

**An Introduction to**

# **WALKING**

# **BY**

# **FAITH**

**BY**

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## **Forward**

The purpose of this book, is to enlighten the reader, on the single biggest issue facing the Christian today, and that is, our failure to walk in the one area, that defines Christianity, and that is the area of faith.

How important is walking by faith, you might ask??

Well, it is so important, that if we look at what God, has to say about it, Hebrews 11:6 states **‘But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

This scripture is telling us, that no matter what we say, or what we do, **we are not going to please God, unless we are doing these things, through faith, in His Word.**

You can say you are a Christian, but, if you are living a life that, is modeled after what is known as carnal (worldly) thinking, then you are not pleasing in God’s sight. And the reason for this is quite obvious. If you deal with problems that confront you, the same way the ungodly do, then you are showing them, the ungodly, that God is unable to help you out of these situations, aside from worldly minded solutions. And therefore, they will see no need to come to Christ.

What a witness for Christ.

Here we are, proclaiming that He is King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. We call Him Savior. We say, that Jesus is the answer to all of our problems. Some of us wear those little wrist bracelets, and other items with the letters **‘WWJD’ [what would Jesus do??]**. We trumpet how Jesus, is greater than any problem that we may ever face, including death. Then, when a problem arises, we call on Him, then, when things look like they aren’t getting any better, we decide to take matters in our own hands, and deal with them. And usually, these solutions, go against what Jesus says we should be doing. And as a result, they ultimately, fail.

Walking by faith, is not something that you turn on, and off, based on how you feel. It is a 24/7 discipline, that most Christians, don’t have. And, this is not an exaggeration. Statistics say that as much as 85% of those that claim to be Christians, have little or no idea as to what a Christian is, and how they are supposed to live their lives. And that, my friends,

falls on one segment of our communities, and that is ministers, usually pastors.

These ministers, themselves, have the same percentages, at least, and even higher, especially in the black community. Most of them, seem to think that there are certain things that fall under the realm of public problems and solutions, while others fall under Godly values. And therefore, they tend to stay mostly in the public arena. And that is the biggest mistake they make, for, God, has control over everything, and has given us direction on how to handle things in every area. To detach themselves from this Truth, leads them, and their followers, into trouble.

For, when trouble comes, they begin to look to themselves, for the solutions that can only be fulfilled, by God. And when their solutions fail, they resort to even more detachment, trying to get things right. Always getting further, and further from God, while at the same time, saying they are Christians. They, as the bible says, **[2Tim 3:5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.** As the scripture says, to rely on their own solutions, is denying the power of God, as being able to fix them, and to fix them permanently, with the good of everyone concerned. **Our solutions, tend to be good for us, and bad for others.** We have our interests at the forefront, and don't care how our solutions affect family, friends, neighbors, other races, and even our enemies. That's right, God has solutions, that would make our enemies, less likely to remain our enemies, and even to cause them to become friends **[Prv 16:7] When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.** And really, isn't that what we all want?

But notice, our ways, have to be pleasing in His sight.

Now, the thing is this. Nothing, and I mean nothing, that God says we should do, will make any sense to the carnally minded (ungodly). And to have ministers, saying, that a person, relying on, and standing on God's Word, is being, somehow foolish, and out of touch with reality, is a disaster waiting to happen.

This book, is going to show you just exactly how, walking by faith, in God's Word, 24/7, is the best thing that you can do. Because without faith, 24/7, we are not pleasing God. We are not putting our total trust, in Him. And that is what the Christian should be about doing.

Only, when we make up our minds to walk in the path that Christ laid out for us to follow,

will we see the True Power, of the gospel, with people being saved, healed, and delivered, and having Victory against everything that the enemy throws at us.

As you go through this book, you may see things that you may not like, but remember this, much of what is good for us, from the Word of God, is not pleasant, because it tears at our carnality. Remember when your parents used to tell you Castor oil may not be pleasant to the taste, but it will cure what ails you. The same thing holds true for vegetables. Most of what is good for us, is unpleasant.

In order for God to get us in the condition He wants us in, so we can be more effective in witnessing for Christ, by being able to demonstrate, the full power that Christ left with us, over 2000 years ago, He requires our total, dedication to Him, through Jesus Christ.

