

Faith – Believe it or Not

In Luke 17 the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith.

His response was... “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could do this.”

What the Lord was telling them was, *“Guys, you don’t need more faith. You don’t have a faith problem, you just aren’t using the faith you’ve already got!”*

Luke 17:3–5 (NKJV)

³ Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. ⁴ And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, ‘I repent,’ you shall forgive him.” ⁵ And the apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith.”

- Faith is for everyday life
- It takes faith to unconditionally love and forgive your co-workers, your spouse, your children, your parents, and your neighbors

Jesus’ response:

Luke 17:6 (NKJV)

⁶ So the Lord said, “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast.

- Yes, our salvation is a “gift” of God
- Yet, this also means that “faith” is a gift from God
- It is not of ourselves, it is of God

Romans 12:3 (KJV 1900)

³For 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.

- It's not *a* measure but *the* measure
- God gives each believer the same measure
- It's not my *Human* faith, it's His *Supernatural* faith

Most people just ask God for something and then “believe”

They don't understand there are certain restrictions God has placed upon Himself

- Gods faith always abides by Gods laws

1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

- Faith is governed by law
- God did that for our benefit

The Law of Faith

Romans 3:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ Where *is* boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith.

- Faith Follows God's Rules
- If we believe it wrong, it won't work
- It's not our faith, it's Gods
- There is a law of faith
 - Law – “*constant, without fluctuation or variation*” and “*universal*”
- Faith works for everyone – like the law of gravity
- God will not break His laws
- They are there to govern and produce His desired results
- We just agree with them

God doesn't want us to die of sickness, fail financially, or suffer emotional problems

However, if we don't learn how faith works and begin to cooperate, the same laws which are meant to bless you will cause you to fail

- God cannot and will not violate His laws
- We must speak the language of faith

Faith works for everyone – like the law of gravity

- God will not break His laws
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One of the Laws of Faith Is: You will have what you say

Faith Speaks

Romans 10:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But what does it say? “*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):

- There is power in words
- The ability to speak God’s words reflects God’s image in us
- In a sense, our words have the ability to create

Proverbs 18:20–21 (NKJV)

²⁰ A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; *From* the produce of his lips he shall be filled. ²¹ Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- Remember God created the worlds through speaking them into existence – **Genesis 1**
- Everything natural – physical
- What we can...
 - See, taste, hear, smell, and feel
- Gods faith-filled word framed the universe and continue to hold it together

Hebrews 11:3 (NKJV)

³ By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

- **Hebrews 1:3** *“upholding all things by the word of His power”*
- This is one characteristic that sets us apart from plants and animals
- We are created in Gods image – we speak words
- What you say, in a sense creates and upholds everything in your life

Learn to Speak Life

Mark 11:22–23 (NKJV) Jesus has just cursed the fig tree

²² So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

Even if we believe we have the faith of the son of God on the inside we may not see it work properly because we don't understand the laws that govern faith

- If the doctor told you, you were going to die what would you *say*?
 - What words are you releasing?
 - Your words determine what you experience
- Are your words agreeing with the doctor or the word of God?
 - The devil wants to get you to speak death
 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue
 - You will have what you agree with and say
- The words we speak are the release valve for the power in the word of God
- *Whoever says...*

Romans 10:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- Our heart and mouth must agree
- It's not just name it and claim it
 - Some have gone overboard with this
 - *"that tickled me to death"*
 - Of course, you won't die because you don't really believe that
- You must believe what you're saying

Most Christians are busy talking to God about their mountain instead of talking to their mountain about God

- Whatever you want to see changed – Speak to it
- Don't say...
 - *“Oh God, I'm so sick. Please take this disease away.”*
 - *“Father, please remove this debt.”*
- Speak to the sickness – Talk to your bills
- Address your depression
- Tell it that God has already set you free

Mark 11:14 (KJV 1900)

¹⁴ And Jesus *answered* and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever. And his disciples heard *it*.

