Faith Session 2: Using Your Faith

Why do you need to know how to use your faith?

Faith = foundation. Brings us into relationship with God.

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

Hebrews 11:6 *NKJV – But without faith it is impossible to please [God], for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Desire to please God should be enough, but BONUS(!), there are benefits/rewards that come with our faith in Him.

John 16:33 *NKJV – These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."*

We know we will have tribulation, but Jesus has already overcome, and…

Ephesians 6:16 *NKJV – above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

…there is a shield available for us through Him. "Taking" is an active verb. It's been made available; we have to (continually) take it.

How do we do that? How do we use our faith?

Have Faith → Believe → Speak → Act → Receive

Mark 11:12 *NKJV – Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry.*

Jesus came as a man. He had to nourish and take care of His body just like we do.

Mark 11:13 *NKJV – And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs.*

Throughout Scripture, God uses the fig tree as a picture of Israel and its spiritual condition. Mark also places the story of the fig tree and its lesson around Jesus cleansing the Temple. The tree had leaves but no fruit, providing a picture of outward appearance without corresponding spiritual fruit. **Your faith in God should produce fruit.**

Mark 11:14 *NKJV – In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again."*

Notice: 1) Jesus spoke to the fig tree. 2) He believed what He spoke. It didn't matter how it looked at that point in time.

Mark 11:20 *NKJV – Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.*

It didn't appear to die right away. But look at Matthew's account:

Matthew 21:19 *NKJV – [...] "Let no fruit grow on you ever again." Immediately the fig tree withered away.*

Compare: The tree died as soon as Jesus spoke the words. It was not immediately visible to their natural eyes ("dried up from the roots"). Faith was required before they saw the evidence.

Mark 11:21 *NKJV – And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."*

Matthew's account (21:20) says they marveled. We shouldn't be surprised at the things of God. That would represent a lack of faith. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Mark 11:22-24 *NKJV – [22]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.*

Have faith. Speak it out (notice "says" 3x). Do not doubt in your heart. Believe (pisteuō – to think to be true, to be persuaded of). THEN, you will have whatever you say.

There are actions you have to take!

James 1:22 *NKJV – But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

1) Have Faith

Romans 10:17 *NKJV – So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

John 15:4 *NLT – Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.*

John 15:7 *NKJV – If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.*

2) Believe:

Abiding in God leads to belief and trust that He will do what He says He will do.

Hebrews 11:1 *AMP – Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].*

When you know God and know His promises, THEN you can believe that you'll receive.

Important: You are only "divinely guaranteed" that which He has promised.

Matthew 21:22 *NKJV – And whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."*

Matthew 21:22 *TPT – Everything you pray for with the fullness of faith you will receive!"*

Faith → Believe: If you don't know God's promises (see #1 Have Faith), and don't know if they are for YOU, then how can you ask in belief? How can you ask "with the fullness of faith"?

Andrew Wommack said, "If you don't believe something enough to speak it, then you don't believe it." Go back to the Word to counteract your unbelief.

3) Speak:

Proverbs 18:21 *NKJV – Death and life are in the power of the tongue, And those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Faith speaks in agreement with what God has said.

Faith → Believe → Speak: Your beliefs will feed what rolls off your tongue.

Matthew 12:34 *NKJV – [...] For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

4) Act:

Faith → Believe → Speak → Act: What you believe in your heart to be true will naturally flow out of your mouth, and you will act based on those beliefs.

James 2:17 *NIV – In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

James 2:14-17 *MSG – Dear friends, do you think you'll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything? Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, "Good morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?*

It's not "whatever is meant to be." God does have good and perfect plans for us, but our choices and obedience matter. We don't wait to see something in the natural before we act in faith.

5) Receive:

Mark 11:24 *NKJV – Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

First: "believe that you receive," THEN: "and you will have them."

Receive (Greek: lambano) – to take; not to refuse or reject

When Jesus spoke to the fig tree, he believed it was dead BEFORE he saw it. Needing to see first is not faith.

1 Corinthians 16:13 *AMP – Be on guard; stand firm in your faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping your doctrine sound]. Act like [mature] men and be courageous; be strong.*

We don't change our beliefs based on what we experience. Our beliefs are based on the Word of God, which has final authority in our lives.

Hebrews 3:14 *NKJV – For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end,*

Where have we already used our faith?

Romans 10:9-10 *NKJV – [9]that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. [10]For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

We have God's Word on it. We believe it in our hearts. We speak it out. We surrender our lives to Him. We receive salvation immediately, before seeing it with our natural eyes.
(Have faith → Believe → Speak → Act → Receive)

Colossians 2:6 *NKJV – As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,*

In the same way you used faith to receive Jesus, also live by faith.