

WALKING BY FAITH IN CHRIST & GOD'S WORD

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We are told by the writer to the Hebrews "The just shall live by faith." And the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians that "We walk by faith, not by sight." In essence, the whole substance of a true Christian life, is 'Walking by faith', so we want to be brought to the place where we fully understand both in principle and in truth.

The Holy Spirit will do the work of enlightening one to that principle, anyone who believes on the Atonement work of the Son of God, and who are willing to fully surrender the 'will of self'. Then God can teach us how to walk by faith in Christ during our stay on this earth, when we realize that all blessings and deliverance comes through faith. He will teach us how to receive His blessings by faith, be it financially, physically, peace in the home, and in every other situation.

Jesus said we are to take up our cross and follow Him (meaning, His example of a daily life of faith). (Luke 9:23), "Then He" (Jesus) said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, ... and follow Me."

That is the same advice that Jesus gave a wealthy young man who came to ask Him "Good Rabbi, what am I to do in order to inherit the Life of the Ages?" (Mark 10:21) "Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, 'One thing you lack: Go your way, sell what-ever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; ... and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.'"

We must consider how delightful it is to take our burdens to the Lord in prayer, and to follow Him and His own example of faith, knowing that He will lift those burdens from us as promised, (as we come to correctly understand that blessings and deliverance all come through faith). It would be a shame for us to be lacking in our stand of faith in Christ and His Father's Word, when He has promised (Matt.11:28-30) "Come to me, all you toiling and burdened ones, and *I* will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For it is good to bear my yoke, and my burden is light."

We would miss out in receiving our full inheritance in Christ in this life, and miss out on receiving Eternal Life hereafter, if we did not get back to faith in God and get back to meeting His requirement of believing in Him whom He has sent. That is the works of faith that God requires of us (Jesus explained) (John 6:29).

All hindrance and opposition to exercising faith in God, is a smokescreen of the devil to confuse us. They are frame-ups from the devil, in his efforts to keep us from seeing things the way God's Word says they are (which are the real facts). Our responsibility is simply to believe on those facts, and to act in faith accordingly.

Faith works through a word that tells us about something. If

someone writes about, or tells us about something, we can picture it as it was described, unless we do not believe they are telling us the truth. If we believe that what was said (or written) is not true, then we would not pay any attention to it, and we would not have any reason to put faith in it. If we do not believe what the Bible says about what Jesus did for us through His Atonement work on the Cross, then we will not accept it as being true, and thus, we would not put our faith on the power of His shed Blood.

When someone tells us about something, and we believe that it is true (a right description), it would seem just as real to us as if we were there to see it for ourselves. That is having faith in a spoken word, because we are seeing things as that word says they are. That is really what faith is (and put very simply), if you look at something through green glass, it will appear to be green. If we see things as God's Word says they are to be, then they will appear that way to us, even before they become a reality in our life, because we are believing that something will be the way we are trusting that it will be. That is having faith in unseen, which is really what true faith is all about. (2 Cor.4:18) "While we look not at things seen, but things unseen; for things seen are temporary, but things unseen are eternal."

If we find it to be no trouble to accept what people on this earth say or write (and no doubt many times they are unbelievers), how much easier should it be for us to see things as God's Word says they are. We can even prove His Word for ourselves, if we believe it and through faith put it into practice, for that is all faith in God really is. It is seeing things as God's written Word says they are, and then acting according to what we believe to be true.

That is what Noah and Abraham did, and it was counted to them as righteousness in God's sight, because they believed His Word and acted on it as if it had already been fulfilled (and they were blessed by God). (Heb.11:7 "Through faith Noah, being divinely taught about things as yet unseen, reverently gave heed and built an ark for the safety of his family, and by this act he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which depends on faith."

It was the same with Abraham, who believed in what God told him (even though he did not yet see it), and he then acted on God's Word as if God's promises were already a reality. Because he believed God's Word, Abraham was able to act in faith, and he was blessed with God's righteousness within himself (which is the blessing that we all want to receive from God). (Gen.15:6 says), "And he (Abraham) believed in the Lord, and He (the Lord) accounted it to him for righteousness."

