

# The Foundation of Faith

## (LESSON 2) PART 1

S022 25 0928P

**(Mark 11:24)** *“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*

That is almost too good to be true, we think. It opens unlimited possibilities. We have a great many desires: spiritual desires; physical desires; social desires, desires for our home-life; desires for our Christian life, desires for money, and perhaps other desires.

As we pray for wisdom and spiritual understanding, we are told in this text what possibilities are opened before us and how completely we are to have these desires gratified. You know there has been much darkness along this line. The average Christian thinks we should be satisfied if we have bread and water; because God has promised in Exodus 23:25—*“And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and He shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.”*

Most people do a great deal of thinking about the bread and water, but they utterly forget the part about the serving of the Lord. God desires to bless us spiritually, physically, financially, and in every way we need it, and if we serve Him as He intends we should, we shall receive His fullness and blessing along every line. This is the thought that David had, as mentioned in Psalm 103; and he was under the Law.

**(Psalm 103:1-5)** *“Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; Who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; Who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; ...”*

That is temporal supplies, something good to eat; to put flesh on your ribs and color on your cheeks—the right kind—not the kind that you purchase at the drug store.

The pastor said, “I was speaking with a lady one time, who had called to interview me about the healing of her body, and I happened to

remark, as she was relating about her diseases, that she did not appear to be ill, as she had a healthy complexion; and she turned to me and said, “Well, you know many ladies get their color in the drug store.” So I do not talk any more about their complexion. David, in this Psalm, was praising God for a health which puts color into one’s cheeks. **(Psalm 103:5)** *“Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”*

When we couple this text up with Mark 11:24, we have a combination which I hardly think our finite minds can grasp. It has such a wonderful sweep, such a wide range of possibilities. Then we can also couple these up with **(Ephesians 3:20)** *“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”*

**(Mark 11:24)** *“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them.”*

When we pray, we are to BELIEVE that we receive just at that time. That is the whole story, that is the whole Gospel; and it includes pardon and cleansing from sin; deliverance from Satan and his power; it includes fullness of God’s Holy Spirit; righteousness; health and protection for these bodies; perfect health and salvation to our homes; plenty of money, all we desire for ourselves and all we desire to give away to others; in other words, it means victory and blessing everywhere and in everything.

In our lesson, we desire to call attention to the kind of BELIEVING we are to do, the importance of the BELIEVING. People take two kinds of attitude to this believing, two attitudes to this promise; the one is that we have to believe to make God give us what we desire; in other words our faith is to persuade God to do the things we desire; thinking that if we have a strong faith, have enough faith in God we can convince Him to give us what He has promised; but it must be a very perfect faith or God will not grant us the desire. We will not receive the answer unless we have the perfect faith; in other words, our faith is first, last, and all—it must produce the results.

This attitude keeps our minds and hearts centered on our efforts to believe and in consequence it pampers the work of the flesh and resolves itself in the attitude of the mind trying to accomplish something—almost in the form of Christian Science.

Not that there is any Christian Science about real faith, but there is Christian Science about trying to believe something into existence to produce something through believing. *Our faith does not produce anything; but it just allows God to work.* It is surprising how the self-effort centers around this fact of believing that our faith will convince or persuade God to do for us what we desire; that we are compelled to BELIEVE in order to bring it to pass.

That form of faith is always founded and carried on by self-effort; it is really a work of the flesh; therefore, it hinders—to a full extent—the power of God to accomplish what we desire accomplished. It is self working in another form, trying to believe and trying to persuade God to do what we desire done because of our believing; trying to influence God to do for us because of our believing; depending on the amount of believing we are doing to persuade God to accomplish our desires.

That is an entirely wrong attitude, just as much as Cain, bringing the fruits of the ground for an offering. We are trying to purchase God's gifts with our good works, trying to believe in our own strength, trying to purchase results with our faith, with the works of our flesh.

The flesh likes to hide behind the most pious thing; and in this instance it is to make us believe it is not the flesh working, but it is our faith in God. It is the flesh trying to be good, trying to believe, trying to be pious, trying to keep the Sabbath day, trying to dress like a devout person.

The kind of faith which brings results is a faith which asks God and then believes it is true, and the work is accomplished, whether we believe it or not.

