

REAL FAITH IN GOD

S101A 0514 23P

There is so much that passes for faith today, that we are very often tempted, or at least inclined, to classify it as real faith. The kind of real faith we are talking about is faith in God. We cannot express in words how valuable that is.

Real faith in God harnesses and enables us to use a power that no language could describe, and no figures could calculate how much greater God's power is than any power that man has come in touch with, as God's power is absolutely omnipotent. There is no limit to it, and it can do anything that any human heart could need or desire.

There is no power that man has harnessed, can ever make anyone perfectly happy or give them everything they desire, but God's power can. Every power that man has harnessed or is using has to be paid for; it costs them something. But God's power is absolutely free. A power that is free and can do everything that we need and desire and make us perfectly happy for time and eternity.

Faith is the connecting link between our needs and God and His power. It is the medium, we might say, through which that power works, or flows. The Bible gives us very plain directions on how to harness God's power and as we follow the directions that God has given in His Word, we will harness His power.

The only way to harness God's power is to go according to His Word and follow the directions. Real faith is the kind that brings results, and the same results that they had in Bible times.

So many times, we hear the denominational Christian say, "The days of miracles are past." They think the time is past when God will do things for us, and that God does not exercise His power any more in behalf of anyone in trouble. They think they have to get out of their troubles the best way they can in

this life, but after they pass on, God is going to take them to Heaven.

We can easily see the cloven foot of Satan in such a religion; and every false religion has that tag on it, that we cannot get anything from God in this life, but we are to get it after we pass on. That is a false religion. The true Bible teaching is that the days of miracles have not passed, for in Malachi 3:6 it says: *"For I am the Lord, I change not."* And in Hebrews 13:8 we have—*"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever."*

But it does say that the days of faith would pass, that is, real faith. Luke 18:8, *"Nevertheless, when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"*

In Luke 18:1, Jesus gave a parable to show us that we ought always to pray and not lose heart. *"And he spoke a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint."*

That means when we put a request before God, we should not take it back nor give up, but we should hold steadfast until we get the victory. When we pray to God and our prayer has not been answered, if we would ask God to show us the reason, He will reveal it and then we could remedy that defect and get our deliverance. If we put a prayer request to God and let it go by default, it will wreck our faith entirely and destroy all confidence in God. He told us that He is more willing to hear and answer our prayers than we are willing to give good things to our children.

Matthew 7:11, *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"*

For example, if you run short of money, it shows there is some unscriptural attitude toward God's financial plan; it may be looking to human sources of supply instead of God alone, but when that attitude is corrected, God will open the windows of Heaven and shower down all that we need and desire.

Our failure to receive is because we have failed to take a Scriptural attitude, or the directions of God's Word have not been fully followed. Looking to some human source of supply and not believing we receive

the money when we pray, will entirely hinder God from answering that prayer. The moment we shut ourselves up to God alone and settle it finally and forever not to give the slightest hint to any human being that we have a need, God will abundantly supply every need.

God's power is at our side and service--placed there by the Blood of Jesus Christ, to give us whatever we need and desire. We never want to think that faith has any merit in it. It only enables God to give us, or put into our possession, that which already belongs to us, through the Blood of Christ. We find in Mark 11:22-24 the possibilities of real faith.

"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. Therefore, I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

When we can get whatever we desire and need, that is very valuable; and if we are not getting those things, it shows that we are not exercising real faith. Many people think they are trusting and believing God when they are not believing Him at all, and for that reason they are not getting any answers to prayer. We always want to remember that real faith brings definite, real results in the present moment, and if these results are not forthcoming, there is no real faith being exercised. God says He answers every prayer we make in the name of Jesus.

John 16:23-24, *"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."*

It is our heart attitude to God that has all to do with our ability to exercise faith. If we have any rebellion in our heart or if there is any of God's plans that we are not willing to accept, we cannot exercise any real faith. The moment we rebel against any of

God's plans and fail to surrender our life fully to God, Satan can hinder our faith without the least difficulty.

