

November 27, 2016

What Does It Mean To Really Believe? Pastor Charles Mendenhall

The following is an excerpt from a prophecy given by Bro. Kenneth E. Hagin in 2003.

"Many are concerned about the future and wonder what will happen, will darkness overtake? Or will the light continue to shine bright? Yes, saith the Lord of Hosts, remember that you are in my hands and remember that I know the future better than you know the past, all is well, I will alert you concerning that which will affect you, I will show you the way to go and you will walk in it and be blessed above all the people of the world, upon the earth you shall be blessed for thou art my people and my people shall rule and reign and the blessings of God will fall upon them, the later rain shall be poured out upon nations that are now barren and void, but the rain will be poured out, the seed will be planted, the harvest will come, the glory of God will shine upon the earth and they of the world will walk on in the way in which they walk and have chosen darkness will overtake them but you shall walk in the light, the entrance of His word giveth light, walk according to the word, walk in My word, walk in My Spirit and the powers shall rest upon you and the glory of God shall be seen upon your face and many shall turn to the Lord, great days, great times, great blessings are ahead so rejoice and be glad saith the Lord."

We have been learning about the importance of praise and worship in our lives, the following scripture is David speaking as to how he entered into worship when things were not going right for him. Paul tells us in 2nd Corinthians that he has been tried in many areas of his life and ministry, but that he was not giving up, he was experiencing resurrection life through Christ Jesus. This is how we are to be built up ourselves in our daily lives and have the God kind of faith through praise and worship.

Psa 34:1-4 "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth. 2 My soul shall make her boast in the Lord: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad. 3 O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. 4 I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." KJV

What does it mean to believe and have the God kind of faith? These scriptures tell in detail how to learn to walk in that faith, believing in our hearts and not doubting, speaking out of our mouth the things that we are desiring and receiving them. Faith has different attributes, believes the word and speaks, there is a rest that comes right in the middle of the storm, faith has gratefulness and thankfulness and faith has joy. As we encounter the "mountain", the challenge or storm in life, we are to speak to the mountain and not about the mountain, the mountain only becomes bigger as we speak about it and not to it. When do we receive those things we desire? when we pray or when we get them? When we have faith like God has, we believe we receive when we pray.

Mark 11:23-26 "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. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them. 25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses." KJV

*whosoever, this is for everyone, "anybody can, but everybody won't, but somebody will"

** mountain, a challenge in life or roadblock

Sometimes we need help from another believer in order to have our faith built up, to receive what we are believing for. What does it mean to believe, are there any outward attributes in the life of a

believer when they believe that we are able to identify? Are there different actions that will cause us to need help with our believing? Faith grows according to the following scripture as does our love. If we are ministering to others, help them at the level that their faith is and continue to help them to grow in their faith.

2 Thess 1:3 "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;" KJV

The following scriptures are examples of believing and what are birthed out of believing, discouragement and despondency are not birthed out of believing, casting away your confidence, giving up and losing hope is not birthed out of believing, these things come from unbelief or doubt.

Samuel tells the story of a lady, Hannah, who was very sad, her husband loved her more than the other wife that he had, but that wife was able to bear children and had several, all Hannah desired was to have a child but was unable to get pregnant. The other wife continually put her down, bragging about the children that she had. Hannah had reached a point in her life that she was despondent and depressed, unable to eat and wept all the time. However, upon going to the temple, the priest Eli saw her weeping thought that she had been drinking and rebuked her for her condition, but she confessed to him that that was not the case, she was just asking the Lord for a child. When Eli realized what was going on and after receiving a word from the Lord, he spoke to her telling her that there would be a child. Upon hearing those words, her countenance changed, she was no longer sad, was able to eat and went her way, praising the Lord for the answer that she had received about her request for a child, she promised that her son would be given back to the Lord after his birth. This baby born to her was named Samuel and lived his life in the temple. Samuel means "asked of God".