Remember it was Jesus who said, **[John 14:12] Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.**

If we look at what Jesus did, while He was here, and what the Church, is doing today, there is a great discrepancy in that prediction.

Why??

Lack of faith!

God, didn't change, His Word (Jesus) didn't change, but, we changed. And as a result, we are walking outside the realm of the path Jesus set for us to walk in, and therefore, we are having to rely on our own wits, to get us through tough situations.

So, buckle your seat belts, as we take a ride through the realm of **'walking by Faith.'**

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## **The Definition of Faith**

In order for us to fully understand, faith, we need to have a definition of it. And, for our purposes, since we are talking about faith in God, then we need to find out how God defines it. And for that, we will go to, what has been described as the faith chapter of the bible, Hebrews, chapter 11.

Starting with the very first verse, we find these words. **[Heb 11:1] Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

Now, if I were to ask most Christians to define faith, they would, if they had knowledge of this passage of scripture, quote it, word for word. But, if I were to ask them, just what does this scripture mean, they would be at a total loss to be able to explain it beyond some general definition, which, would probably leave a person more confused than ever.

It is sad, but true. Most Christians are walking around, today, not knowing what it is they believe, and why they believe it. And, as a result, they don't have a clue about what they are missing. They are blind, spiritually, and usually just barely make it, in their Christian walk. When trouble comes, many will fall, because they don't know what to do.

What is really needed, is the Holy Spirit, to guide us in to looking at this scripture, the way God intends for us to look at it. So, that is what I am going to do.

First, the scripture starts out with the words '**Now faith is.**' This means, that faith, the God type of faith, is always, 'Now', present tense. It is never past tense. And it is never future tense. It is always present tense. Therefore, we could rearrange the first 3 words to say, '**faith is now**' and still not distort the meaning of the scripture.

We all know, that things we used to believe, and put our faith in, years ago, and even as little as days ago, may have been all right back then, but now, they are obsolete.

**Example.** Going back to the 1800's, and before, we relied on doctors, telling us that the way to cure certain diseases, was to take a lot of different tonics, and herbs, and hope for the best. Back then, they didn't know about bacteria, and germs, and such. The people relied on them for the truth about their circumstances, and it was, at that time, based on the prevailing knowledge the doctors had.

Today, that truth, is now obsolete, based of the improved knowledge that we have. No one, would think about going back to that era of thinking, knowing what we know today. Faith in the past, is foolish.

By the same token, putting faith in the future, is not really faith, but hope. It is based on an uncertainty. We have many diseases that there are no cures for today, but may be, in the future. Let's take AIDS, for instance. Even though strides have been made in extending the lives of those that have it, compared with 10-20 years ago, it is still not curable. People are saying that they **'hope'** we find a cure for it. Back then, it was certainly a death sentence, for anyone that had full blown AIDS.

So, faith, true faith, is always allocated to present tense.

Now, the next part of that scripture says, **'the substance of things hoped for.'** What does that mean??

Well, we have to break that down further.

First, what is **'substance??'**

Well, I define substance as, **'anything that reacts with one, or more of our 5 senses.'** That means, it is something that we can **'see, taste, smell, hear, or feel'**. If it falls in to any one of these categories, then it has substance.

**Example.** If a person has cleaned a room with ammonia, and no one else was with them, and they left the room, and another person came in 30 minutes later, and wasn't aware of any one cleaning the room, there would most likely be a residual smell. The person could tell you, someone has used ammonia in this room. Well, how did they know it was ammonia??? Because of the smell. Ammonia has a very identifiable odor that, when you smell it, you know what it is. That means, ammonia, has substance.

**Another example.** Have you ever eaten some food, where the cook had put too much salt in it?? You would say, 'there is too much salt in this food.' Well, how did you know that?? Because of the taste. So, salt has substance, as well.

In fact, everything in this world, has substance. Even things like temperature, wind, and disease, have substance, because you can feel, and in some instances see them.



Now the last part of the second part says '**of things hoped for.**' Notice, we see the word, '**hope.**'

While 'hope', standing alone, is futile, if it has 'substance', then, it is no longer futile, but, legitimate.

