



FAITH

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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.

Since we all want to please God, let us look into what faith is and how we can acquire this important ingredient necessary to please him.

Everything that we hear or see is filtered through our minds like a super fast computer. It has to filter through our knowledge and through all of our past experiences. People who have been hurt in the past by someone in leadership have a hard time trusting leadership.

We, here in America, have a harder struggle with faith than people in foreign lands. Most Americans know more about medicine and health care than the doctors did only a few decades ago. When we ask for healing, immediately, our mind goes to work on the negatives. Our mind processes the seriousness of the disease and others that have had the same disease and have had a bad outcome and this hinders our faith.. This is the reason that we hear about great healings and miracles in foreign lands, especially among the poor. These people have the child like faith that we must have in order to see great miracles.

Matthew 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

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

I believe Paul is saying that faith is something that we want or need very badly, but, see no way possible to have it.

It is like needing some money, but the bank has turned you down for a loan. You can not think of anyone to co-sign a note for you and can think of no one that would loan you the money. The money is something you want or need or hope for, but there is no evidence present that you can see how you can obtain the money.

This is where faith comes in. The problem is that you are looking at the need through natural eyes. Let us examine the need through faith.

Job 26:7 He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.

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.

Psalms 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

God is the source of all knowledge. He allows doctors to help in the healing process of their patients. He made everything that all of the medicines comes from. God allowed Moses to participate when "The Wind of God" parted the Red Sea. God allowed Joshua to participate in the collapse of the walls of Jericho. He allowed Gideon and a few good obedient men to participate in destroying several armies of the enemies of Israel that were camped in a valley waiting to attack Israel. All Gideon and his men had to do was to break some lamps and shout. God put confusion in the enemy's camp and they destroyed each other. God does the heavy lifting. He always has and always will.

In the book of Genesis 1:1, God created the heaven and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. The account of creation in our World Book Encyclopedia states that the earth came from a black hole, it had no form and nothing could live on it. This much of science pretty much goes along with the Bible account of creation.

Let us look further at the similarities. The Bible states, "In the beginning." It does not state when that beginning was. God is from Everlasting to Everlasting; and since he created the heaven and earth in the beginning, the earth would have to be very, very old. Science states it may be as much as 450 billion years. I see nothing in the Bible account to refute this statement. The sun, moon and stars were not created until the fourth period of creation, (Genesis 1:14). They were made for seasons, days and years. Until then there was NO measurement of time except God's time.

The Hebrew word YOM is the same as the English word day; however, in addition to these meanings, a 24 hour day, the time between sunrise and sunset, an indefinite period of time, (such as we sometime state, "in his day"); it can also mean an indefinite period of time climaxed by a certain event. I feel this is the reason that the statement at the end of each period of creation ends with the event that was the climax of that period of time. "God said, let there be light and there was light.---- And the evening and the morning were the first day." Why would the first day start in the evening unless the dawn of creation was before, even God, started any measurement of time?

If you believe God made the heaven and the earth in 6 days of 24 hour periods that is not the important thing I am driving at. I believe he could have spoke them all into existence in a millisecond. The main point is, **He was the Creator!**

Science states that creation all started with a vapor of gas. The Bible states in Psalms 33:6 "By the **word** of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the **BREATH** of his mouth." Hebrews 11:3, "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things that are seen were not made of things which do appear." This world and everything herein were made from nothing. God simply spoke them into existence!

God made us from dirt. Jesus, who was God manifested in the flesh, made eyes for the blind man from mud and the blind man was made whole!

1 Timothy 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Evolution is only a theory. I highly disagree with science on their theory of things evolving and man evolving from monkeys. On any contradiction we must believe the irrefutable Word of God.

Genesis 1:11 states, "And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit **after its kind**, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so." I also state that it will always be so. You can plant an orchard with pears, apples, plums and all manner of fruits, and every tree will yield fruit **after its kind**. A pear tree will never bear apples. Even though a pear tree and an apple tree stands side by side, when you plant their seed, the tree that comes up will be **after its kind**. These plants were made even before God made the Sun, so you do not need sunlight to grow plants. You only need God!

The fourth day or period of time God created the sun, moon and stars. Before that time the earth floated somewhere in space without anything to control its actions except God. It even brought forth plants before there was a sun! What a mighty God we serve! He controlled the earth while it was floating in space; however, we, as mankind, have a hard time trusting him to control us. Our lives would be a lot better and certainly more beneficial to His Kingdom and others if we would ask God to run us by his remote control system and then allow him to do so.

Genesis 1:20, tells that during the fifth day of creation God created **fish** and certain **fowls from the sea**. God brought them forth, **after their kind**. This is probably where science gets the erroneous idea that all creation came from the sea.

