



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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FAITH: 101

Series preached on Sunday mornings, from January 15 to March 5, 2023

I have been a Christian for over 50 years...a pastor for 34 years... so I have seen a lot...most of what I have seen is the frustration of Christians trying to get things from God...answers manifestations.

Given **ALL** Things

THAT is the problem...most of the time Christians spend their time trying to GET THINGS from God.

BELOVED: That is a futile task. **NOW:** I am not saying He doesn't answer prayers or that He doesn't release things...but here is the point!

2 Peter 1:3-4

- 3 According as **his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:
- 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**

A couple things in this verse:

- * We have ALREADY been given all things that pertain to life and godliness! It is already ours. Asking for it is just weird.
- * We just need the knowledge to understand (Proverbs).
- * His promises allow us to partake of His Divine nature!

Ephesians 1:3 – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”

Another couple of points:

- * We have ALREADY been blessed with ALL spiritual blessings.
- * **“Heavenly places”** could be seen as heavenly accounts.

IN OTHER WORDS: They have all been placed in our heavenly accounts.

Matthew 6:20 – “But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:”

NOTE: This is the place where “seek ye first the kingdom of God...”

THEREFORE: It is indeed talking about a heavenly account for us to draw earthly things from.

BELOVED: When you are trying to get God to give you something...HE ALREADY has given you all things.

YOU SAY: Well, when...’cause I need it now!

2 Corinthians 5:21 – “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

So...on the cross, Jesus took our sin...so we could be RIGHTEOUS!

1 Peter 2:24 – “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Isaiah 53:5 – “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

Same set-up...ON THE CROSS...he took our stripes so we could be HEALED!

- * He took our bruises so our sins could be taken.
- * He took the chastisement so peace could come on us.
- * He took the stripes...we get the healing!

2 Corinthians 8:9 – “For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.”

SAME SET-UP: He took poverty...ON THE CROSS...so we could be rich!

BELOVED: I am not going to tell you that it doesn't have to do with spiritual wealth, too...but it literally means and IN CONTEXT says wealthy in the flesh.

Here is the thing...on the CROSS Jesus won everything we need for life and godliness. He defeated every attack that could come on you...spirit, soul AND BODY! And He did something very specific with those things.

Romans 4:20-22

- 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.
- 22 And therefore ***it was imputed to him for righteousness.***

“Impute” – to take account of...to SEE WHAT is in your ACCOUNT!

NOTE: Not in a figurative sense, where we know it is going to happen, but in a real sense of IT IS IN YOUR ACCOUNT!

ILLUSTRATION: When I was younger and I let the ATM tell me how much money I had in there... well, a check may not have cleared, so it was always a guessing game! I never knew REALLY how much money I had in my account. IMPUTED means that you KNOW...it is in there!

NOTICE: It was put in his account because of righteousness! Because HE WAS righteous! He was right with God!

THEREFORE: If you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus...you have that same account to withdraw from!

REMEMBER: 2 Corinthians 5:21...on the CROSS He took our sins so we can become the righteousness of God...

SO...GET THIS...on the cross He made, those who believe in Him, righteous...and THEN LOADED their accounts for them to have and enjoy life!

If that doesn't get you excited...I don't know what else will!

YOU MAY BE ASKING: That does get me excited, Pastor Thad, but how do I withdraw from that account? How do I get it!

Well, I am glad you asked! ;-)

This is Where Faith Comes In

Have you ever had a paycheck put in your account and then the bank is closed, the ATM is down and no one will cash your check or take a check?

HOW aggravating is that!

That seems to be how most Christians live their lives...they have a full account and don't know how to pull anything from that account.

In **Hebrews 11** there is a very important phrase that is used through that chapter that gives us under standing on how we withdrawal from our account.

"By faith" – All of those who tapped into the blessings of God did so BY FAITH!

ONE WAY to look at FAITH is as your debit card. If you go to the bank...and you want to make a withdrawal...you just pull out your ATM card and PUT IT TO WORK...and BY THAT ATM card you tap into your account.

WELL, in the spirit realm...your ATM card is FAITH. By faith you tap into that account.

Hebrews 11:33-35a

- 33 Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
- 34 Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
- 35 Women received their dead raised to life again:

Another Way to See it

I believe the more pictures you see of something, the greater understanding you have of that area. So a similar view, but it will help you to understand HOW ESSENTIAL faith is in the kingdom of God.

Faith is the currency of heaven.

