

Real Faith Based On Fundamental Facts

S477R

0826 26W

Many and varied are the misconceptions about faith, and then even more-so are misunderstandings about what believing on the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ really *means* .. *and* then One's acting in faith *on* that belief. It is our responsibility, and it's our choice to submit and allow ourselves to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit of God, to be taught by Him about the principles of faith and trust on His Promises, and so, be enabled to act on God's Word and Promises. (James 1:22) "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Faith, we are told (Hebrews 11:1) "is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." A believer lives by faith in what Christ did for them on the Cross. (Heb.11:6) "Without faith it is impossible to please God." A real believing faith will be confident of *receiving* God's promises (Hebrews 10:23).

No faith is required when we can *perceive* something via our senses of sight, hearing, touch, or smell. If we can *see* or *touch* something, faith is not present. Faith is *believing* what someone says, but is not yet *seen*.

When we have asked God for healing, we may not yet have received the deliverance, but God's Word tells us that His Son Jesus took our "sins in his own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24), and *that we*, "being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." (We then need to *act in faith* on that promise given to us in God's Word.)

Real faith really believes God's promises, even when the victory is not yet *seen*, for when the healing *is* received, faith is no longer needed. People of the world will say '*seeing* is believing', but God says that 'believing is seeing something by faith'.

When circumstances are not what they should be, it is a test for us, and we need to still persevere in our faith on God's Word, and to remain convinced and *sure* of our receiving what God has promised to all who hope and believe in Him (Titus 1:2) "In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time [the world] began."

Real faith is not an outward thing or show, it is an inward mindset and attitude of the heart, which inspires us to place all circumstances or problems, and Scriptural desires or needs before God in prayer to Him alone (not letting those requests be known to any other person).

Jesus instructed us how we are to worship in prayer to God (Matt.6:6) "When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." That would be 'acting *faith* on an unseen God.' (Romans 10:17) "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (through its having been spoken by Christ and yet the apostle quoted from Isaiah 53:1) "Lord, who has believed the Message they have heard from us." God spoke to all through the Prophet (Isaiah 65:2) "All day long I have stretched out my arms to a self-willed and fault-finding people."

No one can act in faith for someone else. Real *faith* is based on the fundamental fact of really *believing* that Jesus shed His Blood on the Cross for us, and then our acting in faith on that belief in our heart (that *Jesus paid it all* for each one of us to believe and receive of His many Promises). The Bible teaches us about '*little faith to great faith*', so one's faith must grow and increase and it will grow if it is *fed* by the Word of God, *believed* in our heart, and *acted* on in this life.

An instance of acting out faith would be our forgiving someone's trespass against us. (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." We have an opportunity to practice our faith when we have an insult or a difficult trial, temptation, or test to meet, and they *must* be met according to the *Word of God* Who holds our destiny in His hands.

If a financial need comes about in our life, Jesus told us (Matt.6:25) "Do not worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food, drink, and clothes. Doesn't life consist of more than food and clothing?" If we will make our choice to believe on those Words from God, we will *act* as if it our answer *were already true*. (James 2:17) "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead." (Meaning that one's *Professions* of faith have to be linked to and by actions of faith.)

If Abraham had not first *believed* what God said to him were true words of instruction from Him, he could not have *acted* in faith when he left his home in obedient faith *to God's Word*; and he could not have *raised* a knife over his son. However,

Abraham *did believe* God, so he *did obey and act* in faith on that belief in God, and, believing that God would somehow provide a way of escape for him in that most severe of all tests of his faith, (just as God will provide a way of escape for us when we are tempted and tested, in whatever our circumstance might be).

If we truly believe that God will supply our needs, we will trust Him in faith to do that and not keep an insurance of laid-up money aside for that possible need, in an act of unbelief. The prophet Elijah told the Widow of Zarephath not to *fear*, because God would supply the *need*, but she had to *first* give her last morsel of bread and give it to him in her faith on God's Word to her through the prophet. (1 Kings 17:16) "For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah." (God's written Word speaks the same instruction to us today, to be believed and followed. Again, (James 2:17) "Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

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 to receive eternal life. (Matt.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 had believed that it takes *that type of faith* to enter the kingdom, he would have sold everything he was depending on, so that his *faith* would be on God alone.)

