

Righteousness

Class 6: Reality of Faith

Our English word “faith” is from a Greek word that means “faithfulness” and “loyalty.” This faith is not exercised by the human mind. Faith is the foundation of our salvation. Faith is one of the nine supernatural gifts. Faith is also a fruit of the Spirit. Because God is a God of faith, He has a right to expect faith in our spiritual lives. Faith is the key to all the fruit of the Spirit. Without it there is no answer for our Christian experience. Love operates by faith. Joy and peace do not exist without faith. Longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness are based on our having faith.

There is a power at work within you!

Ephesians 3:20-21 NKJV “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the **power that works in us**, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

2 Corinthians 4:7 TPT “We are like common clay jars that carry this **glorious treasure within, so that this immeasurable power will be seen as God’s**, not ours.”

There is a spiritual, and immeasurable power at work within us. It is not of our own doing that it is there but Christ’s.

Romans 12:3 NKJV “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.**”

Let’s notice two things

1. Don’t take credit for that which God has done
2. You’ve received a measure of God’s faith

What Faith is

Hebrews 11:1 NKJV “Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**”

According to Hebrews 11:1 we can define faith

Faith =

Substance of things hoped for.

- Substance is that which we can see in the physical realm . One could say that faith brings that which one has hoped for into the tangible realm.

The evidence of things not seen

- Faith, is evidence. The very fact that Faith is present within us is evidence that the things we hope for do exist. We cannot have faith unless God has provided it to us through his word. If God said it, that's all the proof of its existence that we need despite not seeing it at the moment faith is released.

What Faith does

I John 5:14-15 NKJV "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him."

You can have confidence in your prayers when,

1. You know his will
2. You know he hears you
3. You know that you have the petitions you've asked of him

Faith believes the need has been met as soon as we have prayed in line with Gods word.

Faith obtains what grace provides

Ephesians 2:8 NKJV "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,"

Faith receives what God's Grace has provided freely. When we exercise our faith it is not based on our works that we obtain our petitions. It is only based on God's precious promises found in the word of God.

How faith works

Romans 4:17 NKJV "(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed—God, who gives life to the dead and **calls those things which do not exist as though they did;**"

The phrase "calls those things that do not exist as though they did" reveals how faith works. Faith speaks out and calls the things which we are praying for, the things that currently don't exist, as though they did exist.

Here is an example...

When we believe for healing, and speak life over our bodies we do not speak from a place of waiting on God to do something. We speak from a place of what he's already done. His grace has provided the healing already. We are simply receiving it by faith. So if your sick say I am healed regardless of your current symptoms. If your broke, speak Gods word over your finances. The natural realm must come into alignment with the spiritual reality of faith.

Mark 11:22-24 NKJV “So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. 23 For assuredly, I say to you, **whoever says** to this **mountain**, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ **and does not doubt in his heart**, but believes that those things he **says** will be done, he will have whatever he **says**. 24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, **believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**”

Key points on this passage

1. “Have faith in God” can also be translated “have the God kind of faith”. The measure of faith we have received is the God kind. What we are about to read is how the God kind of faith operates.
2. The whoever listed in verse 23 applies to each individual, not necessarily just those in the 5-fold ministry.
3. The mountain referred to in verse 23 refers to anything that we might be exercising our faith towards.
4. Faith speaks, in the case of the mountain Jesus said “be removed, and be cast into the sea”
5. The phrase “and does not doubt in his heart” is the difference between words of power and words without power. Faith is bold, and confident towards the mountain because we have God’s word to back it up.
6. Verse 23 lists the word “says” 3 times. Faith speaks, speaks, and speaks. What does it say? What God’s word says.
7. Verse 24 reiterates what verse 23 has been telling us. We believe that we receive what we are praying/speaking, and then we shall see the desired result. Not before then. Human faith believes after it sees. The faith of God sees after it speaks and believes.

Jesus marvels at great faith

Matthew 8:5-10, 13 NKJV “Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” 7 And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.” 8 The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only **speak a word**, and **my servant will be healed**. 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I **say** to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘**Come**,’ and **he comes**; and to my servant, ‘**Do this**,’ and **he does it**.” 10 When Jesus heard it, **He marveled**, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, **I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!** 13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and **as you have believed, so let it be done for you.**” **And his servant was healed that same hour.**”

The Bible only records Jesus Marveling two times in the New Testament. For this man’s belief and the unbelief located in Jesus’ hometown of Nazareth.

Let’s take note of what had impressed Jesus...

1. The Centurion understood the power in words. “But only speak a word”.

2. The Centurion believed his servant would be healed before he had seen it happen, “My servant will be healed”.
3. He understood that Jesus had authority over sickness and disease. That if he gave the command his servant would be healed.

Do you understand that we don't need a physical Jesus on this earth to see the same results. God has granted us his authority to speak the word only, believe before we see, and walk in his power.

Mark 16:15-18 NKJV “And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And **these signs will follow** those who **believe**: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Notice that signs follow belief. The God kind of faith believes before it sees.

1. They will cast out demons
2. Speak with new tongues
3. Take up serpents
4. Drink anything deadly without consequence
5. Lay hands on the sick, and they will recover

Mark 16:20 NKJV “And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.”

Our Job = Speak the word

God's Job = Confirm the word