In the same way that if you want to get something in this earthly kingdom...you just save up money...in the Heavenly kingdom, you grow faith.

Matthew 17:20 – “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.”

BELOVED: This verse has been misunderstood and misused for a long, long time! All you need is an itsy bitsy little bit of faith and you can move mountains!

That is not what it says...or only partly.

What do we know about a mustard seed?

Mark 4:30-32

- 30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?
- 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:
- 32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

A mustard seed starts small (all mustard seeds start the same)...but when it is planted and begins to grow it gets huge and useful!

We all start with a measure of faith (Romans 12:3)...all the same.

But when our faith starts to GROW...that is when it brings in GREATER things.

When we are born again...it is because we believed (faith)...we exercised our faith for salvation. According to Galatians 5:22,23...faith comes in us at conversion!

Then it is our job to see it grow (through the Word) so we can tap into the GREATER promises that God has for us!

When you first opened your bank account...you put a set amount of money in there. Most likely you have spend that money! It is gone! If you never put anything else in that account...it would be a useless account.

But, hopefully, for most of us we kept putting money in there.

If we want to buy something BIG, we keep stacking money in our account until it gets big enough.

(THOUGHT on credit...sometimes when we need a miracle or a touch from God immediately, you can go to those around you and tap into their "faith" supply)

It is the currency of the kingdom of God.

"By faith" – Hebrews 11

Hebrews 11:6 – "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."

(Psalm 35:27 – "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.")

Faith doesn't necessarily please God...But it gives you access, or the ability to receive those promises.

Galatians 3:14 – "That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

BELOVED: You cannot receive ANYTHING in the Kingdom of God without faith!

The Substance of Faith

We have clearly seen that we need faith to tap into the blessings that were provided for us on the cross.

But look at these verses...

Hebrews 10:38 – "**Now the just shall live by faith:** but if any man draw

back, my ***soul shall have no pleasure in him.***"

Romans 1:17 – "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, ***The just shall live by faith.***"

Galatians 3:11 – "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, ***The just shall live by faith.***"

Habakkuk 2:4 – "Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the ***just shall live by his faith.***"

NOW: The old definition of "justified" is "just as if I'd never sinned."

Although that does work in the big scheme of things...it is a bit unclear.

THINK ABOUT IT: Abraham was "justified" by faith before Jesus...before the cross...

The Lord gave me this definition regarding "Justified"...Position to partake of the promises! Without sin?

Yes! In position? Absolutely.

THEREFORE: We are in position to partake of the promises of God BY FAITH!

BELOVED: It is awesome to know what God has promised us...it is amazing to know what Jesus defeated on the cross...but to not know how to access any of it is horrible.

Proverbs 13:12 – "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life."

(PASSION) – "When hope's dream seems to drag on and on, the delay can be depressing. But when at last your dream comes true, life's sweetness will satisfy your soul."

Extra Introduction

2 Corinthians 4:18 – “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.”

The key to FAITH is that you haven't seen the answer yet (Hebrews 11:1). Or you may be RIGHT in the middle of the battle...can't SEE a way out...but KNOWING it is taken care of!

ILLUSTRATION: Have you ever watched a TV series...and the star of the show is in a perilous situation. They have the tense music playing! There is NO WAY out! But you remind yourself...they are the star of the show, they will be on it next week...I wonder HOW it will happen?

The Word is TRUTH...it says there is a way out...you may NOT be able to see it yet, but your FAITH does!

2 Corinthians 5:7 – “(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)”

BELOVED: What we see with our physical eyes can be deceptive. It looks bad...but that is not how we are walking, we are walking by faith!

ILLUSTRATION: Mid-night hikes on campouts...moon shining on a log and making it look like a lion! (Psalm 23:4)

ILLUSTRATION: The week after Christmas we took our kiddos to Destin, Florida. We knew that in December there would be chance that it could be a bit cooler than in June or August (usual times we go down). We left the tundra (if y'all remember) and drove into Destin on a sunny day...we drove along the beach front (thinking of the summer time)...we got out of the car and it was 40 degrees! Ugh! We went up to the condo and opened the shades to the deck...there it was...the ocean (gulf), yes! We opened the sliding glass door, thinking of summer time...it was 40 degrees. The only thing I could think of was that the looks were deceiving.

BELOVED: When you are going through a tough time...it may make you feel like you've seen it before or that it is a family curse...or that there is no way out...but it primed for change! Keep standing in faith!

