

Godly Faith

1. What is faith? The Word of God tells us in Heb. 11:1: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” The word “*Now*” in this scripture has a very special significance. It would be very beneficial to all of us, to always remember that faith in God should always be something that is taking place “*now*.” We should always have faith in God, which is capable of bringing to pass, anything which we would request of Him now. It is the desire of God’s heart, to answer our utmost requests, *now*; at this present time. It does not please Him to have to wait to fulfill our hearts desires, because we have not allowed our faith to mature. It is up to us, to have and to continue to have, the proper faith we need, to allow God to answer every one of our prayers, when we first present them unto Him. We should never have to wait, until we can develop the proper faith, before God can answer our prayers. This word *now*, regardless of how insignificant it may seem to be, is a very important word. In the Greek Language, the word now comes from the word *de* (deh); which means at the present time, continuative, always, having no end, or eternal. And the way in which we have this eternal, never-ending faith, is to exercise it daily. How does one do such a thing? It is done, by daily being obedient unto the Word of God, and by continually filling our minds and our hearts with it.

A. Faith-Hebrew-*emuwnah* (em-oo-naw): established trust, firmness or security (as to what one believes), or trustworthiness. Greek-*pistis* (pis-tis): persuasion (of truth in something or someone), to fully rely upon, to have assurance, trust, fidelity, or complete reliance upon (God and his Holy Word); to be fully persuaded of something being true to a point of never being able to become a doubter of such again (anything found in God’s Holy Word).

B. Substance of things hoped for. Greek-*hupostasis* (hoop-os-tas-is): assurance, confidence, guarantee, or evidence; as a piece of positive evidence which is held on to and cannot be removed; evidence which wipes out all possibility of a wrong outcome or which overcomes conflicting forces of dispute.

C. Evidence-Greek-*elegchos* (el-eng-khos): proof, conviction, or the assurance of a matter.

D. Of things not seen. This is referring to any thing which a person has not yet seen with their natural eyes, but which they have confidence that they will see, or will come to pass at a later time.

2. Every person is told to have faith in God. Mark 11:22-24 tells us: “And Jesus answering saith unto them, ***Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his***

heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith." In this scripture, Jesus is attempting to teach his disciples some very important facts concerning their faith. First of all, one is to place their faith in God alone, and in nobody else. Jesus is attempting to teach us to always remember that God will never fail us. They, as well as every born-again child of God today, can always rest assured that God will always be there when we call upon Him; no matter what the need may be. He is also using the example of an earthly mountain to represent any obstacle or adversary or conflict which we might encounter during our life upon the earth. Without a doubt, Jesus was speaking of mountains of evil conflict, or obstacles which Satan has placed or caused to come about in our lives. He is attempting to show us that we have the power within ourselves to speak to these obstacles and conflicts and command them to be removed from our life; and to know that if we will continue to speak in faith to these obstacles, that they will eventually, without a doubt, be removed. On what conditions was Jesus telling his disciples that these mountains of adversity would be removed? If they do not have doubt in their heart, but continue to believe that what they spoke from their own mouth would come to pass. He told them that if they would exercise this kind of faith, that they would have whatsoever they saith. These promises are also for us today in the family of God. Therefore, we must speak words of faith, when we face mountains of adversity of any kind; and believe in our heart that the mountains will be removed. These can be mountains of adversity, whether they be spiritual, physical, financial, mental, emotional, or mountains of adversity of any kind. If we have faith, and do not allow doubt and unbelief to get into our hearts, then we can speak to every mountains of adversity in our lives, and command them to be removed, and we will see it happen. God will change circumstances in our life, and we will truly see things get better. I am a personal witness to this in my own life. However, if we do not speak in faith, but have doubt in our heart, then the mountains of adversity; or the problems which we are having to deal with; will remain and we will accomplish nothing. We must "Have faith in God."

3. Jesus also wanted to teach his disciples, and every one of us, a very important lesson concerning prayer, as He was teaching them here at this time. In verse 24 we read: "*Therefore, I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*" What is Jesus' point in this verse? He is telling us to believe that we receive whatsoever we ask for in prayer. When is He telling us to believe? When we see the manifestation? No. We must believe we receive at the time we pray; when we close our prayer. We are to begin

acting as though the case is closed. We are to begin thanking and praising God for the answer to our prayer, even before we see it come to pass. This will bring the manifestation much sooner. This is the way every prayer we pray should be handled. This is praying in faith. We are not having faith, if we cannot thank God for the answer until we see it come to pass.

4. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Heb. 11:6 tells us: “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.”

A. Without faith. This is speaking of just hoping that maybe whatever one needs will somehow come to pass; or that maybe, by some coincidence, things will turn out right, or like we want them to. We do not know if they will or not, but we sure hope so.

B. It is Impossible. Greek-adunatos (ad-oo-nat-ps): unable, or without the necessary strength or power to accomplish a particular task (pleasing our Heavenly Father).

C. To please God. Greek-euaresteo (yoo-ar-es-tos): to gratify, to be acceptable (to God), or to be fully agreeable with (God Almighty).

D. He is a rewarder. Greek-misthapodotes (mis-thop-od-ot-ace): one who awards with blessings, gifts, or beneficial accomplishments.

E. Of them that diligently seek Him. Greek-ekzeteo (ek-zay-teh-o): to crave, to demand, or to search for in a most serious manner.

5. The Word of God tells us in Rom. 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.”

A. For I say, through the grace given unto me. Greek-charis (khar-ece): gratitude, favor, divine influence upon the heart, or greetings (from Jesus Christ).

B. Not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think. Greek-huperphroneo (hoop-er-fron-eh-o): to over esteem oneself, or to be filled with self-pride.

C. But to think soberly. Greek-sophronos (so-fron-oce): with a sound mind, moderately, or to a self-controlled degree.

D. The measure of faith. Greek-metron (met-ron): a limited portion. God has given to every person, a measure, or a certain portion of faith. He has given to each of his children, the faith to believe that He is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He has also given to each of us a measure of faith, to believe that Jesus Christ is his only begotten Son. He has given every person

a measure of faith to believe that He will save our soul, if we will only ask Him to do such. And He has given every person a measure of faith to believe that the Holy Bible is truly his Holy Word. But every single person has a choice as to whether or not they will believe these vital things. Those who choose to believe that these divine matters are true, and choose to live their lives according to such, will develop a greater measure of faith, as they live their lives according to the leadership of God's Holy Spirit, and continually read His Holy Word each day, and be obedient to it.

6. Let's read in Luke 17:5-6: "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 sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*"

We also read in Matt. 17:19-20: "Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, *Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, 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.*" Jesus is telling us, that whatever faith we have, we must put it into action. And when we do start to put action with our faith, we will see amazing things begin to happen. It is our responsibility, to exercise our faith; to put it into action. And God cannot do anything for us, if we are not willing to use our faith. But if we will begin to always put action with our faith; not just speak it, but allow it to be the strength of our actions; then nothing shall be impossible to us. When we begin to put action with our faith, it will amaze us what God will do through us; and how fast He will answer our prayers.

7. God's Word also tells us in Rom. 10:17: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Greek-akoe (ak-o-a): referring to hearing in any way; to be an audience to preaching, singing, teaching, or reading (the Word of God); to come to the ears in any way, including personal meditation; which also includes speaking the Word aloud from our own lips; any manner we may choose, in order to hear the Word of God. This is so vitally important, in these days in which we live. For Satan is working harder than he has ever worked before, to try and tear Christian's lives to pieces. The greatest way to gain faith, or to make our faith grow, is to simply spend time in the Word of God. It will make our shield of faith much stronger against the attacks of the devil. This will not be easy; for Satan will attempt to put everything he possibly can before our eyes, and fill our minds with everything that he can think of, when he knows that we want to study and meditate the Word of God. But the thing we must do, is to take the time to

study, and read the Holy Word. The more we hear the Word of God, the stronger our faith will become. But when we hear the Holy Word; whether from the pulpit, or however it may come to our ears; we must believe it, and begin to act upon it. Heb. 4:2 tells us: "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." Our heart and our lips must work hand in hand. Whenever we get the Word of God in our heart, it must also be spoken out of our mouth. This is why it is so important to be extremely careful what we speak out of our mouths. For whatsoever we speak will surely come to pass in our lives. One of the main points, which Jesus was trying to make his disciples realize, in Mark 11:24, was that whatsoever they speak out of their mouths, would be what would eventually come to pass in their life. Jesus said in this scripture, "***He shall have whatsoever he saith.***" When we get the faith down in our hearts, it becomes such a simple matter to just speak the words of faith, and see them come to pass. But we all must realize, that it works in the other direction also. If we speak words of doubt and unbelief, and continually confess and speak evil out of our mouth, then evil is what we will see come to pass. We are told in James 2:17: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." And in James 2:26 we read: "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." We all know that anything or anyone who is dead is useless. They are of no benefit, to themselves or to anyone else. Faith without works is the same; useless.

