. When God says He will take care of all our needs as Christians, we must believe Him without doubting! Be willing to believe what He has promised. When we study the Word of God and discover His promises to us—believe Him, trust God! Jesus said, “...**If ye have faith, and doubt not... it shall be done... All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive**” (Matt. 21:21-22).

These statements from Jesus are true and faithful. We must, however, ask according to the Father’s will. We need to study the Word of God to determine what it is that the Father has already promised to do for us! Then, when we pray, we will receive what we ask for because we already know what He has promised. Therefore, there should be no room for doubt left in our minds!

James put it this way, “But let him **ask in faith, nothing wavering**. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways” (Jas. 1:6-8).

You must not ask to have special blessings simply to satisfy your own lusts and desires. “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts” (Jas. 4:3). Ask according to the will of God believing, because you have proven it is the will of the Father, then you will receive!

Increase our Faith

The Disciples of Christ had trouble with their faith and trust in God. “And the apostles said unto the Lord, ‘**Increase our faith.**’ And the Lord said, ‘If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, “Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea;” and it should obey you. But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, “Go and sit down to meat?” And will not rather say unto him, “Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?” Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not [I think not]. So likewise ye, **when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, “We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do”**” (Luke 17:5-10). Working with the faith we are given is the key to increasing our faith.

The point Jesus was trying to get across to His disciples was this: **Obedience and works are required to increase our faith! And the more we go above and beyond the minimum requirements given to us by our Lord, the more faith we will have.** We must **practice putting the Words of Christ into action in our lives** and work out our

faith with fear and trembling (see Phil. 2:12). "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

Lazy Christians have little faith. They don't know for sure what they believe. And often they aren't willing to step out in faith and trust God to see if His words really are true.

Just as a muscle is developed through nourishment and exercise, so faith comes by hearing the Word of God then exercising (using) what we have learned in our daily lives.

James understood this principle Jesus taught as he expounded upon Christ's teachings, "What *doth it* profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, 'Depart in peace, be *ye* warmed and filled;' notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what *doth it* profit? **Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, 'Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.'** Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils [demons] also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that **faith without works is dead?** Was not **Abraham our father justified by works**, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, 'Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness:' and he was called the Friend of God. **Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.** Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent *them* out another way? **For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also"** (Jas. 2:14-26).

We show God our faith by our works just as Abraham did! **We prove our faith by our actions!** We will be justified or condemned by our works. Jesus said, "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (Matt. 12:36-37).

Faith without works would be like Peter telling Jesus that he could walk on water but when it came time to show Christ his faith, he determined to stay in the boat. His faith, without corresponding actions, would be dead!

Furthermore, Jesus has shown how our judgment is determined, "...**I will give unto every one of you according to your works**" (Rev. 2:23). "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and **the dead were judged** out of those things which were written in the books, **according to their works.** And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and **they were judged every man according to their works**" (Rev. 20:12-13).

Many are confused about salvation and works. When we confess our sins, we are saved by faith in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ by which the Father allows us right standing with Himself. This faith to believe is a gift from God through His grace; you can't come to the point of believing in Christ unless the Father gives you that faith to believe. "No man can come to Me, except the Father which hath sent Me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:44). **The Father gives us enough faith to believe in Jesus Christ, but it is up to us to grow in that faith. And it is our works that show the Father that we really do believe and have faith in His Son!**

Being Obedient and Productive

We have learned so far that, to increase our faith, we must be willing to use God's Spirit and the spiritual gifts He gives us to produce much good fruit. This means going above and beyond the minimum instructions given us through the Gospel of Christ. We should desire, with all our being, to produce much good fruit that is pleasing to God.

Both the Apostle Paul and the Apostle James, the brother of our Lord, understood the importance of being a doer of the instructions from Jesus Christ. Paul said, "For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified" (Rom. 2:13). And James echoed the same belief, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (Jas. 1:22).

Living by faith means staying connected to the source of our faith—Jesus Christ. Jesus explained this in detail in John 15, "**I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit... Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

"I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing... By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love**" (John 15:1-10 NKJV).