THINK OF Joseph...

- * He has a dream...gonna be wonderful...things change
- * He gets beat up and sold by his brothers...gonna be stinky...things change
- * He gets sold into Potiphars house...gonna be stinky...things change
- * He prospers in Potiphars house...gonna be wonderful...things change
- * He gets framed and thrown into prison...gonna be stinky...things change
- * He gets promoted and prospers in prison...gonna be wonderful...things change
- * The chief butler forgets about Joseph...gonna be more stinky...things change
- * He is remembered and gets promoted to 2nd in command IN ONE DAY...gonna be wonderful.

BELOVED: You may be in the middle of one of these kind of shifts...a stinky one or a wonderful one...but you gotta keep your faith strong.

Sometimes when we are in the middle of wonderful times...we let our faith slip...that is why stinky things come along and we get caught with our pants down.

Keep walking by faith!

FIRST KEY: Faith is a Substance, Not an Action

YOU MAY ASK: Well, what do I need to DO to walk by faith?

How do I know if I am walking by faith?

One of the most misunderstood areas of faith is that it is NOT an action.

I have had pastors try and correct me on this, but I will just stick with the Bible on it.

Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

The BIBLICAL definition is that it is a substance...a noun!

It is a THING that is PUT on the inside of each of us when we are born-again!

Faith is a seed!

ACCOUNT: When I was preaching on the Ingredients of Faith and on sermon or point number 12 or 13...I kind of got overwhelmed. I started thinking, "If we have to do all of these things...by the time we get a couple of them mastered, we will have forgotten the other 10 and then we work on a couple more and we forget about the first couple we had mastered." I felt overwhelmed! That was when the Lord said, you are looking at it wrong.

Faith is a substance that gets inside of you and the actions or characteristics overflow.

"Overflow of the forgiven soul."

IN OTHER WORDS: If you have something going on inside of you in a health way...it will manifest on the outside. You don't have to think about it...you don't have to work on it...it just happens.

The lady with the issue of blood had the substance of faith on the inside of her...so she didn't read a Kenneth Hagin book on how to speak what you believe...she JUST continued to say...over and over again...the same thing.

The centurion didn't hear Bill Johnson talk about the authority of the Word...he had the substance of faith inside of him and said, "Speak the Word only and my servant will be made whole."

That substance overflowed into their actions.

James 2:17-26

- 17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
 18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.
 19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.
 20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?
 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.
 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?
 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

BELOVED: What sense would it make if James was teaching them to run you must run. To walk you must walk. To sing you much sing!

That would make the Bible the most mundane, weird book in the world.

BUT what he is saying...if you have the SUBSTANCE of faith...it will have corresponding actions. There will be an overflow of actions that everyone can see!

THEREFORE: If you are battling things today that you need victory over...it does NOT necessarily mean that you need to confess more (thought it would be good), it doesn't necessarily mean you need to get MORE joy (though joy is good) and building it does have its benefits...

You simply need to build your faith...make it bigger inside of you...and you will find your joy being made full; your confession will be automatic.

And you will find those things that have been stored up for you...showing up on a daily basis!

SECOND KEY: Faith comes by the Word!

Since we know faith is a substance...it is something that can grow in size!

So, how do we grow our faith?

Faith Cometh by **The WORD**

Romans 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Your job isn't to DO MORE...it is to saturate yourself more! Get MORE Word inside of you!

NOTE: Faith doesn't come by HAVING HEARD the Word...but by continuing to hear the Word.

IN OTHER WORDS: You keep hearing the Word until you are SO CONVINCED in the TRUTH of the Word, that NOTHING else matters!

Matthew 8:5-10 (the Centurion and the sick servant)

Vs. 8 – “The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.”

This man, who wasn't even an Israelite, was SO CONVINCED in the Word...that His statement was, “If the Word says it...it is done!”

OFTEN: We get attacked or ambushed by the enemy...and the substance of faith that we have inside of us...the substance that we have built up over time...takes a hit and becomes softened (lessened).

The battle becomes MORE REAL to us than the Word.

BELOVED: That means your substance needs to be strengthened!

ILLUSTRATION: A football player who has trained his entire life to get to the pro level...but takes a hit the wrong way and gets injured. He may not be able to play the same way for a while, because he lost some of that strength in that attack!

HOWEVER: That doesn't mean his career is over...it means he has to train some more...get back to what he was doing before!

Hebrews 12:2 – “**Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Jesus is the author of the faith we live by...so He knows how to work it!