We can have all the faith in the world, but unless we act upon our faith, it will profit us nothing, and be of no benefit.

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

A. Works-Greek-ergon (er-gon): to toil, labor, or to put forth effort which helps one to prosper spiritually; also speaking of putting forth effort in any way possible, which helps to accomplish the perfect will of God.

B. By works was faith made Perfect. Greek-teleioo (tel-i-oce): completed, accomplished, or finished. Many of the Old Testament people of God perfected their faith by their works. Examples are: (1) Noah. Heb.11:7 tells us: "By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith." (2) Abraham. Heb. 11:8-10 tells us: "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 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.” And (3) Moses. Heb. 11:23-29 tells us: “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment. By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible. Through faith he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest He that destroyed the firstborn should touch them. By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.” The complete stories of the lives of these great men can be found in the Old Testament books of Genesis and Exodus. We are told in Heb. 11:13: “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” Many are living today, who have not yet received the manifestation of some of the things, which they are believing God to bring to pass. Just because we do not always immediately see the manifestation of whatever it is that we are believing God for; whether it be healing, the salvation of a loved one, or whatever it may be; does not mean at all that God has not heard our prayer. God always hears our prayers, when we pray in faith. But He does not always promise, that it will immediately come to pass. The amount of time it takes for the manifestation of the answer to our prayers, depends upon a lot of different things. Sometimes it depends upon our faith at the time of the prayer, and many times God has to allow us to go through a time of spiritual growth, before He can fully answer our prayers.

I know that when I first asked God to heal me of epilepsy, I had believed for many years, that the reason that God did not heal me, was because He had to allow me to have the seizures, in order to keep me humble. This was nothing but a lie from Satan, which he had put in my mind, so that I would never believe that it was God’s will to heal me. But one night God showed me very clearly, that it most certainly was his will to completely heal me from the seizures; and that it had always been his perfect will that I be healed. He not only made me to realize that it was his will to heal me, but also that it was his perfect will that every one of his children be healed, of every sickness and disease. But He had to bring me through a process of growing;

as far as my faith was concerned. Even though I have not yet seen the complete manifestation of my healing, I have come a long way; and I do not have nearly as many seizures as I had at the time that He opened my blind spiritual eyes. I stand today in faith, and declare that I believe that I have received my healing which Jesus paid the price for me to have. And I believe that I am about to see the full manifestation of my healing come to pass. The devil has tried to attack me in every way he possibly can; and tried in every way possible, to make me believe that it is not God's will that I be healed. But Satan is a liar, and he will always be a liar. And as long as God gives me breath to breathe, my confession will be, that by the stripes of Jesus I am healed of every sickness, disease, and infirmity. I truly believe that by the stripes which Jesus bore upon his back, God has healed me physically. And through the blood that He shed for me on the cross, and because He suffered the pain of death for me, that I am eternally saved from sin.

9. Rom. 1:17 tells us: "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." This verse also tells us that every beneficial thing which we do begins with faith and ends with faith. The word just comes from the Greek word dikaios (dik-ah-yos); which means innocent, justified, or righteous; referring to those who are washed in the blood of Jesus; made free from the effects of sin. God's Word tells us in Gal. 2:16: "Know that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified." Acts 13:38-39 says: "Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man (Jesus) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: And by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses." Gal. 3:11 tells us: "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith." Rom. 5:1-2 also tells us: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Justification by faith brings peace with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. The word peace comes from the Greek word eireno (i-ray-nay); which means peace, spiritual prosperity, advancement, growth, rest, or that which brings about a personal, daily walk with God. Paul is attempting to make it very clear unto us, that salvation or any other thing which we may ever receive from God, cannot be received by good works which we perform before Him, neither by good words which we shall speak, nor by any other

means, except by faith in the name and in the blood of Jesus Christ.

10. We read in Acts 26:15-18: “And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And He said, *I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. But rise, and stand upon thy feet: For I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness born of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*” Greek-hagiazo (hag-ee-ad-zo): to be made holy, purified, consecrated, or separated from the effects of sin; to be made blameless. This is just another reminder, that nothing will ever be received from God except by faith.

11. Acts 15:8-9 tells us: “And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as He did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.” Greek-katharizo (kath-ar-id-zo): to be made clean from all sin, impurity, and unrighteousness.

