

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** *“the measure of faith”*

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)

²⁷Where *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”*

One of the major things that people don't receive from God is because they think "faith" is God responding to something they do

- This puts a burden on you to perform
- I hear people pray,
 - *"O Lord bless so and so because they are good and do so much for you"*
 - This will not work
- No one is good enough to move God
- Faith doesn't move God
 - God's not stuck
- Faith is not something you do to make God do something
- "Faith works" is legalism
- It must come by grace through faith

It is the simple fact that God's grace has already done something for us and now by faith we receive it

- If what you call faith is not in direct response to something God has already done, then it's not true faith
- Faith doesn't try to get God to positively respond to us
- Faith is your positive response to what God has already done
- Faith only appropriates what God has already provided by grace

True faith reaches out, receives and takes what God has already done!

We are Already Blessed

You see a seed – God sees a forest!

Ephesians 1:3, 19-20 (NKJV)

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

¹⁹ and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly *places*

- Everything we'll ever need has already been provided
- It's not a matter of asking God to do it
- Rather believing its already been done and releasing it to manifest

You have got to realize that everything God has already provided is in the spirit realm

- The physical realm doesn't necessarily reflect what's true in the spiritual realm
- Faith acts like a bridge for what God has already done to cross from one realm to the other
- Just because it hasn't manifested doesn't mean it's not true

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)

²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- It doesn't say we are becoming righteous
- I don't obtain righteousness by holy living

1 Corinthians 1:30 (NKJV)

³⁰ But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who *became* for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

- My spirit *has* become righteous
- It's not something I'm evolving into
- My born-again spirit is righteous
- Not my thoughts, feelings, actions or physical body

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, **he is** a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things **have become** new.

- In our spirit, there is a totally new person
- One that has never been
- A new species
 - I'm a new creature!
 - There's a new me!

God's word is the only reliable, accurate representation of the spirit world

John 6:63 (NKJV)

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and *they* are life.

- The bible tells us what's going on in the spirit realm
- It cannot be perceived in the natural realm
- Our spirit is made perfect

1 John 4:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.

- Not as He was in the world
- As He is now – In heaven
 - Not our physical actions, thoughts or feelings
 - Yet, in the spirit
- We are perfect, in Jesus as we live in this world
- This doesn't mean we act just like Jesus all the time
 - You may act better than so and so
- The word is talking about your born-again spirit
- In the spirit, you're a brand-new person

It is this person that has already received everything God is going to give you through the atonement

- Your faith is the bridge from the spirit to the natural

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

- Start living from who you are in Christ
- You will start to see the power of God manifest in your life

The Word of God is a Spiritual Mirror

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

James 1:23–25 (NKJV)

²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; ²⁴for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. ²⁵But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

- We are perfect right now, not when we get to heaven
- As we look in the mirror of God's word we discover our identity in Christ
- As we act on that knowledge in faith we'll see the life of God with in us manifest

When you look in a mirror you are not seeing the real thing

- It's a reflection
- You have never seen your true self
- Only a reflection or a picture
- Example – Fun house mirror

It's the same with a spiritual mirror

- It reveals truths about what's happening in the spiritual world
- If you want to experience life and peace, then you need to be spiritually minded

Romans 8:6 (NKJV)

⁶For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

- You'll never move into the spiritual realm as long as you are dominated by the physical realm
- If you can't believe anything beyond your five senses, you are carnally or physically minded
- God is a spirit and He moves in the spirit realm – **John 4:24**
- To flow with God in the supernatural we must become spiritually minded

We have got to resolve that the spirit realm is real – even more real than what we experience in the physical realm

2 Kings 6

The king of Syria was at war with the king of Israel

- He would send ambushes out to destroy the Israeli army
- However, every time he did there was an ambush waiting there for him
- It was as if the king of Israel knew the king of Syria's battle plans before hand
- The king had become quite perplexed

2 Kings 6:11–12, 14-15 (NKJV)

¹¹ Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was greatly troubled by this thing; and he called his servants and said to them, “Will you not show me which of us *is* for the king of Israel?” ¹² And one of his servants said, “None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who *is* in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom.”

¹⁴ Therefore he (*the king of Israel*) sent horses and chariots and a great army there, and they came by night and surrounded the city. ¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God arose early and went out, there was an army, surrounding the city with horses and chariots. And his servant said to him, “Alas, my master! What shall we do?”

- The servant saw the armies, discerned why they were there and panicked
- He knew his master had been giving the king information

See Elisha's response:

Kings 6:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who *are* with us *are* more than those who *are* with them."

If you don't understand that there is a physical realm and a spiritual realm you would think Elisha is crazy or lying

- He wasn't hoping they *would have* a greater army
- He knew that it was already so
- It's not as simple as just saying what the spirit realm has in hopes that it becomes so
 - It's not just name it a claim it
- We start to see the circumstance through the eyes of faith
 - We are so full of the spirit of the word that we start to see things differently – that's faith!

1 Corinthians 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ But as it is written: "*Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*" ¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

- We start to look at the world through new eyes
- The new man's eyes!

2 Kings 6:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

- The servant’s physical eyes were already opened
- God opened his spiritual eyes
- He saw the armies of the Lord
- You have the ability to see the unseen
- Through Gods word you look beyond the mere physical world

Ephesians 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints

- We have got to perceive things in our heart that cannot be perceived with our five senses
- Believing is seeing!

Hebrews 11:1 AMP Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].

Elisha took the entire Syrian army captive because he believed in the power that was available to him in the spiritual realm

– 2 Kings 6:18-20