The MORE Jesus (the Word) you have in you...the MORE of the author you have in you!

NOTE: Looking unto Jesus doesn't JUST mean you read the Word...but you spend time with the Word Himself! Talking and listening!

Let Him speak into your heart and tell you secrets! Revelation!

THIRD KEY: Faith is Activated by Your Mouth

the VOICE & *the SMILE*

Hebrews 11:3 – “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

“Framed” – held together, to be made complete

When you walk into your house, you probably are not thinking about the 2x4 studs that are behind the dry wall or the joists in the ceiling. You see the nice walls, the pictures hanging on the wall, the flooring that you walk on...you see the final product.

HOWEVER: What is holding your home together? The 2x4's...joists!

LONG before any of the things you look at everyday are scene...the framework is at work.

That is the way it is with the Words of your mouth.
It is how this world was created. God spoke.

Genesis 1:3 – “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

When God spoke...it created the frame work for the worlds to be hung on...the light, the animals, etc.

THINK OF IT LIKE THIS: His Words hold all things together! Every molecule that is formed is held together by the Word of God (the framework) that was spoken at creation.
God hasn't changed His words...so they are still being held together.

Matthew 12:36-37

36 But I say unto you, ***That every idle word that men*** shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy ***words thou shalt be justified***, and ***by thy words thou shalt be condemned***.

When we speak things...they come together...when we change our confessions, they fall apart!
As long as you speak and keep speaking the same words that provided life (as in creation), then what you are believing for will continue to be held together and come to pass.

Mark 5:25-34 (Jesus on his way to heal a 12 year old)

NOTE: There is no such thing as a sickness of old age...only healing!

NOTE: Jesus didn't go to just pray for his daughter...but to heal her!

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 ***For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.***

NOTE: She said and kept saying! She didn't change her voice!

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

31 And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

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

This lady had faith...NOT because she read a Kenneth Hagin book that told her what to do (actions to make); but she was SO CONVINCED in the Word...

* She said and kept saying.

* She didn't change her words when she got some pushback...when it looked like she was a long way from her answer!

Romans 4:17 – “(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, ***and calleth those things which be not as though they were.***”

NOTICE: What it doesn't say...

* Call those things that are and though they are! (not faith)

* Call those thing that are not as though they are not! (not faith)

* Call those things with are as though they are not! (lying)

What do you not currently have? What are you fighting right now? Speak what the Word says...and only what the Word says!

FOURTH KEY: Faith is displayed by JOY!

I WILL TAKE CARE OF THIS FIRST: The reason I say that it is displayed by JOY...JOY is something you wear!

Too many people say that JOY is down in the heart...not on the face!

BELOVED: That is a problem!

Galatians 5:22 tells us about the FRUIT of our spirit is love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness...even self-control!

MY QUESTION: Can you have love working in you and NOT BE OUTWARDLY NICE to others? How about kindness? How about self-control?

Can you say, "Sure I have self control deep inside, but I still let my flesh run rampant and do whatever I feel like doing?"

Can you say, "Sure I have the fruit of kindness in me, but you BETTER watch out! I will smack you in the face, but with kindness in my heart!"

Absolutely NOT! No way! Nu-uh!

If it is in your heart...it will show on the outside.

BELOVED: You will know the joy you have on the inside by your face and body actions during those times of trials!

Proverbs 15:13 – "A merry heart **maketh a cheerful countenance**: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken."

(PASSION) – "A cheerful heart puts a smile on your face, but a broken heart leads to depression."

BELOVED: Make no mistakes about it, what is on the inside will be on the outside!

Joy on the inside...joy on the outside!

OBVIOUSLY: If you are growing in JOY...you may battle the smile...but it worth battling!

Philippians 1:25 – "And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all **for your furtherance and joy of faith**;"

NOTICE: What Paul is trying to bring the Philippian church further into...JOY that comes FROM the substance of faith!

THINK ABOUT THAT: Terms, in the Bible, like Paul of Tarsus, Jesus of Nazareth. Their name is who they were...the city is where they were from!

Joy is a target to increase and further in your lives.

Faith is where that JOY is from! JOY is raised IN the substance of faith!

Psalms 5:11 – "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee."

"rejoice" – be glad, brighten up, cheer up

If you TRUST in your heart...you will show it on your countenance!

NOTE: Trust isn't FAITH, but there is trust IN faith!

JAMES could have said it like this: "You say you have faith...where is your joy!"