1 Sam 1:6-19 "And her adversary also provoked her sore, for to make her fret, because the Lord had shut up her womb. 7 And as he did so year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, so she provoked her; therefore she wept, and did not eat. 8 Then said Elkanah her husband to her, Hannah, why weepest thou? and why eatest thou not? and why is thy heart grieved? am not I better to thee than ten sons? 9 So Hannah rose up after they had eaten in Shiloh, and after they had drunk. Now Eli the priest sat upon a seat by a post of the temple of the Lord. 10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore. 11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. 12 And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth. 13 Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. 14 And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee 15 And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord. 16 Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto. 17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him. 18 And she said, Let thine handmaid find grace in thy sight. So the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad. 19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the Lord, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her." KJV

Have you ever been taunted by the devil, continually telling you how much of a failure you are? That is what had been happening to Hannah, she was continually harassed by the other wife. How many times would we keep coming back if we were continually harassed about a situation? There was something on the inside of Hannah that gave her a faint ray of hope from God, she had not lost her hope. She made a vow to God, that if He would give her a son, she would give him back. Vow is an offering that is done voluntarily, not being forced to, but begins to direct the hand of God

1 Sam 1:6-19 "Every year this man went from his hometown up to Shiloh to worship and offer a sacrifice to

God-of-the-Angel-Armies. Eli and his two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, served as the priests of God there. When Elkanah sacrificed, he passed helpings from the sacrificial meal around to his wife Peninnah and all her children, but he always gave an especially generous helping to Hannah because he loved her so much, and because God had not given her children. But her rival wife taunted her cruelly, rubbing it in and never letting her forget that God had not given her children. This went on year after year. Every time she went to the sanctuary of God she could expect to be taunted. Hannah was reduced to tears and had no appetite. Her husband Elkanah said, "Oh, Hannah, why are you crying? Why aren't you eating? And why are you so upset? Am I not of more worth to you than ten sons?" So Hannah ate. Then she pulled herself together, slipped away quietly, and entered the sanctuary. The priest Eli was on duty at the entrance to God's Temple in the customary seat. *Crushed in soul*, Hannah prayed to God and cried and cried—inconsolably. Then she made a vow: Oh, God-of-the-Angel-Armies, If you'll take a good, hard look at my pain, If you'll quit neglecting me and go into action for me By giving me a son, I'll give him completely, unreservedly to you. I'll set him apart for a life of holy discipline. It so happened that as she continued in prayer before God, Eli was watching her closely. Hannah was praying in her heart, silently. Her lips moved, but no sound was heard. Eli jumped to the conclusion that she was drunk. He approached her and said, "You're drunk! How long do you plan to keep this up? Sober up, woman!" Hannah said, "Oh no, sir—please! I'm a woman hard used. I haven't been drinking. Not a drop of wine or beer. The only thing I've been pouring out is my heart, pouring it out to God. Don't for a minute think I'm a bad woman. It's because I'm so desperately unhappy and in such pain that I've stayed here so long." Eli answered her, "**Go in peace.** And may the God of Israel give you what you have asked of him." "Think well of me—and pray for me!" she said, and went her way. Then she ate heartily, her face radiant. Up before dawn, they *worshipped God and returned home to Ramah. Elkanah slept with Hannah his wife, and God began making the necessary arrangements in response to what she had asked." MESSAGE

What is the outward manifestation or action of true believing? Faith and believing are closely connected, if we can believe when we pray, we will have what we are asking for. Peace is a powerful word, free of contention; peace is wholeness, completeness, health and prosperity. It means everything is working out and we are receiving our hearts desire.

* worship is to bow before the Lord, being prostrate before Him, worship and joy are related, but joy is more estatic, running, leaping and shouting before the Lord

1 Sam 2:1-3 "Hannah prayed: I'm bursting with God-news! I'm walking on air. I'm laughing at my rivals. I'm dancing my salvation. Nothing and no one is holy like God, no rock mountain like our God. Don't dare talk pretentiously— not a word of boasting, ever!

For God knows what's going on. He takes the measure of everything that happens. The weapons of the strong are smashed to pieces, while the weak are infused with fresh strength. The well-fed are out begging in the streets for crusts, while the hungry are getting second helpings. The barren woman has a houseful of children, while the mother of many is bereft." MESSAGE

After receiving an encouraging word from God, her countenance changed and she was filled with joy, laughing and praising God knowing that her request had been granted. She did this before she had received her son. The same way we have to do after we have asked and believed, begin praising God before we see the manifestation of our request. Our mouth will begin to give praise, if we know that we have believed and entered into the rest, the joy of the Lord becomes our strength of our life.

Neh 8:10 "Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength." KJV

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." KJV

Believing brings joy. When Mary received the news that she was to bear a son who would be Jesus in the flesh, she had never given birth to a child, conception took place when she believed, she began to rejoice and praise the Lord.

