

Misconceptions about Faith!



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Real faith in God concerning real issues of life must be understood. There are many misconceptions about faith and much misinterpretation of what believing faith in the Atonement Blood of Christ really means. Acting in faith on the promises of God is our responsibility and our choice. We must be enlightened by the Holy Spirit on what real faith in God really is—and then acting on that belief. James 1:22 “*Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*”

Faith Hebrews 11:1 “*Is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*” A true believer in Christ lives by faith in what He did for them on the Cross. Hebrews 11:6 “*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.*” Believing faith is confident of receiving God’s promises.

No faith is required if we can recognize something with one of the five senses—hearing, taste, touch, smell, or sight. If we can see or touch something, faith is not part of the process. Faith is believing what someone verbally says but is not yet physically seen.

We can ask God for healing but may not yet have the deliverance—nevertheless, God says that His Son Jesus took our 1 Peter 2:24 “*Sins in his*

own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” We then act in faith on that promise from God.

Real faith really believes every Bible promise—even if the victory is not yet seen, because when the healing is received, faith is no longer needed. The world says: *Seeing* is believing; but God says: *believing is seeing!*

Even if circumstances are not what they should be, we must still persevere in faith, and remain sure of receiving what God has promised Titus 1:2 “*In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.*”

Jesus said Matthew 6:6 “*When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*” That is acting faith on an unseen God. Romans 10:17 “*Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*”

No one can act in faith for someone else. Real faith comes from really believing that Jesus shed His Blood on the Cross for us, and then our acting in faith on that belief. The Bible mentions little faith to great faith, so faith must grow or increase—and it will if it is fed by the word, believed in our heart, and acted on in this life.

Acting out faith is really forgiving someone. Mark 11:25 “*When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*” Faith is practiced when a difficult trial, temptation, or test is met—and they must be met according to the Word.

If a financial need is encountered, Jesus says Matthew 6:25 “*Don’t worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn’t life consist of more than food and clothing?*” If we believe what God has said, we will act as if it were true. James 2:17 “*Even so*

faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.” Professions of faith have to be linked to actions of faith.

If Abraham had not first believed what God said was true, he could not have acted in faith when he left his home; and he could not have been willing to sacrifice his son. If we believe God will supply our needs, we will trust Him in faith to do it—and not keep money aside in unbelief.

The prophet Elijah told the Widow of Zarephath not to fear, because God would supply the need—but she had to first give him the bread in faith. 1 Kings 17:16 “*And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah.*”

Jesus told the young ruler to get rid of laid up financial assets and to live by faith on the Word of God—if he wanted eternal life. Matthew 19:21 “*If you desire to be perfect, go and sell all that you have, and give to the poor, and you shall have wealth in Heaven; and come, follow me.*” If the man believed that it takes that type of faith to enter the kingdom, he would have sold all that he was depending on, so that his faith would be on God only.

Romans 10:10 “*For with the heart men believe and obtain righteousness, and with the mouth they make confession and obtain salvation.*” When we believe in our heart, God helps us reject doubts to our mind. Mark 11:23 “*If any one shall say to this mountain, ‘Remove, and hurl thyself into the sea,’ and has no doubt about it in his heart, but stedfastly believes that what he says will happen, it shall be granted him.*”

When Satan tries to have us doubt, we are to replace it with faith—faith that what God said will come true. We “*Hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering*” Hebrews 11:23. It is our responsibility to resist the devil, and it is God’s promise to help us do it. James 4:7 [You] “*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*”

Our prayers are to be according to God's will, and to not ask God for things that are *not* promised in His Word. James 4:3 *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss [wrong motives], that ye may consume it upon your lusts."*

When we pray for what is *promised*, we can be *sure* it will be *granted*. 1 John 5:14-15 *"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."* Before asking God we should be *sure* it is promised in His Word.

Spiritual *conditions* are to be met. Psalm 37:4-5 *"Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass."* Surrendering our will to God is *first*, and the answer to prayer comes *second*.

Philippians 4:19 *"My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus,"* but that promise was given to those who were generous. The Philippian church saw to the apostle's needs as he left for Macedonia; and they helped him again in Thessalonica.

Philippians 4:18 *"I have enough of everything—and more than enough. My wants are fully satisfied now that I have received from the hands of Epaphroditus the generous gifts which you sent me—they are a fragrant odor, an acceptable sacrifice, truly pleasing to God."*

Blessings are given to those who are *givers first* because they are trusting God *always*. The Bible tells us to give the *first fruits* of *any gain*—which is to *tithe* on the *gross* amount of our paycheck—*first*. Malachi 3:10 *"Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you such blessing That there will not be room enough to receive it."*

If we want to be blessed by God, we just give the first fruits of our gains to Him. The condition to receive *any* answer to prayer is to first *believe* in our heart that God will do what He has promised. If we say we *believe*, then we must act as if we have *already received* the answer—by *thanking* God *before* receiving it. We should praise God *before*—and *during* and *after* the blessing!

Philippians 4:6 *"Do not be over-anxious about anything, but by prayer and earnest pleading, together with thanksgiving, let your request be unreservedly made known in the presence of God."* If we will do that, divine peace is promised. We just keep on thanking God for the answer to prayer right up to the moment the answer is given.

We are responsible to *trust* God in faith, and to *believe* that the Atonement for sins on the cross provides everything we need in this life—spiritual, physical, or material. We trust Him in faith for spiritual *light* by His Spirit; for divine *healing* without prescriptions; for *protection* without security systems; and for every *need* supplied without *welfare*, *pensions*, or *Social Security*.

True faith does *not* doubt but is *sure* that God will always be faithful—that is a fundamental fact on faith. Matthew 7:24 *"Whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock"*—all the ordeals and hard times of life could not shake the firm foundation of his faith.

Matthew 7:26 *"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand."* Those same storms, difficulties, and hard times caused *his* house to collapse 27 *"And great was the fall of it."*

Satan wants to destroy us by using *fear* and *doubt* in our mind—because the *mind* is where the battle for our *soul* takes place. When we are *disturbed* with *doubts* from the devil, we are to *resist* with the *promises* of God. We are

Hebrews 6:12 *"Followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."* It is an enduring faith in *Christ* that receives the promises of God.

Real faith Hebrews 11:1 *"Is a well-grounded assurance of that for which we hope, and a conviction of the reality of things which we do not see"*—yet, but they will be seen—if we hold to our faith in God and continue to *believe* that He will grant the healing; give the supply; offer the protection; and bestow any other gift from His storehouse of blessings. A believer in Christ wants to do the will of the Father, because Hebrews 11:6 *"Without faith it is impossible to please God."*

Real faith means really keeping our *trust* on the shed Blood of Christ. It means being tested, but passing by enduring. 1 Peter 1:7-9 *"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:*

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." Real facts on faith for the believer in Christ!



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