12. Jesus is the author and the finisher of our faith. We read in Heb. 12:2: “Looking unto 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.”

A. Jesus is the Author. Greek-archegos (ar-khay-gos): chief leader, captain, or commander; referring to an originator, creator, or a chief executive.

B. And the finisher. Greek-teleiotes (tel-i-ot-ace): one who brings about completeness, or perfection; referring to one who reaches a goal, or completes a matter; reaching or accomplishing a desired result or outcome. The work that was required for us to be able to obtain our faith, was completed when Jesus died on the cross of Calvary. If you will recall his last words, just before He died upon the cross, were, “It is finished.”

13. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. Rom. 14:23 tells us: “And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” This scripture is telling us: “Whatsoever actions are performed, not knowing, or having doubt as to whether or not they are right, are sin.” In other words, if we are not certain whether or not an act is right, then we should not do it.

14. 2 Cor. 5:7 tells us that we should walk by faith, and not by sight. When we walk by faith, it is not based upon what we see with our natural eyes, but it is based upon the promises of God's Word. Natural sight can sometimes be

very discouraging. Rom. 8:24-25 tells us: “For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doeth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.”

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A. For we are saved by hope. Greek-elpis (el-pece): anticipation, expectation, or looking forward to.

B. When we have faith for a particular thing, we are told to wait for it with patience. Greek-hupomone (hoop-om-on-ay): cheerful endurance, to remain stable, to not be mentally shaken or moved, to continue with faith, to tarry or wait without any change of mind, as to be in a place of idleness concerning a particular matter. James 1:3 tells us, that our faith is tried, or put through the tests, in order that we may learn to have patience.

15. We read in Acts 14:21-22: “And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had

taught many, they returned again to Lysta, and to Iconium, and to Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” We must all continue in the faith. Greek-emmaeno (em-men-o): to stay in the same place-mentally speaking; to not have a change of mind, to persevere, stand firm, or to not be moved.

16. Gal. 5:6 tells us: “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.” Faith without love is useless. It does no good whatsoever, for a person to go around speaking of their faith in God, and not have the love of God in their heart. For as we can see from the Word of God, unless a person first has the love of God, their faith will amount to nothing. 1 Cor. 13:2 tells us: “And though I have the gift of prophesy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity (love), I am nothing.”

17. Gal. 3:9 tell us: “So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. Greek-eulogeo (yoo-log-eh-o): prospered, as to receive a gift for obedience or good behavior. Just as God promised Abraham that if he would have faith, that He would bless him and all of his seed abundantly; he also tells us that if we will have faith, that we will also be blessed.

18. The Holy Spirit is also received by faith. Gal. 3:14 tells us: “That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” We must believe by faith, that when we ask Jesus Christ to forgive us for our sins, and come into our heart, that He does so at that very moment by his Holy Spirit. And

we have the gift of the Holy Spirit with us at all times. He continuously lives within our soul.

19. We also receive God's grace by faith. Rom. 5:2 tells us: "By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." The grace of Jesus Christ is a very treasured, priceless gift, which we can receive only by faith.

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20. We, as Christians, stand by faith. 2 Cor. 1:24 tells us: "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye *stand*." Greek-histemi (his-tay-mee): abide (in Jesus), continue (in our Christian walk), stay firm-with our faith in God and his Word. We are told in Eph. 6:13, that after we have faced every obstacle that we believe that Satan can throw in our pathway, to stand; meaning to have in God for strength and power, and never give up; but just to continue to have faith in God, and wait for whatever help that we may need from Him to come; and it will come.

21. 1 Pet. 1:7 tells us: "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 honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

A. *The trial of your faith*. This is speaking of the many obstacles, trials, tribulations, and hardships which we have to go through as Christians. They are what causes our faith to grow and become stronger; or they can also cause us to grow weak and weary, if we do not keep our faith in God and in God alone. We must always stand strong in our faith that we may be able to stand and not be knocked down by the devil. Our faith is tried every day in one way or another.

B. *Being much more precious than of gold*. Gold is valuable, but it is only a temporary thing; and it can be stolen, it's value can go up and down, and it will only buy us things which are temporary. But our faith can help us to obtain eternal life, as we decide to place our faith in Jesus Christ. And just as it is called, the life which we obtain by placing our faith in Jesus, is eternal; or lasts forevermore. No one can steal it or take it away from us; and the value of the eternal life which we receive through Jesus Christ, never goes down. But the eternal life which Jesus has to offer, continually gets more valuable, considering the way that the circumstances which exists on the earth today continue to get worse.