There are many things that we put our faith in, that are not in the present tense, in our lives, but are still legitimate, like our paychecks.

Many of us, work, or have worked, on jobs, where we don't get paid, for a week, or more, based on the institution we work for.

They usually tell you, they will pay you a certain amount of money, for the time you work, the next week, after you have worked. And based on that, you may go out and buy things, based on the amount of time you worked.

You have just put faith, in something you were told, without seeing it. But, because you heard it, or maybe read it, on a contract, that gave your hope some substance. And, as a result, you acted on it.

That is faith, at work.

Now, let's look at the next part of this scripture, '**the evidence of things not seen.**'

Look at the word '**evidence**'. What is evidence??

It is proof, that something has occurred, or is real. And in some instances, it leads to discovery of who, or what was involved in the occurrence.

As a former policeman, in the military, I learned how to go to the scene of an accident, or crime, and determine what happened, based on the evidence at hand. Also, through even more investigation, I could determine who, if anyone, outside of those present, was involved, and who was responsible. All of this, without being there when it happened.

That is what evidence does. It reveals things that are unseen.

Once again, using the ammonia, in the room as an example. The smell of the ammonia, is

evidence that someone used it, in the room. The taste of the salt, is evidence that someone put it in the food.

Are you seeing the picture here??

We all, saved and unsaved, have faith that we act on everyday. This is verified by [Rom 12:3] **For 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.**

Look at the words, ***‘the measure of faith’***. This means, that all of us are given, by God, the same measure of faith. That is because the scripture says, **‘the measure’**, and not **‘a measure.’** If the scripture had said, **‘a measure’**, then that could be left up our interpretation, that some of us might not have been given as much faith as someone else. But, that is not what God says. **All of us, start out with the exact same measure of faith.** Just like all of us start out with the exact same ability to walk and talk. What happens in later years, with our development, depends totally on us. We will get in to this aspect of faith, later on in this book.

Needless to say, no one can brag that they started out with more faith than someone else. That would mean that God favored them, more than someone else. And that is not the case. Now, God may favor someone, more than others, but that will be based on the level of faith they have put, in Him. Remember, **Heb. 11:6??** If God is pleased with a person, then He will do more for that person than for someone He is not pleased with.

That is just a fact. As Sergeant Joe Friday, used to say, on the show Dragnet, when questioning a witness, ‘Just the facts ma’am.’ He didn’t want a lot of speculation, and hearsay, he only wanted the facts. So, in like manner, that is what I am giving you. So, as you can see, we all have this ability, and we all exercise it everyday.

We live our lives, based on faith. We go to bed at night, knowing we will wake up in the morning. If we didn’t, we wouldn’t make plans for the next day. Have you ever told someone you would see, or talk to them, tomorrow?? That is faith, being exercised. Are you paying a mortgage, or paying on a lease?? Do you have a credit card?? With all of these things, you have agreed to pay, in the future, as many as 30 or more years. That is faith at work. You purchase a smoke, or carbon monoxide detector, for your home, and if it goes off, you get up and run outside, even though, in the case of carbon monoxide, you

can't see, or smell it. That is faith at work. Somebody tells us something, and we act on it, even though we can't see it, because we trust them. That is, unless experience with them, shows us otherwise.

All of this, gives us examples of our use of faith.

Now, think of this. Every single thing that we do, in the area of using our faith, is based on, our carnal (worldly) way of thinking, Why?? Because we are dealing with a carnal environment. We rely totally on our 5 senses, to navigate through this life. If it agrees with them, then we are fine with it.

**However, this faith is dangerous, because, everything in this carnal environment, has one major flaw, and that is, it is subject to change.**

Pick any circumstance in your life today. Your job, your income, your bank account, your spouse, your parents, your new car, your new house, your health, or whatever. It could be here today, and gone tomorrow.