Satan's doubts and fears will overwhelm a rebellious person--they cannot stand for a moment against him, because he has a great power and a dominating influence over a rebellious heart, and as long as that condition remains, it is utterly impossible to believe the Word of God or to have any real faith in Him.

The first condition of having any faith in God is to be willing to surrender our life fully to Him, which means we are to give up our ways, and accept His ways and plans and our surrender must be genuine.

Romans 12:1, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

This places us in a position where we can harness the entire power of God for everything we need and desire. Surrender has no virtue in it, but it simply enables God to deliver us from Satan's power. No person can help another person against their will., when we are willing to surrender to God and His plan, we will get the same definite results and receive all the rich blessings that Jesus died to give us--everything we need and desire. That point must be settled first of all, that we are to surrender our lives to God without reservation.

We cannot be called a real Christian until we have fully surrendered, and then He can take possession of us, inspire us with real living faith and confidence and enable us to believe Him and doubt Satan. The next thing that will inspire real confidence and help our faith is to believe that the things we are praying for are already ours. Romans 8:17, *"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ."*

Sometimes that doesn't go very deep into our hearts, but when we once grasp it, that we are the heirs already and (we say it reverently) that God is the custodian, everything we need and desire is already ours, and we can go to Him with real Boldness and get whatever we desire. 2 Peter 1:3, *"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness."*

Paul brings it out clearer in 1st Corinthians 3:21-23, *"For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's."*

The statement we want to remember is in Romans 8:17--"and joint-heirs with Christ." A joint-heir is an equal-heir. That wonderful truth, or statement, is filled with a world of comfort, consolation, victory, and blessing of every kind.

That tells us that we have as much right to share God's spirituality and to take on ourselves God's character and God's health, prosperity, and blessing, as Jesus Christ who sits on the right hand of God's throne in Heaven. When Jesus left this earth, He said in Matthew 28:18-20, *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* Jesus told us in John 14:27, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you."*

Philippians 4:7, God says that His peace that passeth all understanding is to keep us in union with Jesus Christ. *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

When Jesus went away, He said in John 16:26-27, *"At that day ye shall ask in my name and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you: For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God."*

He meant that we did not even need His prayers, as God would hear us just as quickly as He would Jesus Christ. We have a right to have every prayer answered through the great atoning work of Jesus Christ on the Cross and His resurrection life and power.

The surrender to go God's way involves this one point above all others, and that is that we are to depend on God alone. The decision to do this must be settled finally and forever. As long as there is any possibility of us rebelling and making a way of our own for deliverance, it is utterly impossible for God

to answer our prayers, or for us to exercise faith. The decision to go God's way must be irrevocable. Anything less than that will allow Satan to fill us with doubts and fears and hinder us at every point.

Faith means to see something through a word, either through a written word or a spoken word, something we cannot see with our natural eyes. Faith in God can never be exercised except thru His Word.

These promises tell us how to harness the power of God. If we want the power of God to set us free from sin, it says—*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (1st John 1:9)

This means a real confession and a real forsaking. We are also to forgive everyone from the heart who has sinned against us. Mark 11:25, *"And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any; that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses."*

The very moment we have confessed and forsaken our sins, we are to believe on the authority of that Word and be just as sure as if God stood and told us with His own lips, that we are really forgiven and cleansed. God's Word says we are changed from sin to righteousness the moment we confess and forsake every sin. We are to see ourselves as God's Word says we are, forgiven and cleansed from all unrighteousness and made perfectly clean.

Faith always has to make a choice. From the foundation of the world, there has been a controversy between God and Satan. Satan suggests, "We are not delivered from Satan's power." God's Word says we are delivered.

Very few people know that these thoughts that come into our mind, are direct from the devil, just as though he stood in front of us and told us so. Satan has the power to suggest anything we allow him to put into our mind, and as long as we believe his lies, he will put them in there.



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