Genesis 1:24-25 states that **cattle, creeping things and beast**, God commanded to be brought forth **from the earth**. He also stipulated that they be, **after his kind**. To prove that this is still God's law let us look at the stubborn mule. A mule is a cross between a horse and a burro. The mule cannot reproduce!! Why? Because it is God's law to produce after their kind! The horse can only procreate horses and a burro can only procreate burros. Any attempt man makes to alter this rule fails. A forced cross between a horse and a burro can produce both male and female mules; however, neither can produce an offspring. They are both sterile.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

This breath of God is what distinguished man different from all other animals. Man is a living soul. His spirit and soul will live forever. The new birth experience will allow you to live forever in heaven. (see Holy Ghost and Fire).

THIS BREATH OF JESUS IS THE NEW BIRTH EXPERIENCE

St. John 20:22 Jesus appeared to his disciples, *"And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them Receive ye the Holy Ghost."*

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

This breath of the One God made the first man Adam a living soul. The breath from the second man Adam makes man a Quickening Spirit. (Meaning, He makes us alive with).

Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, **The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.**

Acts 1:8 Jesus said, "But, ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you:"

Luke 24:49 Jesus said, "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be **endued** with power from on high." The word **endued** means so much more than endowed. The word endowed simply means to give. **Endued** means to provide with a quality or power, to make alive with, to furnish or supply. Example is, the jungle answered as if **endued** with life, by waving its boughs.

When we receive the Holy Ghost we are **endued**, (made alive with), power. Jesus **breathed** on his disciples and said, "**Receive ye the Holy Ghost.**" **THIS IS THE SAME CREATIVE BREATH OF GOD THAT SPOKE THE WORLD INTO EXISTENCE.** It dwells in us through the power of the Holy Ghost! The very **creative breath of God!**
Mark 16:18 "they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover."

This commission was not for the ministers only. This promise and being endued with power, is for EVERYONE THAT BELIEVES!

This is getting back to the Early Church where THEY, (everyone), went from house to house. How much more effective would our churches be if every member, that has the Holy Ghost, would pray for the sick wherever they were at. Pray for your friends, your neighbors, and your family members. When you visit the sick, ask if they would like to have prayer, before you leave. Ask the question, "Do you believe that the God that created this body can heal it?" If they say, "yes," then lay YOUR hand on them and pray for their healing. God will do the rest.

WHEN GOD SPEAKS, IT WILL COME TO PASS! God made the earth from nothing, then, hung it on nothing and yet it still hangs there in space where God placed it. All of this was from nothing. In our bodies, regardless of the problem, at least he has something to start with.
NO PROBLEM IS TOO HARD FOR GOD!

TYPES AND MEASURES OF FAITH

FAITH FOR A PURPOSE:

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Acts 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple

I have no doubt that this man, that was laid daily at the gate of the temple, was seen by Jesus many times. Jesus may have seen him as early as age 12 when Jesus was found by his parents discussing scriptures with the Scribes at the Temple.

I am confident that Jesus walked by this lame man many times. He probably looked on him with compassion. He probably was asked many times by the lame man for alms. He may have even given alms to the lame man.

THIS FAITH WAS FOR A PURPOSE

Why did Jesus not heal the lame man? I believe Jesus was looking to the time that Peter and John could say, "but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk."

I believe Jesus looked to the time that Peter could tell the crowd that was filled with wonder and amazement that; " **Acts 3:14** But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

Acts 3:15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Acts 3:16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

This type of faith is by divine authority and has nothing to do with the receiver of the miracle having faith. Peter and John had the Gift of Faith that was given them by Jesus. This type of faith is rare. Many men have claimed the Gift of Divine Healing. They have used many types of deception to bolster their claims. Their motive for their deception is greed. Their antics have harmed the cause of God by causing many people not to trust any ministers. In trusting ministers these question needs to be addressed. Does their teaching line up with the bible, God's divine authority? Who's Kingdom are they building? What if I do not have a "love offering," will they pray for me anyway? I will state that here in the Apostolic Church, we will never ask you for a love offering to pray for you. We are here to help those in need. Our only motive is your salvation!

Acts 3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

Acts 3:4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

Acts 3:5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Acts 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Acts 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

This man stood up immediately and walked. He did not have to go to a rehab to learn to walk! He had been lame from his mother's womb. He had never learned to walk! Yet he stood up, walked, and went leaping and praising God!! No problem is too hard for God to solve.

Acts 3:10 And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.

Acts 3:11 And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering

Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

Acts 3:14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

Acts 3:15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Acts 3:16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Acts 4:4 **Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.**

FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD

James 2:20 **But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?**

James 2:26 **For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

James 2:18 **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.**

1 Thessalonians 4:11 **And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;**

2 Timothy 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

Faith and works or working go hand and hand. It is not enough to simply ask God for a better job. If we want a better job we must be willing to work for it. Study to show thyself

approved has both natural and spiritual significance. So you want to be a brain surgeon, you can pray everyday to become a brain surgeon, but, unless you are willing to study the long hours that are necessary to be approved by the American Medical Board you will never become a surgeon. This also applies to young people. You must go to school for at least 12 years. Why not study hard, get yourself a good education while you are in school, and this will make the rest of your life a lot easier. The more education you have the easier your work life will be. If you need help when you are doing all you can do, then God will help you. He is the source of all knowledge. He will give you knowledge if you ask him and then do your own homework.