When I first got hired at Chrysler, in 1971, I felt I had it made. Working for one of the 'Big 3', was a dream come true. I had a job for life. The industry was booming. I started buying things, right and left. Getting in to debt, wasting money, on all types of foolishness. But, I didn't worry, because I was working at Chrysler. My faith, was in Chrysler. And it was fine, until 7 years later, when the auto industry, started crashing, thanks to politicians in Washington, enacting laws, that adversely affected the industry, costing tens of thousands of jobs.

That let me know that my faith was misdirected, in that I was looking to myself, and the worldly ways of faith, which, when push comes to shove, is all futile. So experience has shown me, in the past, what the bible talks about, when it says that we need to put our faith in God, through Jesus Christ, because neither He, or His Word, ever changes.

Where is your faith??

Hopefully, after you finish this book, it will be where it should be. and that is, in God, through Jesus Christ.

## The God Type of Faith

In the previous chapter, we looked at the definition of faith, as described in the bible. And we saw just what constitutes actual faith. We found out that all of us, were born with the same capacity to walk in faith. But we also saw that, for the most part, our level of faith, depends on different factors, but all totaled, it is where, and how we use it, that will determine how we meet, and conquer the problems that come in to our lives.

When a problem presents itself, we basically have 2 ways to deal with it. We can resort to our natural (carnal) way of dealing with it, or, we can go into an area, that is totally at odds with our ways, and that is putting our faith in God, and His Word, Jesus Christ.

At first, the idea of putting our faith in God, seems to be irrational. And the reason for that, is simple. When we have spent all of our lives, living by faith, in man, and his solutions, to go outside of that, is seemingly hard to do. But, is it really??

Remember, everything that you have put your faith in, that is man centered, either has already failed, or will, at some time in the future. That is something you can take to the bank.

Most of us, if we don't know anything different, will simply shift to another man centered solution, and keep on truckin'.

But, God, has a perfect solution, for your problems. However, if you aren't aware of what He has to offer, then you will continue to walk the paths of ignorance, to your own destruction.

The bible says, [Prv 14:12,16:25]**There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.** There is always a path that you can take, outside of what God says, that seems perfectly fine. But, it will always end up, leaving you less, than where you want to be, or a lot worse, up to, and including your destruction.

Jesus put it this way, **Mat 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: Mat 7:25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.**

**Mat 7:26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:**

**Mat 7:27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

The apostle Paul wrote, **[Rom 8:6] For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

All of these scriptures are telling us the results of what happens when we choose a path that is not designed by God, for us to follow.

Now, just what is the God type of faith, which is what we need, to have success, God style.

Do you remember the definition of faith??

Well, let's look at it, through the eyes of God, and how He used it.

If we read the story of the creation, starting in **[Genesis 1]**, we see, that in verses **3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, and 24**, God, makes a statement, or rather, a command. And, after each of these, the bible tells us that, it was so.

Now, what we have here, is God, using His Faith, the same faith that He has given you, to create everything.

Here is how He did it.

First, God had nothing, as far as any thing physical, to work with. However, He did have a specific design, of how He wanted everything to be.

And, that is the first key to the use of faith. You have to have a specific goal, or design, for what you want the end result to be.

Everything that He created, He first saw it through the eye of His Faith. That, gave it **'substance.'** You know, before a building is built, it first, has to be designed. And that design, comes from the architect, who has a vision (idea), of what it is going to look like.

That is giving it ‘**substance.**’

Now, the difference between what we use to design something, and the way God does it, is huge.

We design things based on the limitations of what we have available to us, at this present time.

**Example.** Back in the early 1800’s, a person living in New York, wanting to send a message to a person in California, would expect that the message would get to the person, within a few weeks, or a month, depending on the available modes of delivery, at that time, such as pony express, stage coach, or some other means available at that time. And that all depended on a safe journey, by the carrier. You had elements like weather, Indians, bandits, and wild animals, that could hamper, or even kill the carriers, and therefore the message may never get delivered.

No one could even begin to believe that they could get that message delivered, instantly, over that same distance, like we do today.

What changed??

The means which we have available to us today, talking about technology.

Their faith, was limited to weeks and months, with the possibility of it not getting there at all, while today, it is now, instantly.

That is the physical reality that we face.

God, on the other hand, was at a total disadvantage, according to our way of thinking, because there was nothing.

But, God did have, more than enough to work with.