(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 enables us to reject Satan's doubts to our mind. (Mark 11:23) "If anyone shall say to this mountain, 'Remove, and hurl thyself into the sea,' and has no doubt about it in his heart, but steadfastly believes that what He says will happen, it shall be granted him."

Whenever Satan tries to have us to doubt, we are to replace it with *faith*, our faith that what God said will come true. We are to "Hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering" we are told Heb.10:23. So it is our responsibility to resist the devil, and, it is God's promise to help us to do that (James 4:7) "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." *God wants us to resist the devil, and God is waiting for us to willingly seek His help, for him to enable us to resist the devil.* (Matt. 23:37) "How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her

chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!" (Jesus said)

Our prayers are to be according to God's will (not our will). We are not to ask God for things that are *not* according to nor promised in His Word. (James 4:3) "When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures."

When we pray for what is promised for us, we should then be confident and *certain* that it will be granted to us. (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 want to be *sure* what we ask is promised in His Word.

There are Spiritual *conditions* 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, rather to trust on God is first, and the answer to prayer follows as we believe in faith for our answer from God. That is why we are to deal personally with God, with faith to believe on His Word and Promises). (Phil.4:19) "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus," That promise was given to those who were generous. The apostle said that the Philippian church saw to his needs as he left to go to Macedonia; and they helped him again in Thessalonica.

He had said (Phil.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 'the 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. (God's Words of instruction for us, come first, and ahead of other concerns, but not without God's promise to reward us for putting Him first in regard to our finances). (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 are to give the 'first fruits' of our gains to Him. (In the same way) 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 are to act as if we have already received the answer, by our *thanking* God in faith *before* receiving it.

(Phil.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 to us. (Phil.4:7) "and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

So, through our believing God's Word, we are to thank God for the answer to prayer right up to the moment the answer is given.

Our responsibility is to '*trust* God in faith', and, to believe that the 'Atonement for sins' on the Cross, provides everything we need in our life, be it spiritual, physical, or material. We trust Him in faith for 'spiritual light' via His Spirit; trust Him for divine healing without use of pills, other medicines, or prescriptions; also for protection without use of guns or security systems and devices to protect our belongings; and then for the supply of needs without welfare checks, company pensions, or Social Security payments, and other forms of laid-up financial assistance.

True faith does not doubt, but it is *sure* that God will be faithful, which is a fundamental fact on living by faith. (Matt.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 trials, tribulations, and hard times of life, could not shake the firm foundation of faith of one who believes and acts on His sayings and Promises.*

(Matt.7:26 admonishes all people), "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, trials, and hard times caused his house to collapse (vs.27) "And great was the fall of it."

Satan wants to destroy us by using worry and *doubt* in our mind to lead us into fear and unbelief, because in our mind is where the battle for our soul takes place, so the devil wants lead us into unbelief in order to destroy the faith that we have in our mind and heart. When we are *disturbed* with *doubts* from the devil, we are to *resist* him in Jesus'

Name, and instead, to believe in faith on the promises of God. (Heb.6:12) "Imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises." "Hold firmly to the faith we profess." (Heb.4:14) because it is enduring faith in the Atonement Blood of Christ that receives the promise of God.

(Heb. 11:1) "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." (*not yet*), but the reality of things *will be* seen, if we hold to our profession of faith, and continue to believe that God will grant the healing; give the supply; offer and supply His divine protection; and will bestow any other gift from His heavenly 'storehouse of blessings'. A believer in Christ wants to do the will of the Father, because (Heb.11:6 tells us) that "Without faith it is impossible to please God."

Fundamental facts on faith mean, keeping our trust fully centered on the shed Blood of Jesus Christ. It means being tested, but passing that test by enduring. (1 Peter 1:7-9 assures us) "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 honor 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."

&&&&&&&&



www.fcgchurch.org
fcgchurch1@gmail.com

PO BOX 143
 Cheltenham, PA 19012
 S477R 0826 26W

The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia