

Faith

Faith is a secure belief in God and His promises. It involves trust and confidence. If God makes a promise in His word then faith grabs hold of that word and refuses to let go until the manifestation comes forth in the natural.

“Faith is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.”

Hebrews 11: 1 NLT

Biblical Examples of Faith

Hebrews 11 is sometimes referred to as the “hall of faith.” It contains some amazing stories of the working of God which defy natural reasoning. Consider Abraham who believed God when He promised that He would make his descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky; yet Abraham and his wife were old and beyond natural reproductive age. Human reasoning says their son, Isaac, was an impossibility but with God all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26)

Another example of a man of faith was Noah who withstood ridicule as he followed God’s instructions and built a huge boat on dry ground. There was not a

body of water in sight on which it could float.

Hebrews 11:6 NLT, *“So, you see it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that there is a God and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.”*

Abraham’s Faith Formula

1. Abraham **had** God’s Word
2. Abraham **believed** God’s Word
3. Abraham **considered not the contradictory circumstances**
4. Abraham **gave praise to God.**¹

Faith is the doorway through which God comes to man. God rejoices when we manifest a faith that holds Him to His word. His word is the key to the treasures laid up for those who have named Him as their Lord and Savior through receiving the sacrifice of Jesus’ blood to remove their sins.

How Do We Get Faith?

Each believer is given a measure of faith (Romans 12:3 b). It is up to us to feed it so it grows. We do this by hearing the word

(Romans 10:17) either through good sound biblical preaching/teaching, reading Scripture aloud to ourselves, or sharing Scriptural insights with others in Bible study groups or with individuals. We seek out Biblical promises related to the problem we are facing and declare these aloud.

Faith is also built by recalling the works of God in our lives. We can pray for more faith, but God has given us the practical means to increase our faith. Hebrews 11:6 tells us without faith it is impossible to please God; so each of us, as followers of Christ, need to be intentional about building on the measure of faith we have.

Our challenge is to find out what God says in His word and resolve to believe it. As we quote Scriptural promises aloud we are built up in our faith. The word of God is the food that feeds our faith. Let us be diligent to feed our faith.

God says even faith as small as a mustard seed moves mountains (symbolic for trials/problem’s in our lives) and nothing will be impossible to you (Matthew 17:20). He explained the power of the Word in the parable of the seed. When the word, like seed is sown on good soil, believers will hear the word, accept it, and produce a bountiful crop.

How Do We Use Faith?

There are many examples recorded in Scripture where faith was the key that moved the hand of God to pour out His provisions. There are a number of stories of healing where Jesus said, “Your faith has made you whole.” Sight was restored, the paralyzed could walk, bleeding was stopped, lepers were healed, the lame leaped up and stood erect. Their faith was ignited when they encountered Jesus. When He spoke the word they grabbed hold, believed, and received. This should inspire us to do likewise.

Faith as a Belt

God has provided a belt of truth as part of the believer’s armor (Ephesians 6:14). The belt of truth is His word wrapped around us instead of the misconceptions, lies, and marginal half truths some of us have accepted as truth. We can not pay attention to Satan’s distortions and God’s truth simultaneously. We are to embrace God’s truth. *“Your word is truth.”* John 17:17b

Belts in the natural hold our garments of clothing together. Let us be mindful of the need to wrap ourselves in Biblical truths

and keep the belt tightly around us. Scripture is the test of truth.

Faith as a Shield

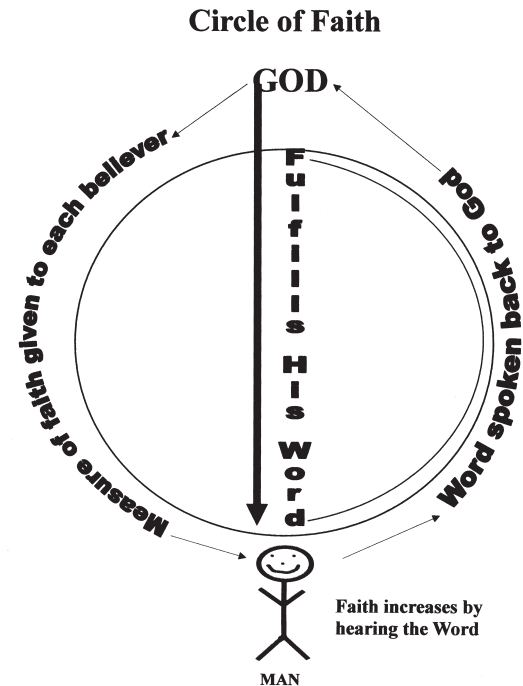
Faith is also referred to as a shield. (Ephesians 6:16). It is used to extinguish the fiery darts shot at us by our enemy Satan. When he comes with his lies, accusations, and overwhelming problems, we are to hold up the word of God as a shield. We can not pay attention to Satan's distortions and God's truth simultaneously. We are to embrace God's truth as revealed in His word. Jesus, Himself, quoted Scripture to Satan when He encountered his attacks in the wilderness with, "*It is written*" (Matthew 4).

Faith is also referred to as a breast plate in I Thessalonians 5:8 and Ephesians 6:14. We know a breastplate offers protection.

How Does Faith Work?

As stated earlier we are each given a measure of faith when we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. In addition we are told that faith comes by hearing the word. God gives us faith, we believe His word, offer His word back to Him, consider not the circumstance, and remember to praise.

Faith starts with God, comes to the heart of the believer who then returns God's word to Him by speaking. God declares His word will not return void but will accomplish what he pleases and prosper in the thing for which He sent it (Isaiah 55:11).



We have established the fact that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word. We are challenged to be diligent to build on the measure He gave us. Scripture also tells us that faith expresses itself through love. We can not be in unresolved conflict with others and expect our faith to operate.

James 2:17 tells us that faith without works is a dead faith.

Resolve to be full of the word of God and return His promises to Him to fulfill. That puts a demand on the word. It pleases Him to know His children have taken the time to seek out His promises and return them to Him. Yes, faith is circular. It starts with God, then passes through man who builds it by hearing and believing the word. Then man returns the faith words to God who then moves to fulfill His promises. His faithfulness feeds our faith. Our inner man is built up and our faith increases as we recall His faithfulness in our lives.

Let us remember to offer up praise for He is worthy of all praise.

1. Hagin, Kenneth *What Faith Is*. Rhema Bible Church, 1983

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Cover Art: Dennis Lipp