That is the same requirement (or condition) that Jesus said God has placed on us, (John 6:28-29) "What are we to do," they asked, "in order to carry out the things that God requires?" "This," replied Jesus, "is above all the thing that God requires—that you should be believers in Him whom He has sent."

It's up to us to settle it in our mind that what God's Word says is the Truth, then we will have no trouble in walking by faith, and

having our prayers answered. It is a God-given free-will choice to believe (or not believe) what God's Word is telling us. We must make up our mind that all opposition to what God's Word says is from the devil and his agents. Then we will reject it in Jesus' Name and pay it no attention (nor will we be bothered or worried by opposition).

We not only have the promises and the plain statements of God's Word, but we also have many examples to show us just how faith works (from those who accepted His Word, put it into practice, and proved it for themselves). Divine faith in God works unconsciously just the same as when we have faith in someone here (in daily situations).

Satan's object is to get us to see how much faith we have in ourselves, and to be occupied with what we are, and with what we can do (instead of what God will do if we place our faith on Him). The devil knows that if we would really look within ourselves to see how much faith we have, we would not find any, because it does not exist therein. Our faith must be in the One God whom we are to deal with through His Son, in all things.

Having faith in God's Word through His Son, carries with it every blessing in this life, and God's Promise of Eternal Life hereafter. No one else that we would put our faith in, carries that Promise of Eternal Life. Anyone who trusts in human plans is not even guaranteed to receive what is promised them for this life (let alone any eternal promise). But Jesus told us what God promises for those who have faith in Him, (John 3:16) "For so greatly did God love the world that He gave His only Son, that everyone who trusts in Him may not perish but may have the Life of Ages." When we choose to truly believe that what God's Word tells us is true, our faith (trust) on His Word will work unconsciously (because we have chosen to believe it to be true).

That is why it is the devil's object to get us occupied with what we are, or what we can do. It is to obscure what God can do (and has promised to do) for us, if we would only put our faith in Him. It is like a smokescreen that the devil uses, to bluff (or deceive) us into thinking that we haven't any faith, because we cannot feel it nor see it. The devil tempts us to think that if we cannot see our faith nor consciously feel it, then we cannot exercise faith. That is like thinking that because you cannot see the money in your pocketbook or wallet, that you do not have any money, so you cannot spend it. However, if you know that you have the money (even if you cannot see it), then you will spend it. Faith is based on facts, and it always works unconsciously. We only have to believe first of all that God's Word is fact, and we will unconsciously act in faith on His Word that we have chosen to believe, instead of acting on Satan's lies and suggestions to our mind.

The real question is not how much faith I have or do not have, rather, it is how faithful is the God that I am believing in? What kind of a God is He? Does He tell the truth, and can His Word be depended on when He makes a statement? Is it really true? That is all that we have to consider, and that is dealing with the facts,.. instead of dealing with our faith. Our faith in God will work unconsciously (just like breathing) when we believe on the facts about

Him and His Word!

In human affairs and concerns, we always deal with the facts. When we ascertain that something is a fact, we believe it without being conscious of it (just like not realizing we are breathing).

It is the same with exercising faith in God. We first need to realize the facts about Him, that He is reliable, He tells the truth, and He is honest and trustworthy. Surely, we all believe that God is honest, trustworthy, and that He always tells the truth. The truth is, we are to believe in what we cannot yet see, because God's Word and Promises say that is what it is for us. That is exercising perfect faith in God, because faith always has to do with the One we are dealing with, not with ourselves.

(Heb. 11:1-2 says), "Now faith is a well-grounded assurance of that for which we hope, and a conviction of the reality of things which we do not see. For by it the saints of old won God's approval." Thus, Paul told the Corinthians We "walk by faith, not by sight".