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. These things I command you, that you love one another" (John 15:16-17 NKJV).

The whole purpose of being a Christian is to believe God and produce much good fruit which brings glory to the Father! Being saved is not just for benefiting self, but rather salvation is to be a blessing to others and thereby brings glory to God!

Our faith must be shown through acts of obedience to God and in loving service to others. Paul expressed our lives of faith in God in this way, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God” (Eph. 3:17-19).

The Faith to Obey

People say they have faith in God until they are tested. When faith is put to the test, many crumble. Jesus said in Matthew 6, “Take no thought for your life,” but many worry and doubt. Most don’t trust God for their physical needs. **They don’t really believe God**; that His words can be relied upon in every situation. They start playing mind games with the Words of life and become double minded and unstable in all their ways.

This is especially true in discussing the topic of tithing. When this doubt is added to His instruction to give the first ten percent of our income to Him, we discover many have no real faith at all! Stepping out in faith becomes impossible even when we can see proof of how God has blessed many others for obedience.

God said to His people, “‘Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept *them*. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you,’ saith the LORD of hosts. ‘But ye said, “Wherein shall we return?” Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, “Wherein have we robbed thee?” In tithes and offerings. Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, *even* this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith,’ saith the LORD of hosts, ‘if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*’” (Mal. 3:7-10).

As soon as God asks people to work with Him, the faith of many vanishes and they fail the test.

Here is a truth about tithing. If we wait until we can afford to tithe, we will never be able to do so. That is why we are to give the first tenth of our income to God, not give what is left over after we take care of all our needs. **God wants us to step out in faith and Give to Him first, then He promises to supply all our needs!** It is a sacrifice to tithe and that is what God intends it to be—a sacrifice! We must be willing to trust God and truly believe that He will bless us for obeying Him!

If you would like to learn more about how you can step out in faith and begin to work with God, please go to our website www.thelittlebook.com and download our free booklet [How God's Work is Accomplished](#).

Sharing the Gospel

There are some who truly want to be genuine disciples of Jesus Christ, but do not feel they have been called to personally preach the Word. Jesus understood that all disciples were not going to be called to preach. He, however, provided for them a way to join in all the rewards and blessings of those who were directly involved in preaching the Kingdom of God. He said, “He that receiveth you receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me. He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward” (Matt. 10:40-42).

Jesus is explaining that if you give to and help to support the gospel message, you will share in the same reward that His servant receives!

Isn’t that something! We don’t all have the same spiritual gifts but we can all experience the benefits of preaching the Kingdom of God together! By working together in carrying out the same gospel message, as true disciples of Jesus Christ, we can share the same reward!

This should to be a source of great encouragement to all of us! Together we can receive great recompense for carrying His message to a sick and dying world!

A Time of Judgment

Most Christians do not understand when or how we are judged. We have a false belief or idea that sometime, way off in the future after we are dead, we will be judged. This is not what the Bible shows! The apostle Peter tells us about our judgment in I Peter 4:17, “**For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God** [I Tim. 3:15]: and if *it first begin at us*, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?” So, how does judgment begin with us? Our judgment is clearly explained in the parable of the talents.

Once we believe and are baptized, through the laying on of hands, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, then our judgment begins. We then take the place of a servant. “For *the kingdom of heaven is* as a man [Jesus Christ] travelling into a far country, *who* called His own servants [Christians], and delivered unto them His goods [Spiritual gifts]. And unto one He gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability [spiritual aptitude]; and straightway took His journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made *them* other five talents. And likewise he that *had received* two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, ‘Lord, Thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.’ His lord said unto him, ‘Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.’ He

also that had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, Thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.' His lord said unto him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.' Then he which had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew thee that Thou art an hard man, reaping where Thou hast not sown, and gathering where Thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid Thy talent in the earth: lo, *there* Thou hast *that is* Thine.' His lord answered and said unto him, '*Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put My money to the exchangers, and *then* at My coming I should have received Mine own with usury. **Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.** For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. **And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**'" (Matt. 25:14-30). **This parable is about our judgment now, if we have received God's Holy Spirit!**

Did you notice each servant was rewarded according to his works? And if you choose to do nothing with the gift of God's Spirit, you may suffer because of your lack of diligence.