We can not expect God to do for us what is reasonable to do for ourselves. If we know how to fix our problem, then fix it. If we have a problem that is too hard for us then don't try to tell God how to fix it. Tell him the problem and ask him to fix it. Then stand back and allow him to work. Many times we continue asking for something that we think will solve a problem, when we should only be telling God what the problem is and asking him to fix it. His ways are not our ways. Often times I have been amazed at the simple answer to what I thought was a complex problem. God can supply your needs. He does not need us to tell him how.

INTERCESSORY FAITH

Matthew 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a **centurion**, beseeching him,

Matthew 8:8 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.

Matthew 8:13 And Jesus said unto the **centurion**, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Many times people are healed through intercessory faith by someone who cares. It is through no faith of the individual who is healed, but the faith of a friend who cares. The recipient of this healing had nothing to do with the process. The centurion asked God for him.

MEASURE OF FAITH

Romans 12:3 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**.

Every one has a measure of faith. If you believe in God, you have faith. If you ask God for anything, you have a measure of faith or you would not have asked in the first place.

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.

The second part of pleasing God with faith is to believe he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

To diligently seek him is not to use God as you use 911. Sure he is there in our hour of urgent need, but to diligently seek him is not just to call on him in an emergency.

To keep asking over and over again is diligence. You do have faith or you would not keep asking!

INHERITED FAITH OR TAUGHT FAITH

2 Timothy 1:5 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.

Was the faith, that Paul was talking to Timothy about, inherited from his mother Eunice or his grandmother Lois or was it taught by a loving and caring mother and grandmother in their everyday life as Timothy was growing up. I am persuaded the faith that was in Timothy was actually taught to him by his mother and grandmother. This is much like our Sunday School Teachers, Pastors, parents, and grandparents teach faith by teaching children about the miracles of the bible.

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus

FAITH TO SUPPLY YOUR NEEDS

Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little **faith?**

Matthew 6:33 But **seek ye first** the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HOW CAN I SEEK IT?

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is **not meat and drink**; but righteousness, **and** peace, **and** joy in the Holy Ghost.

There is the word righteousness again. Righteousness simply means right living. The Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments are a major part of righteousness.

Peace and Joy, in the Holy Ghost. You are not a child of God and do not come under his banner of protection unless you have his gift, The Holy Ghost. (see Holy Ghost and Fire).

What things will be added if you seek the kingdom of God first?

Matthew 6:25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Matthew 6:26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

Matthew 6:27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

Matthew 6:28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

Matthew 6:29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Matthew 6:30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 6:31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

Matthew 6:32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall **supply** all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

The most precious sought after thing on earth is gold. In Heaven gold is used for paving. How beautiful Heaven must be. God will supply ALL your needs according to his riches in glory. There is not any need that is too large for God to supply. Remember he spoke this world into existence.

YOUR FAITH

Matthew 9:22 But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy **faith** hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Matthew 9:29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your **faith** be it unto you.

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

When there is going to be prayer for the sick during a revival, the minister usually spends time telling of miracles and teaching on faith. This is to increase your faith by hearing of these miracles and teaching the word of God.

Hebrews the 11th chapter is called the faith chapter. It tells of Noah, and many others who died in faith. If this chapter were being written today, I would like for my name to be included in this faith chapter along with the others who had faith.

INCREASE OR EXERCISE YOUR FAITH

Deuteronomy 7:9 Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the **faithful** God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;

Jeremiah 9:24 But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which **exercise** lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

God delights in doing things for his children. Since he owns everything, (the house and land that you think you own or are buying belonged to someone else a thousand years ago and will belong to someone else in the future), we are only a Stewart of his land.

2 Timothy 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou **stir up** the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

Matthew 17:21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by **prayer and fasting**.

There are steps that we can take to increase our faith. I believe these steps are as follows.

1. Guilt feelings for mistakes we have done in the past will hinder our faith. To get rid of these guilt feelings forever ask God for forgiveness. (See repentance).
2. Faith cometh by hearing. Attending church regular to hear teaching will increase your faith.
3. Faith cometh by the Word of God. Regular bible reading, especially the stories of faith will increase your faith. We must believe that He is, and He rewards those who seek him.
4. Regular prayer is a key ingredient to increase our faith.
5. Fasting, to deny our body of food to bring the body under subjection to the spirit, is a very important act of faith. We can not twist God's arm, but prayer and fasting is obedience and obedience gets God's attention.

Jesus was talking to his disciples about faith and the reason that they could not do the miracle that Jesus had just done. Jesus said, "**Mark 9:29** And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by **prayer and fasting.**"