Faith
Session 4: Real or Fake Faith

*1 Timothy 1:5 MEV "Now the goal of this command is love from a pure heart, and from a good conscience, and from **sincere faith**." (KJV unfeigned faith)*

The Greek word translated "sincere" here is ANUPOKRITOS. It means "not pretending" or "genuine."

James 3:17, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

Merriam Webster's definition of hypocrisy

feigning (to give a false appearance of) to be what one is not or to believe what one does not **:** behavior that contradicts what one claims to believe or feel

1 John 4:16 "1 John 4:16 NKJV "And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

1. **"know" = ginōskō = learn, come to know, get a knowledge of**
2. **"believe" = pisteuō (pistis) = conviction of the truth (fully persuaded)**

Knowing and believing are different things. Do you just know truth or do you both know and believe? This will be reflected in your walk.

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

God has given you faith!

Romans 12:3 "NKJV 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."

Upon salvation, God gave you the faith you would need to receive His grace and what grace provides. It was free and it was a gift.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

This faith resides within your new creation spirit.

In your new creation spirit:

3. You are one spirit with God (1 Corinthians 6:17)
4. You have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)
5. You know all things (1 John 2:20).

Romans 10:17 NKJV "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Once you've heard, you start using your faith muscles!

Luke 17:5-6 NKJV "And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

*Matthew 17:20 NKJV "*So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 21:21 NKJV "Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done."

1. Genuine faith is like a seed.

A. **"Sand faith" is knowledge without fruit.** A grain of sand is small like a mustard seed, but it carries no life and cannot multiply. We can know many of God's promises without seeing them bear fruit in our lives.

B. **A seed carries life and the potential to multiply.** Jesus' illustration points to what a seed can produce when it's planted.

C. **We plant faith by speaking God's Word from a believing heart.** Jesus connects faith with speaking when He says, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say . . ." God's Word carries life and produces fruit when planted in faith.

2. Genuine faith is like servant.

Luke 17:7-9

A. **A servant is expected to finish the work he was given.** You wouldn't be satisfied if someone you hired did only part of the job. You'd expect him to see it through.

B. **Doing the assigned work is the expectation.** Jesus asks whether the master thanks the servant for doing what he was told to do. The servant is carrying out his assignment.
C. **In the same way, faith has an assignment in our lives.** Grace is God's provision for our every need, and faith brings what God has provided by grace into manifestation in our lives.
D. **We can expect faith to do what God assigned it to do.** Just as we expect someone we hire to complete the work we gave them, we can expect to see God's provision as we exercise our faith.

Faith is compared to a servant. A servant's job is to complete the work he was hired to do. Likewise, it is the duty of faith to perform the work God assigned it to perform in our lives.

<u>Faith is the catalyst to the manifestation of the grace of God in our lives.</u>

3. Genuine faith is also like a muscle.

A. **Like a muscle has to be used to develop strength, a seed has to be planted to produce a harvest.** A farmer can have a barn full of seed, but it will stay there until he plants it. In the same way, we have to put our faith into action.

2 Thessalonians 1:3 "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,"

Faith is designed to grow but because you put it to use not because God gives you more of it.

You need to exercise your faith!

4. Genuine faith is measurable, we should be able to see it in our actions, and then it will grow as we use it.

<u>Examples of Measurements of Faith:</u>

*Matthew 8:26 "But He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of **little faith**?" Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm."*

*Romans 4:19 "And not being **<u>weak in faith</u>**, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb."*

*Romans 4:20 “He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was **strengthened in faith**, giving glory to God,”*

*James 2:5 "Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be **rich in faith** and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”*

*Acts 6:5 “And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man **full of faith** and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,”*

*James 2:22 "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was **faith made perfect**?*

*1 Timothy 1:19 “holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered **shipwreck with regard to the faith.**”*

*Matthew 8:10 “When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such **great faith**.*

*Matthew 14:31 “Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of **little faith**,” he said, “why did you doubt?”*