

The Foundation of Faith

(LESSON 3) PART 1

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Previously, we took up the fact that the Blood of Jesus Christ has placed God and all that He is and has, or can do, at our service, for our personal blessing and deliverance.

We also brought out the fact that our deliverances and blessings and the use we make of God can only be made through FAITH, not as an arbitrary rule or whim, but as the only principle which can work between God and man. We cannot receive anything without believing that it has been given to us. We must believe the fact that it is really and truly ours.

If they tell us the goods are ours and they are reliable people, we believe their word and are exercising the same kind of faith in men that God asks us to exercise in Him. If we exercise faith in the same manner, it will bring us anything needed or desired.

Faith always works through a written or spoken word. Somebody tells you the description of a certain building or some scenery they have viewed on their journey. Through the eye of your mind, you have received a mental picture of that place; it has been conveyed to your mind through their words instead of your natural eye. That is faith.

Someone writes you a letter or you read something in a book concerning the history of some battle, how they came to the battlefield, how they fought the enemy and gained the victory. They have a vivid description of that battle, and you picture in your mind just how it all happened.

The pastor said, "I remember reading about two men in the Confederate Army going astray from their company, during the Civil War. They stopped at the home of two people, who looked upon them with great surprise, viewing their uniforms, etc. Finally, they persuaded the men to come in and get something to eat, after which one of them sat down and played the piano, and he charmed them so that they were spellbound.

He began to portray the whole battle in music, bringing before them the roar of the cannon, the bugle call, the sound of the muskets, the fife and drum, etc., the music came nearer and nearer until they thought they were right in the midst of the battle itself. After reading that article—that written word—I really imagined I saw that battle with my natural eyes; the description was so vivid.

We read in the Bible that when Jesus was here on earth, He spoke and sins were forgiven, He spoke, and bodies were healed. He said to the lepers: **(Luke 5:14)** *"Go show yourselves to the priest."* They believed that spoken word and were cleansed and healed. Their going to the priest did not heal them; but their ACTIONS to that spoken Word and ACTING exactly like a well person enabled God to perfectly heal them. The harder and more strenuously we act out our faith, the more quickly will our healing be perfected. They acted immediately upon the spoken Word of Jesus Christ and were instantly healed.

Years ago, we had an elderly lady who dislocated her ankle, and it crippled her terribly, and as she stepped on it, it certainly pained very much. It was amazing how she could walk on it; but she said she lifted that limb and struck it down as hard as she could on the pavement in the name of Jesus Christ, refusing to have that dislocation. She said immediately it went back into its place and never gave her any further trouble. That was perfect faith—real actions of faith, for a person with a dislocated ankle to start to walk, believing they were a perfectly well person.

This is exactly what God did for the man at the Beautiful Gate. Peter and John went up into the temple, and this man was lying at the Beautiful Gate asking alms of the people. **(Acts 3:4-8)** *"And Peter fastening his eyes upon him with John said, Look on us. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God."*

That is some kind of healing, but it was because there were real actions of faith. This man being lifted up and then walking and leaping in the temple was because of believing in the spoken Word of God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. These people rose up and walked,

because they believed in the spoken promises of God.

The written promises are exactly the same, the same Word which comes to us in writing, declaring that God hears and answers our prayers; that when we confess our sins, they are forgiven the moment we ask, in the name of Jesus Christ. It is the same with healing or anything else; we can ask and receive until our joy is full. **(Mark 11:24)** *“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*

Now the whole object of God in His dealings with us is to strengthen us in faith and Christian character and to mold and fashion us into the image of Jesus Christ. Our characters can only be developed and Christ enthroned to the extent that our faith develops, so we can see the importance of our faith being developed and the life of Jesus Christ to be enthroned. The life of Christ is to be received by faith; Christ is to dwell in our hearts by faith.

(Ephesians 3:17-19) *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”*

Some people think in order to have the fulness of God they must lie on the floor, jump over chairs, act like wild Indians and squeal like pigs. This only hinders people from coming into the truth, and is no evidence of having faith at all, it is only the exuberant feeling like people have at election time or at a baseball game or a football game. They do such things at these meetings, which have no indication of spirituality. It is an indication that we have no spirituality. The Word says: **(Isaiah 30:15)** *“In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.”*

All of God's blessings are to be received through faith—not sight and feeling—but simply by believing something which God says in His Word, for Christ is to dwell in our hearts by faith, just to the extent that our faith grows and develops will that life be enthroned.

Paul speaking in **(Romans 12:3)** says: *“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.”