C. That *perisheth*. Greek-apollumi (ap-ol-loo-mee): to become fully destroyed, lost, or to be gone forever.

D. *Though it be tried with fire*. Even though pure gold is tried or treated to

an extremely high heat, it is still a substance which can be lost, damaged, or lose it's value.

Our faith will cause us to eventually receive:

E. Praise-Greek-epainos (ep-ahee-nos): commendation or recognition for well doing.

F. Honor-Greek-time (tee-may): esteem, value, or spiritual pride.

G. Glory-Greek-doxa (dox-ah): dignity or respect, which is brought about by obedience or faithfulness.

22. When we have faith in Jesus, He said that we would have the power to do even greater works than He Himself done. We read in John 14:12: "**Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**" He also told us in Matt. 21:22: "**And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.**" Greek-pisteuo (pist-yoo-o): to have faith, to put trust in (a person or thing), spiritual persuasion or conviction, reliance upon, to have spiritual assurance or guarantee, or to be assured in your heart and soul of a particular thing.

23. Jesus had power over the forces of nature. In Luke 8:22-25 we read: "Now it came to pass on a certain day, that He went into a ship with his disciples: and He said unto them, **Let us go over unto the other side of the lake.** And they launched forth. But as they sailed He fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him, and awoke Him, saying Master, master, we perish. Then He arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And He said unto them, **Where is your faith?** And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! For He commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey Him."

A. Storm of wind. Greek-lailaps (lah-ee-laps): whirlwind, or tornado.

B. The Word tells us that they were in jeopardy. Greek-kinduneuo (kin-doon-yoo-o): to be in danger, undergo peril, or to be in a dangerous situation.

C. He, (Jesus), arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water.

Greek-epitimaō (ep-ee-tee-mah-o): to forbid, or to make a demanding charge or command upon a certain thing or upon a certain person in a particular situation; which is always dependant upon proper one having proper authority. Jesus had the proper authority from the Father. And He had also given the proper authority unto the disciples, to have power over the forces of nature. For if it had not been so, He would of not asked them, "Where is your faith?" He has also given unto every Christian who will receive it by

faith, that same proper authority today. If we allow the Holy Spirit to be our guide, then we will be able to know when the forces of the devil are involved in any situation. Most certainly, the disciples in the ship were filled with fear, just as the devil will fill us with fear during perilous situations, if we allow him to do so. But we do not have to be in fear; ever! For God tells us in 2 Tim. 1:7: “For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

24. We have a shield and a breastplate of faith as part of our Christian armor. We read in Eph. 6:16: “Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.” And in I Thes. 5:8 we read: “But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.” The shield of faith is our most important piece of spiritual armor.

Without faith, we cannot obtain any of the other pieces of our suit of armor. Without faith, we cannot receive the truth, obtain the breastplate of righteousness, receive the gospel of peace, obtain the helmet of salvation, or receive the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. Just as a soldier's shield and his breastplate must be in front of him as his main pieces of protection, so must every Christian have the shield of faith and the breastplate of faith always before them, to be protected from our enemy; Satan and his forces.

25. We are told to *fight* the good fight of faith. I Tim. 6:12 tells us: “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” Greek-agonizomai (ag-o-nid-zom-ahee): to be in a conflict, to struggle, to compete (for a prize), to contend with an adversary, or to strive with. The life of a Christian is a struggle. We will always be contending with our adversary, the devil. 1 Pet. 5:8 tells us: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”. We are continuously competing in a race for a prize. 1 Cor. 9:24 tells: “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.” Phil. 3:14 tells us: “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

26. Jude 20 tells us, that we are to *build* ourselves up on our most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost. Greek-epichoregia (ep-ee-khor-ayg-ee-ah): contribute to, nourish, aid or supply, to minister to, or to furnish. I believe this to mean that we are to pray according to the leading of God's Holy Spirit; not necessarily that we must always be praying in other languages. We must continually build ourselves up, or nourish or minister to ourselves in a spiritual way; and the greatest way to do this is by prayer, which is guided or

