

Objective: to enable every believer to live the supernatural lifestyle that God intended.

31 July 2018
NLBC a.m.

Faith – The Only Real Way to Live – Pt. 2

Rom. 1:17; Acts 27:25;

Introduction

In light of the fact, that we have been given a few months to vacate our building, I am led to rehearse the foundations of faith—for it is this vital truth that enables us to live pleasing God and experiencing His life and power in the circumstances we face. Whatever disappointments and losses you have had, whatever circumstances you face today, there is a vital component of faith that you must grasp and embrace. Yesterday must **not** be allowed to dictate today. Phillip. 3:14, 15.

How Important Is Faith?

Two hundred fifty-four times in the New Testament, the word, “faith,” is used. Two hundred fifty-six times the New Testament refers to “believing,” the dynamic operational dimension of faith. Over and over throughout the Gospels, Jesus spoke of the importance of faith. He even rebuked His disciples for their lack of faith. The story of the unfolding Church in the Book of Acts mentions the power of faith fifteen times. In the first chapter of every letter that Paul wrote, the Holy Spirit caused him to mention faith – right at the very beginning. Those verses make clear: the only lifestyle we are allowed that pleases

God is: the lifestyle of faith...that is, believing and receiving God's grace and power for every circumstance we face.

Before you had faith, you had nothing....you lived in darkness with no way out, you were as vulnerable and weak as you could possibly be, your health was subject to change any moment with some attack, you had no protection, you had no remedy, your work life was subject to all the oppressions of the Egyptian system, you were cheated, robbed and betrayed and had no remedy, you were weak in yourself and doubted your future, your worth, other people's love for you, and your own ability to succeed. When trouble came you only had the world's resources to deal with it...if the world had no lasting solution...you simply suffered through it or died. Trouble, tragedy and disaster could eat it way into your inner man and all you could do was cry, complain, hurt, blame and be angry...even if you only did it inside yourself. You watched the ones you loved, suffer as well...with only human words to comfort them...you had no power to change their mourning into dancing. You were powerless, hopeless, weak, defiled beyond cleansing, and sentenced to die while living. Life was trying to make crumbs into substance and make any positive emotion last longer than a few seconds.

Slide No. 1

When Faith Came

When "faith" came, as the Bible says, "faith comes...," (Rom. 10:17) you began to **live** for the first time. You connected with God!

When FAITH came by hearing God speak...it all changed! Well, at least potentially...when God speaks...and faith comes...we live in a different world...we change address...we step out of something that was never meant to be our lot and into what is rightfully ours....

The Spirit of Faith - 2 Cor. 4:13.

Everything we have that is good comes from God Himself. God is Spirit (John 4:24) and what He gives to us comes first in the invisible realm of the Spirit. Faith is also referred to as a “fruit of the Spirit” in Gal. 5. We understand that “faith” is vitally connected to the Holy Spirit – it is then, our “spirit-life,” not our soul-life that releases the ‘voice of faith’ into our minds and lives. We must ‘**hear** the voice’ in order for faith to come and the power of that coming to be revealed. Lots of other voices come: the voice of:

- Logic, reason and good old common sense
- Emotion, passion, feelings, desperation, panic, fear
- Science, education
- This world’s system, opinions of others, Google,
- Our history or our past experience, other’s negative experiences
- Pain, symptoms, worry
- The Devil (Acts 5:3)

The first step we take in ‘hearing the voice of faith’ is the **aggressive** rejection of the other voices! Anything that causes me to doubt or live apart from the life of faith is my *enemy*. It will not be a person, per se, but the ‘opposer of my success!’ Titus 2:12. I must say “**No!**” to:

- The voice of pain
- The voice of symptoms
- The news of bad things

****If I fail to say, “NO!” to what I should say, “No” to, I begin to accommodate, accept, allow, permit, and say “OK” to whatever has begun to invade my life and the lives of others. I must be vocal and aggressive about this!** Rom. 4:19, 20; 2 Cor. 4:18.

The Holy Spirit Speaks - John 10:3,4; John 5:25; *Heb. 3:7*; Rev. 3:20

The 'voice of faith' is the voice of victory for every situation that we face. Until and unless we hear His voice, we muddle on...

Gal.3:2, 5

1 Tim. 1:18, 19 2011 version

Faith is a confidence and a sense of certainty that a spiritual transaction is taking place because God has spoken. 2 Cor. 4:13. Faith speaks with certainty...unlike the rest of life...