He also said that neither “circumcision” (what he had promised to do in his own strength, by his own efforts) and “uncircumcision” (what he did not do) have any value, but faith which worketh by love. That is the thing which counts with God. **(Galatians 5:6)** *“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”* **(Hebrews 11:6)** *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: (God) for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”*

It is not outward acts of morality that God is looking for, it is the hidden heart confidence which enables Him to put our inward machinery into perfect working order; it is not the outward life which concerns Him primarily—as that will take care of itself when the inner life is all He desires it to be—but the inward. life of love and faith in the promises of God, having the life of Jesus Christ dwelling within us.

Having the self-life ruling and reigning in his life instead of the life of Jesus Christ landed Job on an ash heap, full of sores. He paid attention to the outward life and works apart from the power of God. The inner life is the only thing which counts with God at all; having Jesus Christ enthroned through faith in the promises, and to be able to pray according to the promises; to be able to be pardoned and cleansed and then believe the Word when it says we are forgiven and cleansed from all sin. Be enabled to pray to God for the healing of our bodies and through faith in God's Word have them healed immediately. Surrender our bodies a living sacrifice unto God and believe they have become holy and acceptable and sanctified the moment the surrender is made.

As soon as we take that position, that we are pardoned and cleansed, holy and acceptable, dead indeed unto sin and living unto God in Christ Jesus, that we are really a bona fide son of God, a real Bible Christian in the fullest Bible sense, in a position to obey the Word, that my inner machinery has been made to work exactly right, that Jesus Christ has been enthroned within, the outward life will be fully adjusted to the will of God.

Just to the extent that we continue to BELIEVE and MAINTAIN that attitude of confession and forsaking our sins—confessing our sins

continually causing us to give up our ways and accept God's ways—and surrendering our lives to God, believing continually that we are dead indeed unto sin and living unto God in Christ Jesus—just to the extent that we believe that Life is living and working in us, it will be so in reality. Until there is a full surrender, there can be no faith.

A woman wrote to the church asking: “Will you pray and ask the Lord to give me faith enough to give up my medicine?” You would probably think that is a good request, but it is the most foolish question in the world to ask anyone to do. It is an utter impossibility, as God Himself could not give you faith to give up your medicine; until you give up human means of all kinds, faith is an impossibility. After medicines and all human remedies are given up, then faith becomes possible and easy. Until we have surrendered to go God's way and to BELIEVE God's Word and trust in Him alone for our lives, faith cannot be exercised at all.

The very first thing which must happen is: **(Psalm 37:5-6.)** *“Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him; and he shall bring it to pass.”*

An inspiration of faith always comes with the surrender, but the surrender must be genuine. As we commit our way unto the Lord and trust also in Him, He immediately begins to work.

(6) *“And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.”*

As we make the surrender just as we should and have the Christ life enthroned within; as we trust God alone and maintain the attitude of faith, we will also be delivered out of every trouble, distress, and disease.

Our next thought is how this faith is to be developed? It will develop just to the extent that we meet the trials and temptations in a Scriptural way; that is the only possible way in which faith can be developed. That is what the trials and temptations are for.

If we find ourselves in trouble, we can rest assured—that just to that extent—we are not trusting God right; whether it be spiritual, physical or financial. Our faith is not what it ought to be, and that trial has been sent for the purpose of perfecting that faith. That is a good thing to know, that there is a dependence upon something besides God in our lives, some possibility of not going through with God; which is the cause of all our

trouble, a lack of surrender, a lack of real faith. The trial comes because of this lack.

When we have a financial trial, it is to reveal to us that we have never settled it to go through with God financially. If we have financial battles, if we are finding it a task to make both ends meet, finding it difficult to get the clothing we need, finding the rent too high, it shows that our faith is lacking along financial lines, that we have never settled matters to go through with God according to His financial plan, never settled it to meet these trials right.

As soon as we decide to meet these trials in a Scriptural way, our troubles will be ended forever; our faith will be perfected and the windows of Heaven will open wide, and we will have all the money we need for ourselves and all we need. to give away.

It is the same with healing; when our faith is perfected and we are trusting in God fully we will find no difficulty in receiving the deliverances we need. When this is not the case, we can rest assured that something is being depended upon besides the living God; some human plan or dependence is hindering our faith in God; we are not looking to Him alone, hence our faith is not being perfected, and we are unable to exercise real faith. That is the only reason trials come. That is why we have those attacks in our body, trouble in our homes, our peace disturbed through our loved ones, because we have never fully decided to trust God; so, He gives us the priceless privilege of getting into the trial to expose our heart's condition and to make a decision to trust Him right.



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