

Sunday, September 16, 2012

Principles of Faith #2 – You Determine Your Outcome
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In order for our nation to be changed the church has to be changed. In order for the church to have greater influence it has to be stronger. The church has to become as John the Baptist and cry out in the wilderness preparing God's people for His coming. The church has to be the voice of one crying out in boldness preparing the church, the country and the world for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor began teaching on faith last week and focused on the woman with the issue of blood from Mark 5, Luke 8 and Matthew 9.

Mark 5:34 (KJV)

³⁴ And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

It was the woman's faith that made her whole. There are several examples in the gospels of people being healed. There are approximately 19 that are mentioned specifically of individuals. In at least 12 of them Jesus mentions that it was according to their faith or the way they believe. That is a high percentage. He said they determined the outcome. This is a truth that needs to be imparted. You determine your outcome. You can determine your outcome by faith and by exercising your faith. Four times in the bible it states that the just shall live by faith. Three times in the new testament (Romans, Galatians, & Hebrews) and one time in the old (Habakkuk).

There is an emphasis today on the grace teaching. What God gives you by grace it will take faith to possess it. What God's grace gives you it will take faith to make it a reality. It will take faith to cause it to be more than head knowledge. To know more about what God has given us by grace read the book of Romans chapters 4 & 5. The message of grace cannot be separated from the message of righteousness. They are closely related.

In life it is not the giants that defeat us it is our wrong thinking, which produces wrong believing, which produces wrong talking, which produces wrong actions. So if we think right by having our mind renewed we will believe right then we will talk right and follow through with right actions.

II Timothy 1:5 and I Timothy 1:5 refer to faith using some different terminology. In 2 Timothy 1:5:

2 Timothy 1:5 (KJV)

⁵ When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

in 1 Timothy 1:5:

1 Timothy 1:5 (KJV)

⁵ Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

The definition of unfeigned is to be very genuine, solid in foundation. The unfeigned faith we are to have has a solid foundation. The only kind of faith that is going to possess what God has promised you is a faith that is like God's faith, it has a solid foundation, and it is genuine and real.

Feigned would be hypocrisy, pretend, and acting like doing another, or fake. It can also mean to disassemble. It is not having the God-kind of faith. People can have feigned faith and in these scriptures Paul is warning against it. Jesus told his disciples in different instances and told them they had no faith at all. He even said they were a faithless and perverse generation. Their faith was feigned and fake.

There is an aspect of the faith message that pulls us to it in order to get our personal needs met. From Pastor's perspective based on the word of God and experience second, it is where your faith is going to start working. If you have a growing faith it will go beyond that and we will begin to exercise our faith for our church, other people, the nation and even the world. God will drop into your heart from time to time those things He wants you to believe.

What God gives you by grace it will take faith to make it reality.

Romans 4:18 (MSG)

When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he couldn't do but on what God said he would do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, "You're going to have a big family, Abraham!"

Abraham made a choice. He couldn't live on what the hopeless circumstances were saying to him. He lived on the basis of what God said He would do.

How do we get faith? That God kind of faith.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

We became a new creation when we became born again. Within this new creation we are in Jesus and we become His dwelling by the Holy Ghost. On the inside we have EVERYTHING that we would ever have need of including his grace that is going to have to have faith to work it out.

When we were born again we were given the measure 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.

If you are born again you have the measure of faith. Some are struggling to get it, some are hoping that someday they will get it, and some are hoping that someday they will be good enough to get it and ALL of these are in error and of a religious spirit. You have it now. Faith is based on the finished work of Jesus and not of anybody's works.

Romans 4:13 (MSG)

¹³ That famous promise God gave Abraham—that he and his children would possess the earth—was not given because of something Abraham did or would do. It was based on God's decision to put everything together for him, which Abraham then entered when he believed.

There is nothing you or I can do to merit the promises of God other than belief. Belief is synonymous with faith. There is no outward work that we are required to do to receive from God. It was given before circumcision came. The point is that there was nothing that Abraham could do or not do to merit what God promised. God promised through His grace by faith then Abraham began to walk out what was given to him by grace. He came to the point that he just simply had to believe.

We have the measure of faith. We are not struggling to get it, we are not striving to get it, you can't fast to get it, and hopefully after today we aren't praying to get it. We have it! God's grace has given it to us, it is part of our redemption. We have it.

The God kind or bible kind of faith is always based on the Word of God.

How we grow the measure of faith that God gave to us when we made Jesus Lord?

Matthew 17:20 (KJV)

²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Growing faith always put you in a place where nothing is impossible to us.

Romans 10:17 (KJV)

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

For the God-kind of faith we are going to have to hear something. We are going to have to hear it on the inside of us. Get it from our head to our heart. It has to become a part of us.

Belief comes from teaching and teaching through the Word.

Faith is released by speaking.
Your faith can make a difference.

1 John 5:4 (KJV)

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

If you are born of God you are a world overcomer. What God has declared about you by grace Jesus has provided for you must be walked out and possessed by faith.

God's purpose and plan for your life has never changed, but the things that God speaks to you may have changed depending on your obedience and where you were at when you became obedient.

It's going to take faith to possess what God's grace gave you.

Father, I purpose to build a foundation based upon the word of God. I will build on God's word. It's unshakable, unchangeable, it's working mightily. God's word is working mightily in me. I will arise and go to my promised land. I will possess it. What God promised me whether it's health, healing, ministry, family, walking in love and forgiveness.