You see, God, is a Spirit, **[John 4:24] God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth**, and He rules over a kingdom, that is spiritual, as well as this physical realm. So, just because we, only being cognoscente of the physical, are limited to this realm, in what we consider reality, can’t see it, that does not mean it

doesn't exist. It just means, we don't have the ability to see it.

Well, as mentioned, God, operates in the spirit realm, where there is far more to work with. The bible tells us this, **[Heb 11:3] Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.** This is saying that we, as Christians have to understand, that the things we see today, were not made of other physical things, but, by the word of God.

So God, saw everything He created, in the spirit realm, first. That was the **'substance' of the things hoped for.** But, that is only part of what He did. The second part of His faith, was to provide the evidence of that Faith. And what was that evidence?? He spoke it. Speaking something, in the presence of others, demonstrates, the level of faith, a person is acting on. God, had all the angels, cherubims, seraphims present when He spoke, and they are witnesses to His power.

Many of us today, talking about Christians, consider that to be a stretch. We want it to be simple, and plain. But, whether you know it or not, we operate in that type of faith today, talking about giving evidence of something, without there being any physical proof to substantiate it.

How??

Let me ask you this, are you saved??

You say, yes!!

How do you know you are??

You say, because the bible says I am, according to my faith in Jesus Christ.

Well, aren't you giving evidence of something, that no one can see, in this physical realm?? You are steadily confessing something, that, if you think about it, is not tangible. That means, you are operating, in the basic principle of the God type of faith. And what is that principle?? **[2Cor 5 :7](For we walk by faith, not by sight:).**

While the carnal mind, only operates with what has **'substance'**, which limits it to this physical realm, which it calls reality, the spiritually minded person, realizes two things.

First, there is another realm of reality. And, that realm of reality, is the **‘REAL REALITY.’** Everything that we see today, was birthed, out of that reality, much the same way, a child is conceived in the mother’s womb, then comes out, in to the physical realm, as a person. Therefore, we can say, this physical realm we are operating in, is the child, of the spirit realm.

Anyway, God, who operates by faith, wants His children [Christians], to operate in the same faith, He operates in. And that means, it has unlimited potential. That potential, however, is limited, to, what God will allow. After all, the God type of faith, means that God, has set limits on what He will do, and therefore, those same limits, are put on us.

Having said this, we can see, there is a lot more **‘substance’**, for the things we may hope for, than we think.

No matter what it is, if it is anything positive, in the eyes of God, for us, then, it is available to us, through faith. All we have to do, is learn how to operate in it, correctly. We saw how God operates in it, but naturally, He is God.

Can man operate in that same type of faith??

Well, if God is telling us to walk by faith, then obviously, we can.



## **Walking in the God Type of Faith**

Having looked at God, operating in faith, one would wonder, if it is at all possible for man to walk in that type of faith.

As we have learned, we all have the potential to operate in faith, because all of mankind, has been given, **‘the measure of faith’**, by God. If we didn’t have that, we wouldn’t be able to operate in any type of faith.

However, there are those, in the bible, that exemplified what it means to walk in the faith, that God, operates in. We are going to look at several instances of individuals, in the old testament, who could be listed in the **‘Hall of Fame of Faith’**, along with those listed in the faith chapter [**Hebrews 11.**]

To walk in this type of faith, we must remember these things.

1. Our faith, must be directed towards God, and His Word (Jesus Christ). Not to anything, or anyone else. Not even those that are your spiritual leaders. [**Heb 11:6**] **But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**
2. **If God said it**, then, no matter what we see, or hear, or what circumstance we find ourselves in, **that settles it.**
3. Our faith, is always, present tense. Never in the past, and never in the future.
4. Faith in God, is the thread, if you will, that holds man, and God, together.

**If you look at like this, you will see what I mean.**

We all wear clothes. And these clothes, usually are made up of several pieces, that are held together by threads. And, if you think about it, if you remove one of these threads, your garment, will fall apart.

Well, that is the way we have to approach our walk by faith in God. Our faith in the

Word of God, is what really connects us to the power that He has made available to us.