influenced by the Holy Ghost. Some believe that “praying in the Holy Ghost” is totally limited to praying in tongues, or in other languages. I do not believe that this is always the case. Even though “praying in the Holy Ghost” certainly does include praying in other tongues, I do not believe that it is completely limited to it. A person should not feel as though they have not had the influence of the Holy Ghost just because they have never prayed in tongues. The Holy Ghost influences the people of God to pray everyday, and many of them have never prayed in tongues. I believe that “praying in the Holy Ghost” is a time when a child of God is influenced to pray to Him sincerely, when they are directed by Him as to who or what they pray for, and when they are given the wisdom as to how to pray, by the Holy Spirit. And they will be given the faith that their prayers are being answered. This is a time when a child of God feels closer to Him than at any other time. One should not ever be condemned in their prayers, simply because they do not pray in tongues. Neither should a child of God get tied up or be in bondage, because of not speaking in tongues. One should only live and walk as close to God as they possibly can; continuously being led by his Holy Spirit, and leave the speaking in tongues up to the Father. And when the time comes for us to speak in tongues, if it does, it will be a wonderful time. And if this time does not come for us, we will still be alright; as long as we are seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and continuing to be led and influenced by his Holy Spirit in all things.

Praying in other tongues, is a time when the Holy Spirit prays through us. It is not something which a Christian is to just take and use as a toy; as though they can just do it any time they please. If the Holy Spirit is not involved in the situation, it is useless. It is a matter when the Holy Spirit prays through an individual to the Heavenly Father. It is a time when the devil has no idea what is being prayed, and therefore he has no way of causing trouble in the situation.

27. James 1:5-6 tells us: “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. 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. Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. Greek-diakrino (dee-ak-ree-no): without hesitation, doubt, or second thought (as to whether or not the prayer will be answered); to be firm and strong, with no staggering. We need to always pray in faith, without allowing our faith to waver; not only when we pray for wisdom, but when we pray for anything at all.

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B. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. We must pray in faith; believing that when our prayer is completed, that the answer is on the way. We are to then begin to thank God for the answer, until we see the manifestation. For if we allow our faith to waver when we pray, we might as well not expect God to send the answer to our prayers.

28. Tit. 2:1-2 tells us: “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience.” We must be sound in the faith. Greek-hugiaino (hoog-ee-ah-ee-no): true, uncorrupt, to be whole or perfectly stabilized, to be continually growing or maturing due to having sound faith.

29. We are to follow the faith of those who have the rule over us, and who have spoken the Word of God unto us. Heb. 13:7 tells us: “Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the Word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.” This is speaking of our spiritual leaders, such as our pastors, deacons, etc. We are told to follow, or to walk in the same pathway of faith which our spiritual leaders walked in.

30. Eph. 3:17 tells us that Christ must dwell in our hearts by faith. Greek-katoikeo (kat-oy-keh-o): to reside permanently as an inhabitant or a guest, and to remain therein. It is only by faith that we ever have any assurance that Christ dwells within us. Salvation, and being filled by the Holy Spirit, also works by the same general rule that we are told of in Mark 11:24; telling us that we must believe when we ask. We do not see any evidence with our natural eyes, but we believe it in our hearts by faith.

31. Rom. 4:5 tells us, that if we believe on Him that justifieth the ungodly, (Jesus Christ), then our faith is counted for righteousness. In other words, we receive our righteousness by faith.

32. We read in Rom. 3:3: “For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.” The fact that some people refuse to believe in Jesus Christ, or to believe in the Word of God, or to believe in any of the wonderful promises which God has made unto us in his Holy Word, does not make the faith of God without effect. Greek-katargeo (kat-arg-eh-o): to be idle or useless, of no effect, to make void, to fail, to bring to naught, to put down or destroy the power of, or to cause to be idle. It does not matter how many people refuse to believe the promises of God, if you will just believe yourself, the promises which God has made

unto you; whether it be for healing, or whatever the promise may be; you will see come to pass. When it comes to physical healing; even though God many, many times, uses doctors to bring about the healing which He has promised unto us in his Holy Word; many people will look to the human doctor, without ever even considering God in the situation. And many times, God may desire to perform a miracle; and there would be no reason to have to be concerned about medical operations, high medical expenses, and such. Our first one to turn to should be God; and then leave the rest up to Him; not the human medical doctor.

33. Acts 16:5 tells us, that the early churches were *established* by faith. Greek-stereoo (ster-eh-o-o): to be confirmed or made strong, to receive strength, to be made steadfast, or firm; without any possibility of movement.

Conclusion:

We must live by faith, walk by faith, and speak by faith. Everything we do everyday of our lives should be done with total faith in God and in his Word.

Calvin Smith