- Jesus *answered* the fig tree that no figs
- He *responded* to the it – your problems are talking to you

Words are important! – You can't speak words of death, discouragement, defeat and depression and expect to receive or keep your blessings

- Thank God for what He's already done
- Command your body to quit hurting, or your finances to work
- Take your authority and use it!

Electricity:

There are natural laws that govern electricity

- They have been here since creation

They didn't operate because no one knew about the laws that govern it

- When you flip on the light switch the power flows
- It's not personal – it just works because the laws are followed that provide the electricity as your servant
- You don't have to call the electric company before you throw the switch
- Likewise, if someone touches a live electrical wire they will get a shock
- The electric company doesn't think *"Ill teach them a lesson, I'll just give them the shock of their lives."*
- The Lord isn't healing one and refusing the other
- There are laws that govern how His power works

Your words must have actions that agree

James 2:20 (NKJV)

²⁰ But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

- It's not enough to just speak to your mountain
- You must also have works that agree with what you're saying

Mark 5

Jesus is on His way to heal Jairus' daughter and he encounters a woman with an issue of blood

- The people are pressing in on Jesus as they're walking along
- She touches His garment and He responds

Mark 5:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"

- His disciples were amazed
- Her touch was different
- It was full of faith, and instantly power flowed
- God doesn't size us up when we come with a request on how much you've prayed, studied the Word, fasted, lived holy or whatever else we come up with
- His power responds to faith

She had faith works

Mark 5:28 (NKJV)

²⁸ For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

- First, she said...
- Then she reached out through the crowd to touch Him
- She acted on her faith
- She didn't just speak about being healed

She even put herself at personal risk

In that day, someone who was unclean could be stoned to death if they came around a crowd

- Notice she touched the hem of His garment
- Probably on her hands and knees crawling
- She was desperate and willing to risk everything!
- This illustrates another law of faith
 - Earnestness – you can't receive the things of God just by passively seeking Him

Mark 5:25–26 (NKJV)

²⁵ Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years,
²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse.

- Her friends probably gave her much sympathy
- She had spent everything and grew worse
- If she would have told them what she was going to do they probably would have called her crazy
- We don't think we're crazy when we let doctors practice on us
 - Poking and prodding everywhere
- But when we trust God we're called fanatics
- It takes this type of aggressive attitude to receive from God

Jeremiah 29:13 (NKJV)

¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

How desperate are you?

Desperate comes from the Latin word meaning “despair”

Check out these dictionary definitions:

- Reckless or violent because of despair, driven to take any risk
- Undertaken as a last resort
- Nearly hopeless, critical, grave, i.e. a desperate illness
- Marked by, arising from, or showing despair; despairing, i.e. the desperate look of hunger
- In an unbearable situation because of need or anxiety, i.e. desperate for recognition
- Extreme because of fear, danger, or suffering greatly, i.e. in desperate need

We need a full revelation of what Jesus has done for us

- That doesn't mean we won't have any problems
- In the midst of trouble, we can say, *“Father, you've already supplied this before I ever had the need. I know it's there, so I'm drawing near to you. Thank you for revealing it to me!”*

God has met every need we will ever have!

Jeremiah 29:11, 13 (NKJV)

¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

¹³ And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

John 6:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

John 4:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

There is a well of living water on the inside of every born-again believer

- If we are hungry and thirsty it's time to start eating and drinking from what He's already given
- Don't ask God to do something He's already done and provided for
- Reach in deep and with thanksgiving receive the finished work – By Faith!

Philippians 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

- When you continually draw on the joy that God has placed within our born-again spirit we will live a victorious life
- We will experience continual joy and peace

Mark 5:32–34 (NKJV)

³² And He looked around to see her who had done this thing.

³³ But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. ³⁴ And He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”

- Your faith has made you whole
- People could have used electricity thousands of years ago
- The Lord didn’t just recently make it available
- It was man’s ignorance of the laws
- God doesn’t play favorites – he does honor His laws