

Sunday, February 3, 2013

Faith is Now
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Without faith operative in our lives it will be hit and miss in relationship to us partaking of the blessings of God. But when we begin to understand the principles of faith and that it is God's will for us to exercise faith and that God has already given us faith we will have a greater confidence in our prayer life and believing God for what we have need of in our lives.

1 John 5:4 (KJV)

⁴ For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

God gave us a measure of faith and it is up to us to develop it and it is faith that is the victory that overcomes the world.

Hebrews 4:2 (KJV)

² For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

We are to mix faith with the Word of God. That can be a challenge. If we don't have faith The Word of God will be of no benefit to us.

Romans chapter 4 tell about how Abraham learned to believe God totally separate from works and him doing everything just right that got him to inherit the promises of God but by believing what God had said. In this revelation that Paul brings out in this chapter is contrasting works with believing God or faith. In this chapter it is brought out that it is not about by doing or keeping the works of the law but it's by faith that we inherit the promises of God.

Romans 4:13 (AMP)

¹³ For the promise to Abraham or his posterity, that he should inherit the world, did not come through [observing the commands of] the Law but through the righteousness of faith.

Abraham came to grips with there was nothing he could do other than believe what God has said. The external works would never bring the promise to pass.

Romans 4:16 (AMP)

¹⁶ Therefore, [inheriting] the promise is the outcome of faith and depends [entirely] on faith, in order that it might be given as an act of grace (unmerited favor), to make it stable and valid and guaranteed to all his descendants—not only to the devotees and adherents of the Law, but also to those who share the faith of Abraham, who is [thus] the father of us all.

Grace enables us to do what God has called us to do because God calls us beyond our own ability,

Galatians chapter 3 details that you and I are descendants of Abraham by virtue of accepting Jesus Christ as our savior, and we become inheritors of everything that was given to Abraham to inherit.

If we are going to inherit what God has promised us we must know something about believing, trusting and having faith in God and what he has said.

What is faith?

Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)

11 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

The difference between faith and hope is that hope is always in the future. Faith is right now.

Hebrews 11:1 (AMP)

11 Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, ^[a]the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Faith is the proof of what we do not see and the conviction of its reality. The Word of God becomes our proof. We may say that God is meeting our needs according to His riches in glory, and yet our senses are telling us they are hoping that they will be met but it is in the future and you really don't know. When we have revelation knowledge it goes beyond our five senses.

Faith perceives as a real fact what is not revealed to our senses. At times we function in sense knowledge without having revelation. Revelation knowledge put us in the place where we move into experiential truth versus positional; we begin to experience His goodness of inheriting God's promises. Faith is now. Hope is always in the future.

Moffatt's translation of faith is that we are confident of what we hope for convinced of what we do not see.

Faith moves beyond our five senses. Faith has an eye on the inside of us that sees farther. Faith sees beyond our circumstances in the now and sees the favorable outcome.

Faith is grasping the unreality of hope, and brings them into the realm of reality, and with that then we have the confidence of it.

Mark 11:24 (KJV)

²⁴ Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Do we receive and then we believe? No, we believe first.

Mark 11:23 (KJV)

²³ 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.

Whosoever is anybody can but everybody won't but blessed God somebody will.

Be a whosoever!

Faith is now. Faith grasps the unrealities of hope and brings them over into the area of reality where they are meaningful to us.

Seeing is believing or believing is seeing? Faith operates in believing is seeing.

Mark 11:24 is how the God kind of faith works.

Faith perceives as a real fact what is not revealed to our senses.

An example of being governed by our senses is found in John 20. This is after the resurrection and the disciples were shut up in a room and were afraid they may be crucified also.

John 20:24-25 (KJV)

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

Thomas was saying that he would not believe unless his five senses tell him some things. He wanted to touch and see.

John 20:26-29 (KJV)

²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

²⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

There is a blessing for walking in faith.

How do we believe? Based on what the scripture says.

Romans 4:18 (KJV)

¹⁸ Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

He believed according to that which was spoken. It wasn't according to his five senses he believed to that which was spoken. It took Abraham 24 years to develop the God kind of faith. He spent 10 years trying on his own and that didn't work.

It is important that we get a word from God. We need to find a scripture that is going to confirm what you are praying and believing God for.

Faith is now.

Romans 4:19 (KJV)

¹⁹ And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

Consider means you are always examining or checking something out. Abraham quit acknowledging that his body was dead as far as having a child and he quit considering his wife's situation either.

Romans 4:20-21 (KJV)

²⁰ He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

²¹ And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

How do we get that kind of faith and is it possible?

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Being diligent is a lifestyle, firm steady effort. God wouldn't give us that kind of commandment without making it possible for us.

How do we get the God kind of faith?

Romans 12:3 (KJV)

³ 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.

When we were born again God gave us a measure of faith.

Romans 10:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Our faith is awakened when we hear the Word of God. We have the measure of faith and many times it is dormant. Sometimes it gets awakened then goes back to sleep. When our faith wakes up it can become a very active proponent in our lives.

It is possible for us to have the God kind of faith. We need to keep the measure of faith awake in our lives.

2 Corinthians 2:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.