Let me explain this parable in greater detail. This isn't referring to the gift of salvation. It is not primarily showing physical money when speaking of "talents" either. When we receive the Holy Spirit, God gives us varying amounts of His Spiritual gifts according to our spiritual aptitudes or abilities (see Rom. 12:4-8). We are then judged according to how we use the Holy Spirit God has given us. God sends out His Spirit into the lives of Christians and He expects it to produce fruit. We grow spiritually as we use the spiritual gifts God has given us just as Jesus explained to the apostles in the parable of the master and his servant (Luke 17:5-10).

To understand better about how the parables of Jesus apply to Christians today, please download our free booklet [Why Jesus Spoke in Parables](#).

One more point should be made. The person who didn't do anything with the Spiritual gift God gave him doesn't automatically lose salvation but rather will have to prove His allegiance to God, by and through, much suffering. "**Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.**" Today, this will mean suffering through The Great Tribulation (Rev. 3:14-22). This is what Jesus meant when He said, "Buy of Me gold tried in the fire."

Here is the key! We are judged now, while we are alive, that is, if the Spirit of God is in us! Judgment begins with the house of God—those who have the Holy Spirit! We Christians, are being judged now, in this lifetime. But we will receive our reward at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "**And, behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be**" (Rev. 22:12).

For Christians, our judgment is now, but our sentencing, or our time of reward, is given at the first resurrection from the dead or our change at Christ's coming. To understand more about our reward, please read our article [Is Heaven the Reward of the Saved?](#)

Faith to be Healed

One of the trademarks of Christ's ministry was the healings He did for the people. Each one of these healings was ordained or orchestrated by the Father. "...For the works which the Father hath given Me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father hath sent Me" (John 5:36). A key component to being healed was faith in Jesus and His ability to heal them. Jesus said on some occasions, "...According to your faith be it unto you" (Matt. 9:29).

One example of this faith in Jesus was demonstrated by a woman who followed Jesus. "And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind *Him*, and touched the hem of His garment: For she said within herself, 'If I may but touch His garment, I shall be whole.' But Jesus turned Him about, and when He saw her, He said, '**Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole...**'" (Matt. 9:20-22).

Not everyone had the faith of the woman mentioned above. In and around His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus found the ability to accomplish His work was limited by the unbelief or doubt of the people.

"Jesus left that part of the country and returned with His disciples to Nazareth, His hometown. The next Sabbath He began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard Him were amazed. They asked, 'Where did He get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?' Then they scoffed, 'He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And His sisters live right here among us.' They were deeply offended and refused to believe in Him.

"Then Jesus told them, 'A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his relatives and his own family.' And because of their unbelief, He couldn't do any mighty miracles among them except to place His hands on a few sick people and heal them. And He was amazed at their unbelief..." (Mark 6:1-6 NLT).

Jesus often healed by the "laying on of hands." This is one of the principles of the doctrine of Christ as shown in Hebrews 6:1-2. Peter explained how we could be healed through the sacrifice of Christ, "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: **by whose stripes ye were healed**" (I Pet. 2:24).

Throughout the Church, God offers healing to all who believe. "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, **anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and**

the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him” (Jas. 5:14-15).

There has been much controversy about faith healing in our society. Several court cases have been brought against families who have trusted in God for healing. Most of these cases were because children were involved. Many problems could have been eliminated with a better understanding of this doctrine of Christ. Ignorance about this doctrine has needlessly cost many lives. Let’s understand.

Having faith in God to be healed does not mean we should have nothing to do with those in the medical field. Luke, probably the writer of the book of Luke and the book of Hebrews, traveled with the Apostle Paul and was Paul’s physician. Paul, however, didn’t place his trust in Luke to heal him. The Apostle Paul trusted in the broken body of our Lord Jesus Christ, by and through, whose stripes he was able to be healed. The same should be true for all Christians. We should use the doctors and hospitals in the same way we use automobile mechanics when we are traveling on a trip. We pray and ask God to bring us safely to our destination, but if our car breaks down during the trip, we would not hesitate to call for help from the nearest service center. The same is true about our relationship with the medical community. They are skilled in helping to set bones and in diagnosing many other medically related problems. We should use their expertise but don’t look to them to heal us. “Put not your trust in princes, *nor* in the son of man, in whom *there is* no help” (Psa. 146:3). Doctors can not heal us through medical means! They can assist our bodies to rebuild or mend, but it is God alone who can heal us.

Place our faith to be healed in God! Then use whatever human services are available to help us heal! This is not a lack of faith! Christians do not place their hope or trust in men, but in God. It is all a matter of where we put our faith and trust.

Healing Power Through Faith in Jesus Christ

As we continue on with the theme of faith, we see that, after the day of Pentecost, miracles began to happen because of faith in the resurrected Son of God—Jesus Christ. Peter said, “**Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed**—and you know how crippled he was before. **Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes**” (Acts 3:16 NLT).

As people began to learn more about Jesus Christ, their faith became stronger. And as Paul was preaching in Lycaonia, **he perceived that a man had the faith to be healed** so he, “Said with a loud voice, ‘**Stand upright on thy feet.**’ **And he leaped and walked**” (Acts 14:10).

Healings were used to spread the gospel. They revealed God’s love to those that were on their way to being saved. These healings gave testimony to the power of the Holy Spirit working in their lives. They were also a witness to the unbelievers.

Be Strong and of Good Courage

In the coming years, our faith will be tested as never before. The storm clouds of war and upheaval are on the horizon. World events will become worse before things get better. Radical jihads and religious warfare are brewing and escalating. This world is in for difficult times ahead.

If you would like to learn more about what the future holds, please download our free book [The Day of the Lord, Understanding the Book of Revelation](#).

Even though life can be difficult for Christians, we can trust God to deliver us from all problems, trials, and adversities.

God states, through the prophet David, that in the life of a believer, “Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all” (Psa. 34:19).

The Apostle Paul explained to the Church, “...that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22). But we, who are Christians, must continue to live by faith just as all our brothers and sisters who have gone before us. “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” (Heb. 10:38-39).

James, the brother of our Lord, told us, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (Jas. 1:2-4). We all must remain strong, bravely holding up as our standard, “...Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Heb. 12:2). This we must do, “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Eph. 4:13).

“Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among [in] you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith” (II Cor. 13:5 NLT).

We must take the time necessary to determine if we really do believe God and are willing to follow all the instructions of Jesus as the author and finisher of our faith. We need to stand strong for what we believe, basing our faith upon the rock, solid foundation of God’s promises through Jesus Christ.

Realize, “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” (I Pet. 1:7).

“Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12).

Be willing to show God, by your obedient service, that you believe and trust in Him for everything.

Conclusion

You, too, can have strong faith in God just like Abraham did. “By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, **not knowing whither he went**. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles [tents, while the inhabitants of the land lived in houses in the cities] with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God” (Heb. 11:8-10).

In this eleventh chapter of Hebrews is recorded a list of many people who died in faith and trust in God, not having received their promised inheritance. We are told of how they, “...were tortured, not accepting deliverance; **that they might obtain a better resurrection**: And others had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (**Of whom the world was not worthy**:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, **that they without us should not be made perfect**” (Heb. 11:35-40).

Maybe in your own family you have had some who have died in faith trusting God; faithful grandparents, a father, a mother who died in faith looking forward to their resurrection and union with God. All these faithful Christians have set you examples of how to be faithful to God throughout your life.

What about you? Are you ready to join those who have dedicated their lives to God?

God loves you and wants you to grow into the likeness of His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus was the firstborn of many other brothers and sisters to follow (Heb. 2:11). Please turn to God while there is still time. Commit your life to Him. Begin the process of asking God to grant you true and deep repentance. Submit your life to Him with a humble heart and mind. Become as a little child, asking God to give you His Holy Spirit.

We are here to help all those who are ready to begin a new life of faith in God through Jesus Christ. You can e-mail us at amessagefromjesusministry@comcast.net and we will be happy to lead you to God through His Son Jesus Christ.

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