We desire to get this idea of faith clearly before us; what it is and what it is founded upon and why we have a right to believe God. God never asks us to believe anything in order to make it true; all God ever asked anyone to do was to believe something which is already true, and that is His Word.

The pastor said, "Allow me to give you an illustration. Suppose you took a coat to the tailor to be pressed, mended, and cleaned. The coat was in a bad condition, you saw it in your closet, and it was unfit for use in that condition, so you sent it away to be mended, cleaned, and pressed.

He promised to notify you when the coat was finished. In five days' time you received a call that the coat was mended, cleaned, and pressed, ready for you to pick it up."

That is all the believing that God asks us to do, just as you would believe that coat is ready for you. God tells us something which is true, whether we believe it or not. That coat was finished, whether you believe it or not; it was a fact. God tells us about real facts which He has already accomplished and only asks us to believe them. Whether we do so or not does not alter the matter.

In order to receive any benefit of that coat, after it was mended, cleaned, and pressed, the first thing you must BELIEVE that email—that written promise that the work is accomplished. If you will believe that written promise, you will go and get the coat, without seeing that it is mended, cleaned, and pressed; you will act on that written promise, and as a result you will receive the benefits of that piece of clothing. If you did not believe the written message on that email, you would not go after the coat, and hence, would not receive any benefits of it, but would have hard feelings against the man.

In just the same way we have had hard feelings against God, just as if He could help it. The real trouble is that we do not BELIEVE His Word. Then again, we murmur against God and blame Him for our defeats and troubles. When God asks us to believe that our sins are forgiven and cleansed, it is a true fact, whether we believe it or not.

When He asks us to believe that our bodies are healed, that we have perfect health the moment we ask; it is a true fact and the moment we believe it, we can prove it for ourselves.

We desire to bring out these facts. Returning to your coat which was mended, cleaned, and pressed by the tailor and he sent you an email to that effect; just so God tells us in His Word that our sins, sorrows, troubles, and diseases are cancelled on Calvary's Cross, and the very moment we believe it as much as we believed that the coat was finished and ready to wear—victory will be ours.

The work of our deliverance was accomplished 2000 years ago. Suppose that the

tailor sent the coat to your door, sending an email stating that someone was bringing the coat which had been mended, cleaned, and pressed. You went out and found that man standing at the door with that coat. That is just what Jesus said **(Revelation 3:20)** *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock:...”*

He stands there with our pardon and cleansing, with our healing and our protection—*“if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.”*

As the man at the door said— “Here is your coat,” you gave heed to him and took it in. The same thing will happen when we give heed to the voice of Jesus Christ. Our deliverances were wrought on the Cross and Jesus stands at the door with them, knocking for admittance. They have been accomplished even if we never believe it. This is proven throughout the Scriptures and our victories all hinge right here. It is not our faith which brings us pardon, or cleansing, or any other deliverance. No virtue or merit on our part would ever cause God to do anything for us; it is only what the Blood has done which will cause God to work in our behalf.

Faith, when adjusted right and founded on the work of the Cross, will bring deliverance. It is the faith of God, not ours. The Blood of Jesus Christ has cancelled all my sins, destroyed my self-life, healed my body, destroyed the power of the devil in attacking my body, it has protected my body from every attack and influence of Satan, it has given me the right to be blessed financially, it has made me an heir to God’s entire wealth. This work was accomplished 2000 years ago, through the work of the Lamb Who was slain from the foundation of the world.

The very moment we believe that Jesus really did that work for us and is standing at our door and knocking with the deliverances that we desire, and when we hear His voice and will give heed to it, He will grant us the desires of our heart.

The power of God is right at our side to make this real. Nobody but God could make such a plan; that we are to believe that Word and thereby be saved—nothing but believing the Word about Jesus having bought and paid for all our deliverances 2000 years ago.

When we believe, in any measure, what Jesus did for us on the Cross, it gives us the right to have perfect victory in spirit, soul, and body. It is written that if we only have faith as a grain of mustard seed—which is the smallest grain seed—we could remove mountains. **(Matthew 17:20)** This work has been done, it is a true fact, whether we believe it or not, just as your coat was mended, cleaned, and pressed, whether you believed it or not.

In any business transaction, we must believe that when the goods are at the door, we must take them in, or we will never receive them. That is the whole story and meaning of the text in **(Mark 11:24)** *“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*



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