

Message preached Sunday, March 6, 2022

Last week we began a series on the foundations of the blessings of God.

We spent the whole message, last week, showing again and again, in Scripture, that God wants us blessed. It is the heritage of the saints.

HOWEVER: It would be unfair to just talk about the blessings without revealing how to build a life of those blessings.

We are calling this series, foundations of the blessings!

A FOUNDATION isn't something that you plan on living in (as in the final project); but it is some thing that *needs to be set first*, *set properly* and *stay strong for the duration of the lifespan*!

Once those things are set...you can load them down with as many things as they can hold.

<u>Psalm 68:19</u> – "Blessed be the Lord, **who daily loadeth us with benefits**, even the God of our salvation. Selah."

The foundation must be SET before the good stuff is put on top.

Proverbs 1:32 - "...the prosperity of fools will destroy them."

SEE IT THIS WAY: Load too much on top of a weak foundation, it will crumble. **UNDERSTAND:** God doesn't want His kids destroyed!

"But I thought it was our heritage."

- **THINK ABOUT IT:** In the same way that a young child may be the heir to a fortune...a fleet of cars...several airplanes...perhaps a corporation...they DO NOT get full access to any of them until a foundation has been built in their lives.
- **BELOVED:** There is a foundation that we must build in our lives to see the blessings of God come upon you and overtake you (Deuteronomy 28).

Foundation of Faith

Galatians 3:13,14

- 13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
- 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we *might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith*.

THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH

We receive the blessings that came through Abraham THROUGH FAITH! Faith is a KEY to a strong foundation!

<u>Romans 10:17</u> – "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." **SO**, faith comes by hearing the Word of God! Word is key!

Luke 6:47-49

- 47 Whosoever cometh to me, **and heareth my sayings, and doeth them**, I will shew you to whom he is like:
- 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.
- 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a *foundation built an house* upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

When you pour the Word into your life...your FAITH grows...then your foundation becomes strong, and the blessings can be loaded to you.

Defining Faith

It is always essential to make sure we understand what faith really is, so we can know what God is telling us to do.

Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

FIRST: Faith is now. Many people say, they believe that God can do something or will do some thing, but that is mental assent or it is hope.

Faith is knowing that it has already been done, so I have it now!

I know what symptoms show...but God has already done the work, so I am healed NOW!

I know what my bank account shows, but God has already don't the work, so I am blessed in my finances now!

SECOND: This definition reveals to us that FAITH is NOT AN ACTION! Faith is a substance! **NOTE:** Faith is a foundation...a substance that things can be built on! Romans 12:3 – every man is given a measure of faith.

Faith is NOT an action...but it is something that can grow on the inside of you, the more it will manifest in actions (talking, joy, etc.)...but then more can be loaded on you.

<u>1 John 5:4,5</u>

- 4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: **and this is the victory that over cometh the world, even our faith.**
- 5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but *he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God*?

NOTICE: It is our heritage to overcome the Word...with the foundation of faith!

THE FOUNDATION OF FAITH

UNDERSTAND THIS ILLUSTRATION: Faith is a connector to the promises of God.

Driving down the interstate...you look over and see the roller coaster, other rides at an amusement park...that looks fun, that is what I want.

- **HOWEVER:** You can't just go to the roller coaster (that would be dangerous); you have to find the access points (exit for the highway, the roads that lead to the part, the front gate, etc.).
- **TOO MANY** Christians get frustrated in life because they want the blessings and go after the blessings, but they don't get them or life gets bumpy...so they don't think that God wants them to have it.

NOPE...they went through the fence and the ravine, instead of the gate.

They built the blessings on the grass and can't figure out why they got washed away so easily.

- Hebrews 11 is a big list of the blessings of God...and Paul makes it very clear there was a connector point to all of the blessings. BY FAITH!
- Vs. 3 Faith was the key to the framing (on top of the foundation) of the whole universe!

Why We Need Faith

<u>Hebrews 11:6</u> – "*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."

(Psalm 35:27- pleasure in prosperity of servants)

It is essential to see that it isn't improbable to see the blessings loaded on you without faith...it is IMPOSSIBLE!

We often read that first phrase and stop...but it doesn't stop there.

"FOR" – means what is coming it is directly related to what was just spoken.

So, what comes after that statement tells us what really pleases God and what faith really gives us access to.

- You need faith to believe that God is and to be born-again!
 BELOVED: This is a fact, but it is where most Christians stop.
- 2.) You need faith to understand that God is a REWARDER! You don't need ANY faith to think that God is just a punisher...He is a Blesser! When the disciples thought Jesus was angry at them...ye of little faith. "Rewarder" – remunerator, to pay an equivalent to

THINK OF THIS: A rewarder is a pay that is equivalent to what you are wanting.God will match your faith level.ILLUSTATION: Currency of the kingdom!How much faith do you have? None? Little? Great?

How Much Faith Do You Have?

The bigger the house, the bigger the foundation! How much faith do you have?

Mark 9:23,24

- And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.
- 21 And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child.
- And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.
- 23 Jesus said unto him, *If thou canst believe*, all things are possible to him that believeth.
- And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, *I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

I HEARD A TRUSTED PASTOR SAY THIS: The problem isn't the size of his faith (our faith), but the presence of unbelief or doubt. That you can have large faith (like this man); but the presence of unbelief or doubt was in the way.

That didn't sit right with me...because that goes against a lot of the rest of the Word.

THE QUESTION: What was this man's problem? Unbelief!

What was unbelief doing to him? It was keep his FAITH stagnate! It wasn't growing! He was stuck! He needed a bigger foundation, but unbelief was keeping it from happening!

QUESTION: So what did He do?

ANSWER: He looked into the WORD OF GOD (Jesus) and said, I need help! I need to increase my foundation, I need to increase my currency!

<u>Romans 10:17</u> – "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." He went to the Word to weed out all doubt!