But, if we listen to the devil's suggestions to question ourselves, and thinking, I wonder how much faith I have? ... or I do not seem to be able to believe God for anything ... the devil will deceive us and hinder us from exercising faith and of receiving anything from God. The truth, however, is that anyone can exercise real faith in God at any time, and we can pray for God to strengthen our faith to believe what His Word says, just as Jesus' disciples asked Him to strengthen their faith to believe God's Word.

We read in the Bible of people who came to Jesus for the first time, and they exercised perfect faith with no difficulty. The devil was just as cunning, deceitful, and the father of lies then, as he is today, however, those who received their victory did not accept the devil's lies to try to hinder their faith.

In the 4th. chapter of John, it tells of a Roman officer who traveled all the way from Capernaum to see Jesus. (Vs.47-48), "He came to Him and begged Him to go down and cure his son; for he was at the point of death. "Unless you and others see miracles and marvels" said Jesus, "nothing will induce you to believe."

Jesus was telling the man what his spiritual condition really was, and that he had never settled it to see things as God's Word says they are. We can be sure that the devil had tempted that man not to come to Jesus in the first place, and saying, your son has already died. Do not believe Jesus' words. He is only a false prophet.

But the man was willing to believe in Jesus. (49-51), "Sir," pleaded the officer, "come down before my child dies." "You may return home," replied Jesus; "your son has recovered." He believed Jesus and started back home. He was already on his way down when his servants met him and told him that his son was alive and well."

Through believing Jesus' spoken Word, the man saw a well boy at home. If he had seen things through 'sight and feeling' (through listening to what the devil was telling him), he would have been seeing just the opposite. That is what makes all the difference in the world, and it is the difference between victory and defeat.

By believing the Word of God, spoken through Jesus Christ, it

presented a picture to the man's mind of a well boy. Just a word, not anything that he saw or felt. Sight and feeling and the suggestions from the devil were just opposite to that (and it is just the same with us today). The man had to choose whom he was going to believe, just as we have to do. Whether he was going to continue to follow the 'fallen nature' of man (as Jesus had pointed out to him, in saying, "Unless you and others see miracles and marvels, nothing will induce you to believe." Or, whether he would believe the bare Word of God's Son that told him his boy was well.

He made a choice not to go by sight and feeling, rather, to see that boy exactly as God's Word said he was. That was having faith in the unseen. If that man had not believed God's Word, and 'held on to that belief' (even though his servants ran to tell him that by sight and feeling his boy was well), ...he would not have found a living and well boy at home. He was not even conscious of whether or not he was exercising faith, he just considered whether it was safe to accept Jesus' Word as being true, ...and he chose right.

Faith, trust, and believing, are all part of the same, so by just believing God's Word through Jesus, the man=s faith and trust was being exercised. Even though he was not even conscious of it, perfect faith was being exercised through believing on a word (just as in human affairs). However, the man was believing on the Son of God's Word that his son had been healed, which reminds us of an old favorite hymn "Fear not little flock", ... "Only believe, All things are possible, Only believe". (Matt.19: and Luke 18 and Mark 10:)!

The most important thing for us to understand in our life of faith, is that it is the same way with us, as it was for that man in Bible times. We need to realize that we do not have to be concerned about how much or how little faith we have, but that we will automatically act in faith through believing God's Word. Also, we do not have to accept or be bothered by what we see or what we feel, if we are believing what God's Word tells us. And least of all are we to pay one particle of attention to anxiety that the devil tries to put in our mind through his thoughts and suggestions. Then we will begin to exercise faith in God, without even being conscious of it.

The only things we need to consider and settle in our mind, is how faithful and reliable is the God that we have. And what does His Word tell me that the Blood of Jesus Christ has done for me? It is not what I am to do (or how much faith do I have to exercise), rather, it is believing what Christ has already done for us that brings the victory. That is what we have to understand and believe, to enter into our divine inheritance of being made righteous by His Blood, receiving healing, enjoying God's peace, having our needs supplied, and every other good and perfect gift from above.

Jesus Christ has provided a full abundance of all these things, by His Atonement work on Calvary's Cross, and when we learn to truly believe that, our faith and trust will be exercised instinctively. When we occupy our mind with what Christ has done, and not with

