

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

13 August 2018
NLBC a.m.

Faith – The Only Real Way to Live – Pt. 4

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, etc
- 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

God's voice is the greatest and most powerful voice in your life. Cultivating the value of hearing his voice is only by making the 'hearing of it' a top **priority**. God speaks, but if His voice is measured alongside all the other voices that you hear, you will not mix it with faith and realise the miracles inherent in it.

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....

The Components of Faith

The new lifestyle of faith or the 'faith-lifestyle' that we embrace when we receive Christ as our Saviour, is so new and different than the life we had before. It is a totally different way of living. We have to get educated into it and embrace it. Otherwise, we instinctively go back to living the way we used to live and experiencing all of the results of the 'ways of man.'

1. Faith Thinks – If you are to be a 'faith person,' you must think the thoughts of God—the thoughts of God about every need or situation. Three sources of thought—self, God, Satan. Human thoughts or ideas are not what enable you to succeed in life. Isa. 55:8, 9. The primary source of God-thoughts is the Word of God. i.e. Matt. 17:20. The Christian life embraces a *new mentality*. You are to develop and embrace a 'nothing-is-impossible-with-me mentality.' You cannot live the 'new life in Christ,' with the old mentality. The new mentality of the new life we have in Christ is cultivated by **meditation**. Josh 1:8 reveals that we must 'meditate' on what is written in order to 'go

there.’ Having a memory bank is not sufficient. Meditating on His Word is meditating on Him, through His written words. What happens when you quiet yourself, and take the time to read over and over and pause to listen? The Holy Spirit has opportunity to ‘break into the inner conversation’ and speak. He speaks most often ‘*from His Word.*’ His thoughts come into your mind and faith comes. The Holy Spirit *breathes* or *personalises to you specifically* something you read. In effect, you are ‘hearing His voice.’

2. Faith Hears – Faith *hears* the ‘proceeding word.’ Matt. 4:4; Rom. 10:17; Gal. 3:3,5. Faith isn’t and then it shows up. It ‘shows up’ by *hearing*. The voice of God, by the Holy Spirit, brings the unique **certainty** of faith. By hearing His voice on the inside, you believe. It is a fruit of the Spirit’s work in our inner man—just as it was in our salvation. Eph. 2:8. This inner faith-producing work can come devotionally. In the quietness of your devotional seclusion, you can ‘hear’ His voice declaring a ‘reality’ and you automatically have the inner conviction (full assurance) that what you have heard, **is...a ‘done deal.’** It can come in any context where you are **listening to hear**. In a church service, in a conversation with another believer, from a cd, from some web, radio, or tv transmission. This faith-producing certainty can occur in your heart, by hearing the Spirit’s voice.

3. Faith Sees - Faith sees...the finished product, the completed work, what is...God sees something different than what we see, often times. In order to have faith’s reward (Heb. 11:6), we must see what He sees. He saw Gideon as a mighty warrior and He called Him that. Gideon, hiding out at that time, did not inwardly embrace that God-seen reality. When He accepted (inwardly embraced), what God saw, he became what God saw. The promises of God are the realities that we are meant to see. You have an inner capacity to formulate pictures of realities. If someone said, “fried chicken,” you can instantly make a

picture of fried chicken, browned, steaming, and filling the air with its beckoning aroma. If you “meditated” on that picture continually, you may find yourself headed for KFC.

In the Old Testament story of faith, God told Israel to “**see** what the land is like.” Num. 13:18. They sent out spies to ‘spy out the land’ of Promise. We are to ‘spy out the “land of promises,” -- the ‘land of the great and precious promises’ in the Word of God. 2 Pet. 1:3,4. What is behind this principle of faith? The Satan-inspired world system utilises this inner, image-producing principle by putting in front of your literal eyes and stirring your image-making imagination, knowing that your eyes will draw you to the experiential reality of what you see. In the New Testament we understand this principle—‘...beholding Him, we become like Him.’ 2 Cor. 3:18 ESV. Heb. 11:27; 2 Cor. 4:18. When you meditate in the promises of God, specific to your situation, you begin to *see* what is *in* the promise...a picture of increase instead of lack, a picture of yourself well instead of seeing yourself sick, a picture of a situation *different* from the one you are experiencing. If you are always looking at the natural, you will not move into the supernatural. If you are always looking at Google, you will miss God and miss out on the treasures of grace. What you are “looking at” internally is also what you will talk about.

4. Faith Speaks – Faith speaks what has been *received* as done! If you are to live as a faith person, you will learn to speak differently! 2 Cor. 4:13. You will learn to speak like God speaks—Rom. 4:17 says, God “calls those things that are not, as though they were.” He required Jesus to speak to a dead man (Lazarus) as though he could hear and respond. Mark 11:24 says of believing believers that if you, “believe you **have received it**,...it will be yours.” Do you see yourself ‘with it’ yet? In the faith-world, *the asking and the receiving* are **at the same time**. It is ‘with you’ when you “**received**” (by God’s definition of “received”) it. Manifestation of what you have already received takes

place if you embrace the truth that you **have received**, whatever you asked. Num. 33:53 says we are to 'take possession' of what we **have been given**.

5. Faith Acts -- James 2:17-24. When you hear God's voice, faith comes...or the power to receive what He is saying simply by choosing to believe God is speaking to you. Part of that believing or 'mixing with faith,' is *acting* on what you heard or acting as if you had heard. Presumption is acting without having heard. Faith is expressed through **acts**, having heard from the Lord. This is the reason you can rejoice **before**, your physical eyes see the manifestation of something. You rejoice in the reality that God has spoken and because He has spoken, that is your 'new reality.' You order your life around the fact that He has spoken. You go on introducing yourself as 'Abraham' (meaning 'father of many nations'), rather than waiting till the first child is born.

In the natural world we do this often. Someone tells us they will meet us at Starbucks at a certain day and time. We orient our lives to make that appointment, believing this will happen. We **do** all those things necessary to keep up our end of the agreement, believing it is a 'done deal'—that it will truly occur.