BELOVED: You cannot have faith without JOY being an outflow!

DEFINITION: "**Joy**" – calm delight

OBVIOUSLY: It is not slap stick comedy and pratt falls...it is a calm smile on your face in the middle of chaos!

BELOVED: Happiness and JOY are not necessarily the same thing, yet HAPPY is the outflow of JOY!

The differences of happiness and joy!

HAPPINESS: Originates in the flesh, because your circumstances are right.

HAPPINESS: Is a fleeting, temporal condition that depends on the comfort of your flesh.

HAPPINESS: Is wimpy! Because it disappears every time there is trouble.

JOY: Originates in the spirit (Galatians 5:22), whether circumstances are right or not. It is not dependent upon circumstances.

JOY: A vital force! Not based on outward circumstances, but upon the conditions of the heart.

JOY: Is tough! If you let it, it will keep flowing in the midst of the most miserable situations.

BELOVED: That is why JOY is so important...in association with FAITH...it sticks with you in the worst of times in order to bring you out of those times.

Psalm 105:37-45

- 37 He brought them forth also with silver and gold: and there was not one feeble person among their tribes.
- 38 Egypt was glad when they departed: for the fear of them fell upon them.
- 39 He spread a cloud for a covering; and fire to give light in the night.
- 40 The people asked, and he brought quails, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven.
- 41 He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places like a river.
- 42 For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant.
- 43 **And he brought forth his people with joy, and his chosen with gladness:**
- 44 **And gave them the lands of the heathen: and they inherited the labour of the people;**
- 45 That they might observe his statutes, and keep his laws. Praise ye the LORD.

Vs 43 (**PASSION**) – “So God brought out his chosen ones with singing; **with a joyful shout they were set free!**”

Isaiah 12:3 – “Therefore **with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.**”

Nehemiah 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.**”

Joel 1:10-12

- 10 The field is wasted, the land mourneth; for the corn is wasted: the new wine is dried up, the oil languisheth.
- 11 Be ye ashamed, O ye husbandmen; howl, O ye vinedressers, for the wheat and for the barley; because the harvest of the field is perished.
- 12 The vine is dried up, and the fig tree languisheth; the pomegranate tree, the palm tree also, and the apple tree, even all the trees of the field, are withered: **because joy is withered away from the sons of men.**

Habakkuk 3:17-19

- 17 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.

Let your joy OUT today!

Psalm 118:24 – “This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Joy is a choice to bubble up or stop.

ILLUSTRATION: Zig Ziglar was in an airport (heading home) and had rushed to get there on time. When he got ready to check in (1pm for a 2pm flight) they told him that his flight had been cancelled.

HIS ANSWER: Fantastic!

THEY SAID: There wouldn't be another flight until 6:30 that night.

HIS ANSWER: Fantastic!!

When asked why he responded that way, he said:

- 1.) No matter how angry, sarcastic, or jerkish he was...the flight was still not leaving until 6:30! He would have just ruined everyone's day (including his own)!
- 2.) He didn't initially feel FANTASTIC, but the more he responded in a favorable way...the more FANTASTIC he actually felt!

BELOVED: You are not going to change your circumstance by getting sad, depressed or nasty about things...but you can change your circumstance by choosing to respond in joy!

ZIG ZIGLAR: You cannot tailor-make the situations of your life, but you can tailor-make the attitudes to fit those situations before they arise!

Concluding Joy

LISTEN: The enemy is wreaking havoc on the church by normalizing depression. No, I am not saying depression is not real...I am saying that he is working overtime to steal your joy!

JERRY SAVELLE: If the devil can't steal your joy, he can't have your goods.

BELOVED: Fight depression with the Word...with faith! With Biblical direction!

FIFTH KEY: Faith is Proved by Patience!

1 Timothy 6:12 – “**Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life**, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”

STICK WITH IT
with **CONFIDENCE**

A lot of people talk about fighting the good fight of faith (a fight we win)...but the key to fighting that fight is after the comma...
LAY HOLD on eternal life!

“**Eternal life**” – eternal zoe life! The eternal GOD kind of life! NOT just in heaven...from here on out! Living like God right now!

UNDERSTAND: The good fight is HOLDING ON to what we know, from the Word, without weakening our stance!

So many opposing forces will try to force us to lose our stance...but faith develops something inside of you that refuses to let go...patience!

ILLUSTRATION: Job...considered the most patient man...why? He refused to let go even when others told him to let go!