Luke 1:45-48 "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord. 46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, 47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my

Saviour. 48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed." KJV

Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing shall be impossible." KJV

Luke 1:37 "For with God nothing is ever impossible *and* no word from God shall be without power or impossible of fulfillment." AMP

The very word that God gives to us has the power to bring it to fulfillment, if we will just believe it and speak it. Don't self deceive ourselves, thinking we believing and going around downcast all the time. Faith is a growing place.

Phil 4:6-8 "Be *careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; *if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." KJV

*v. 8 is there anything of virtue? think on those things

How do we work out our salvation? How do we allow joy to become a part of our life, where joy dispells adversity as we begin to change, because we usually change during adversity. Joy is one of the fruit of the spirit, it is supernatural to have joy in the midst of adversity. God wants the supernatural working in us. This is walking it out, it is different when we are walking it out. Thanksgiving in our lives with faith filled prayer brings Gods peace which is supernatural, right in the midst of the storm.

1 Pet 5:7 "Casting all your *care upon him; for he careth for you." KJV

* care or careful always means to be pulled in a different direction.

The Passion Translation of Phil 4:6-7 "don't be pulled in different directions worried about anything, be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude, telling Him every detail of your life 7-then Gods wonderful peace which transcends human understanding will make the answers known to you through Jesus Christ, so keep your thoughts continually fixed on all that is authentic, real, honorable, admirable, beautiful, respectful, pure and holy, merciful and fasten your thoughts on every glorious work of God praising Him always, following the example of all that we have imparted to you, the God of peace, the one that makes whole and complete is going to be with you though all things."

After we have cast our cares on Him, then we will begin to experience that peace that comes from knowing that God has heard our petitions, joy will begin to fill our hearts and we will begin to speak out the truths that we have received. We won't be pulled in different directions, our minds will become focused on Him, and our mind will no longer be the battleground.

Paul has been speaking to the church, the brethren, in the scripture in Philippians, wanting us to examine all the things that are of good report and be thinking on those things. We are hearing good news, the word mixed with faith.

Heb 4:2 "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." KJV

The inward man is renewed day by day, not allowing depression to take hold of him. Circumstances may appear to be overpowering, but there is power in Gods word. Don't be looking at the bad circumstances, but keep looking for the good, that is where our answers will come from.

2 Cor 4:16-18 "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at *the things which are not seen*: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen *are eternal.*" KJV

What does it mean to believe? It means that we speak, have corresponding actions, we have rest and have the power of joy. When the bible talks about us having joy, joy always comes in the midst of adversity, though this is not what we want to hear. If we are able to rejoice, regardless of the situations that we are facing, joy will become real to us, we will begin to understand the importance of praise and worship, circumstances will change and the enemy will flee from us, it is not Gods plan that we be defeated, He wants us to come to honor right in the midst of adversity, may God be glorified in us. Even though we haven't seen Jesus, we believe in Him and His delivering power.

1 Pet 1:6-8 "Wherein ye greatly *rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 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 honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 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:" KJV

*rejoice means to exalt, leaping, skipping excessively ecstatic, in joy and delight always leap forward with joy

Hab 3:17-19 "Although the fig tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: 18 Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation. 19 The Lord God is my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places. To the chief singer on my stringed instruments." KJV

Joy unspeakable and full of glory, glory is the presence of God, His manifested presence in the midst of adversity.

God had prepared the fish that swallowed up Jonah and as Jonah realized where he was, he began to remember the Lord and to pray regarding his situation, his voice turned to thanksgiving for his deliverance and he vowed to finish what his assignment had been, knowing that his salvation was from the Lord. He realized as did Hannah and Mary, that circumstances can be changed as praise and worship enter into the picture of things. He realized that God had given him a second change.

Jonah 2:7-9 "When my soul fainted within me I remembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. 8 They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. 9 But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord." KJV

Part of believing is thanksgiving and joy, knowing that God gives second chances to those of us who are believing. Joy is more outgoing than thanksgiving, joy always means forward progress, causing us to walk and not stand still. We chose to believe the word of God, circumstances that try to pull us down are lying vanities. Become doers of the word of God. We are thankful for the goodness of God, the compromising word of God that is alive, we are thankful that the enemy through what Jesus Christ has done for us is defeated.