BELOVED: Enduring the fight with faith and patience means you will win the fight!

1 Peter 5:8,9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 **Whom resist steadfast in the faith**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Don't give in...keep resisting...consistently and steadfast!

KENNETH COPELAND or HAGIN: “When you are ready to stand in faith forever, you won't be there very long.”

WHY? Because that means the SUBSTANCE of faith has taken root and has developed PATIENCE (constancy) which won't let go!

Ephesians 6:13,14

- 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**
- 14 **Stand therefore**, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

“Patience” – constancy, maintaining the same consistent, constant faith we had before the trouble came...standing through it!

James 1:2-7

- 2 My brethren, **count it all joy when** ye fall into divers temptations;
- 3 Knowing this, that the **trying of your faith worketh patience.**
(AMP) – “Be assured and understand that **the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance** and steadfastness and patience.”
“Worketh” – to accomplish, performs, achieves, to do that which results in something.
 When the battle comes...your substance of faith goes to work...patience is perfected!
QUESTION: What happens when patience manifests from faith?
- 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that **ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.**
- 5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
- 6 But let him ask in faith, **nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
- 7 For **let not that man think that he shall receive** any thing of the Lord.

BELOVED: Wavering is destructive to your receiving from God.

1 Corinthians 15:58 – “Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,** forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

BELOVED: Too often people KNOW they have faith...they know what they believe...but when the battle comes their FAITH leaves! That is keeping them from manifesting what they are believing for!

THINK ABOUT THE WOMAN with the issue of blood...she didn't allow ANYONE to bump her off her stand! She was weak in body, but she was convinced and said and kept say, pushed and kept pushing...she didn't stop!

Matthew 15:21-28 (the Syrophenician woman)

- 21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.
- 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, **Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.**
- 23 **But he answered her not a word.** And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.
- 24 But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**
- 25 Then came she and **worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.**
 (she heard NO, but she continued worshipping)
- 26 But he answered and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.**
- 27 And she said, Truth, **Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.**
- 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, **O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.** And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

BELOVED: Often we are looking for FAITH to be the quick fix...but it is clear that when faith is involved it is a stand...a walk of faith!

NOTICE: Even though she was surrounded by NO's...she refused to give up! She had a grasp of MERCY (vs. 22) that most don't...and THAT got JESUS' attention! (see the next Scripture...vs. 19)

Hebrews 6:12 – “That ye be not slothful, but followers of them **who through faith and patience inherit the promises.**”

QUESTION: How did they receive the promises?

ANSWER: Through faith AND PATIENCE!

Hebrews 6:17-19

- 17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:
- 18 **That by two immutable things**, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:
- 19 Which hope **we have as an anchor of the soul**, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

UNDERSTANDING the Word and the unchangeableness of the Word (oath) and the covenant works as an ANCHOR and keeps you from moving off of your stand!

Romans 5:2-5

- 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
- 3 And not only so, but we glory (rejoice, joy) in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
- 4 **And patience, experience**; and experience, hope:
- 5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Hebrews 10:35-36

- 35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
- 36 **For ye have need of patience**, that, after ye have done the will of God, **ye might receive the promise.**

Hebrews 12:1-3 (AMP)

- 1 THEREFORE THEN, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) **clings to and entangles us**, and **let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us**,
- 2 Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. **He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross**, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
- 3 Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself [reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials], **so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds.**

(PERHAPS talk about in an athletic event...ability to keep playing even when you are tired)

Conclusion to Patience

The power of patience is released by a threefold decision.

- 1.) Get in the Word and don't move...keep getting in the Word and don't move. Quit getting your info from worldly sources.
- 2.) Speak it! Get happy about it!
- 3.) Don't move!

SIXTH KEY: Faith is sustained by confidence!

HERE IS THE THING: Have you ever taken a test? On that test is a question that you know the answer to...you've studied it...but as you look at that question...maybe reading other multiple choice answers. You start questioning what you know? Perhaps you change your answer...because you talked yourself out of the right answer.

That is an attack on your confidence. What you KNOW you KNOW...you convince yourself you don't know...and it leads you to wrong answers!

If you had the text book sitting next to you...and you could look at the answers...your confidence would swell!

That is the way it is with FAITH...when you are confidence of the Word...confident of YOUR God...you will keep standing. When the enemy comes in and tries to get you to QUESTION the Word...it is real easy to change your answer!

Stay in the Word for confidence!

“Confidence” – assurance, complete and total persuasion!

1.) Confidence closely parallels TRUST.

ILLUSTRATION: When it is raining outside and you need to go someplace...yet you don't want to get wet...you get an umbrella, open it up and step outside! **Why? Aren't you afraid of getting wet? NOPE!** I have confident trust that the umbrella will do its job and protect me from the rain! No doubt!

2.) Confidence closely identifies with BOLDNESS.

NOTE: In the New Testament, both boldness and confidence comes from the same Greek root word. Boldness is just being able to wear what you believe on the outside!

3.) Confidence is closely associated with the concepts of YIELDEDNESS and OBEDIENCE!

You MUST know that what you are being told to do will lead to the correct destination!

THOUGHT: Going to the auction sight and having confidence until one is missing...now I am willing to bail quickly.

ILLUSTRATION: I obey GPS settings!

BELOVED: Lack of confidence is the main reason people give up!

They like the Word...they've listened to the preaching...but they are NOT fully persuaded!

Romans 4:20-21

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.

UNDERSTAND: It didn't come overnight...but it came...and until it came, he kept dealing with “what are we doing wrong.” Why won't it work!

Hebrews 3:6 – “But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if **we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing** of the hope firm unto the end.”

Hebrews 3:14 – “For **we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold** the beginning of our **confidence steadfast** unto the end;”

2 Peter 1:3,4 – by our knowledge of the Word...we are partakers of His Divine nature.

The more Word you get in you...the more confidence is an outflow!

Ephesians 6:15 – feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace!

UNDERSTAND: These two things...

- 1.) If you want to see the promises of God come to pass in your life...you must hold on tightly (patience) to your CONFIDENCE to the end.

“The end” – When you have the manifestation!

That is why, so often, when you begin standing for something...it may get worse immediately! It is a shot at your confidence!

- 2.) Confidence has a beginning and an end!
 - a.) You won't ever have an end without making a stand!
 - b.) Beginnings start with a seed...financial, Word or prayer!
Sow that seed WITH confidence!

Hebrews 10:35 – “Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.”
(AMP) – “Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward.”

Proverbs 3:26 – “For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and **shall keep thy foot from being taken.**”

Isaiah 30:15 – “For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; **in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength:** and ye would not.”
Quiet confidence! Walking like you know the answer! Bold and yielded!

THINK OF the confidence of the woman with the issue of blood! Amazing!

THINK OF the 10 spies that went into the promised land and came back lacking confidence in the Word of God.

THINK OF the disciples in the middle of the sea...Jesus had said “let's go to the other side”, but when the storm whipped up...they lost their confidence.

ONCE they accused Jesus of not caring if they were going to die.

ONCE they thought they saw a ghost on the waters and lost their confidence.

Philippians 1:6 – “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

SEVENTH KEY: Faith works by love!

Galatians 5:6 – “For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”

“Worketh” – to be active, operative, to aid on...the power of operating, effective operation

NOTE: The actual Greek word is “energeo” – guess what word we get from this in English? Yep...energy!

Faith works
by LOVE

Love is what energizes your faith! Makes it go! Zoom, zoom!

(AMP) – “For [if we are] in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, **but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love.**”

IN OTHER WORDS: You can have all the components of faith...but if you are NOT walking in LOVE... you will not receive what you are believing for.

AGAIN...this will make a heart grow sick (hope deferred does that – Proverbs 13:12).

A lot of people get angry at everybody, because their faith doesn't seem to be working...but that is the reason your faith isn't working!

1 Corinthians 13:1-3 shows us EXACTLY that you can have these elements...but without love, there will be NO manifestation!

Jude 1:21 – “**Keep yourselves in the love of God**, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

“**Keep**” – to guard, prevent from escaping, to hold fast

INTERESTING connection here...if you keep loving...you will receive mercy!

BELOVED: That sounds a lot like **seedtime and harvest**.

Mark 4:30 – Jesus says, “With what should I liken the Kingdom of God? Hmmm? Oh, seedtime and harvest!” That’s how it works!

REMEMBER: Seedtime and harvest works like this...in the Kingdom!

- * You sow a seed, where you suppose to sow a seed...to whom you are to sow that seed.
- * God brings the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6,7).

Sometimes, when someone is “acting up” and annoying us...we think we will “be kind” to them and “love them” and they will just do the same to us!

BELOVED: That mindset is basically manipulation!

HONESTLY, that doesn’t always happen (especially immediately)...but it is that **act of faithfulness and obedience to the Word that activates God’s mercy and love to work on your behalf**.

Have you ever heard this statement, “The best revenge is to succeed!”?

Love Defined

“**Agape**” – this is obviously the love that is being talked about by God. It is the highest form of love. The only TRUE definition of agape is, “**The God kind of love.**” **To love like God loves.**

This makes it very difficult to define or translate into English.

However the definition definitely brings out: compassionate, irresistible, constant, precious, unconditional, no limits, no strings attached, nothing in return.

I don’t really want to read through 1 Corinthians 13...but I do believe that it is the best place to define love...

- * Love has a long fuse (doesn’t quickly explode)
- * Love does good to others (kind things)
- * Love isn’t jealous over others success
- * Love is not always talking and thinking about yourself
- * Love is not rude
- * Love is open to suggestions, listens (not my way or the highway)
- * Love is not irritable or touchy
- * Love doesn’t keep details or records of wrong
- * Love rejoices in the TRUTH and what is right (the Word)
- * Love is NOT impressed with anything that goes against the Word.
- * Love doesn’t spread information (right or wrong)
- * Love believes in others
- * Love expects the best in others
- * Love doesn’t quit!

(NOTE: This is how God loves us.)

AND YES, you can feel this way to those who are treating you badly...without being happy that they are treating you that way!

UNDERSTAND: There is a difference between love and covenant relationships.

We are to love all men!

Romans 13:8 – “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.”

Luke 6:35 – “But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.”

1 John 4:20 – “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”

HOWEVER: To really feel this way...you must allow the Love of God to grow inside you...faith to grow inside of you!

Ephesians 3:17 – “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; **that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,**”

BELOVED: We are suppose to be ROOTED and GROUNDED in love!

Our root system should be love...so we can produce what we are suppose to produce.

The root system of a tree has a couple of purposes:

- * To anchor the tree, so it can't move!
- * To bring in water and nutrients from the soil to help the tree grow, develop and repair!

1.) Love must be rooted in the soil of your heart!

Think of it like this...if your heart is bad, your roots can't bring in good stuff to the tree.

2.) When that love is operating...you won't be so quick to move out of where God has planted you!

Love is a Command

Mark 12:28-31

- 28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?
- 29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:
- 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.
- 31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

John 13:34-35 (at the last supper)

- 34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.
- 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

BELOVED: This is not a suggestion...it is absolutely something that we need to be producing. Not an option!

It is not okay to fume and be angry or to walk in strife with others.

James 3:16 – “For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”

That is not a place where the things of God will flourish!

This is a major place where the enemy works to stifle your faith.

The Serophenician woman could have gotten angry at God...angry at the disciples for trying to get her to leave...but she just persisted in faith!

As much as Jesus was amazed at her tenacity...He was amazed at her heart that refused to get offended!

Your Motive Must be Love

BELOVED: Love needs to be THE THING in your life. It needs to be the reason you do everything you do.

Love needs to propel you through life.

If you are working at the church, in any capacity...don't do it just because the pastor has harped on you or asked you 15 times. Do it for love of God and love of pastor and love of everyone you are helping!

If you are leading worship...don't do it for exposure...do it out of love.

When you go shopping...love...driving...love...work...love!

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

BELOVED: This is how faith works.

God had ONE Son...wanted a harvest of sons!

So, motivated BY LOVE...sowed the seed of His Only Son!

Reaped a harvest of many sons!

Romans 8:29 – “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

VERY ESSENTIAL: What happens if your love isn't where it needs to be...and it is obvious to everyone, everywhere?

Do you just need to try and love more? Well, kinda!

You need to get in the Word...increase your faith...increase the substance! Increase that relationship with LOVE!

FACT: You are the sum of the five people you hang around with the most. So, if you hang out with the Father...the Word...and the Spirit...your love will grow!

Conclusion

- * When others act inconsiderate to you...how do you respond?
- * Are you believing for your marriage? Do you act in kindness and unselfishness even when your mate seems unworthy of your love?
- * Do you need financial increase? What is your motivation for giving and increase? Just so your needs can get met?
- * What about believing for that grumpy boss to get saved? Do you respond in love when you feel like you are being taken advantage of?
- * How about building your God-given gifts? Are you desiring those gifts in order to help others and build others up OR to build your own ministry?
- * Wanting to see a family member born-again? Shouting matches are not the way to do it!