**Or, we can use the example of electricity.**

Just like you have all sorts of appliances, and other things that operate on electricity, they won't work unless you plug them in to the power source, via the outlet. By the same token, you have to spiritually plug your faith, in to God, in order to receive the power available to you, through His Word.

## **Examples of Faith in Action**

We are now going to look at several different examples of the God type of faith in operation. And, these are examples of people that, because of the time, did not have, all of the promises, that we have today, because this was during the old testament dispensation.

None of these, are mentioned in Hebrews 11, but they very well could be.

### **What You See, is not the Whole Story**

One of my favorite bible stories, that show the God type of faith in operation, is found in the old testament book of **[2Ki. 6:15 - 17]**.

**2Ki 6:15 And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?**

**2Ki 6:16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.**

**2Ki 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.**

To give some idea of what happened prior to this particular passage of scripture, Elisha, being a prophet of God, was getting messages from Him, to warn the king of Israel, that another king, was plotting to invade Israel.

As a result, every time this king tried to execute his plans to invade, Israel was waiting for his army, and defeated them.

The king got angry, and started complaining that there must be a spy in his army, that was tipping off the king of Israel, and he wanted him found. But, one of his advisers, told him, that there was no spy in the army, but rather, there was a man advising the king of Israel, that had the ability to see everything that the king did, even in the privacy of his bedroom.

So, the king decided to go after this man. This man, was Elisha.

So, he sent his army to capture Elisha. Well, Elisha had a servant, who assisted him, in his everyday work. It was the servant, that got up in the morning, and went out on the wall of the city, just to sight see. That is where the story in the above passages, takes over.

So the servant, runs to tell Elisha what he saw, and asked him, what were they going to do, to get out of the situation.

Elisha, tells his servant, not to worry, that there were more with his servant and him, than there were, with the enemy.

But, here is the problem, the city where Elisha and his servant were, was little more than a suburb set apart from the main city where the king of Israel, and his army were. So, essentially, they were really without the benefit of the army of Israel. They were, apparently, on their own.

Now, the thing here, is that the servant, upon hearing what Elisha said, evidently looked like he thought Elisha had somehow lost his mind. Why??

Consider this. The servant sees possibly 100 thousand men, with horses and chariots. Then, he looks at Elisha, and sees only him and Elisha, meaning 2. And he thinks to himself, 'there are more with us, than there are with them?? My master must be drunk or something. He is seeing things.'

Well, Elisha then prays, what seems to be an odd prayer.

Verse 17, says that Elisha asks the Lord, to open his servant's eyes.

The reason I say it is an odd prayer, is because it was what he saw, that had him in a near nervous breakdown.

Anyway, the Lord, opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw the same army, but, surrounding them, was the army of the Heavenly host, with horses, and chariots of fire.

**Now, here is a classic example of the comparison of walking by faith, and walking**

**by sight.**

Elisha, upon hearing the news, stays as cool as the proverbial cucumber. His servant, is having Excedrin headache #123.

His servant is representative of the carnally [worldly] minded individuals, that rely on their own intellect, and resources. What they call, reality.

Elisha, on the other hand, represents, the spiritually minded individuals, who walk by faith, in God, and not by sight. What I call, **‘THE REAL REALITY!’**

Now, notice this. The army of chariots of fire, didn’t just gather around them, when the servant’s eyes were opened, they were already there, before Elisha was notified about the situation. How do I know that?? **[Psa 34:7] The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. [Isa 54:17] No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.**

Elisha knew, and had faith in God, and therefore, there was no need for him to worry, because he knew, God had his back.

Now think about this.

Here you are, living in a neighborhood, surrounded by drug dealers, thugs, gangsters, and just plain ungodliness, and you think you are the only one, in the midst of all this mess.

You are worrying yourself sick about your situation, because you don’t know what to do. The police can’t babysit you 24/7. You don’t have the money to move, so you are stuck right there.

Well, you should know, if you are saved, you outnumber all of them, because God, has your back.

One of the most pathetic things I hear, is preachers, telling their people, that, if the government, doesn’t do something, we are all in trouble, talking about things like, protecting civil rights, feeding the hungry, taking care of the poor, and elderly, and the

homeless, and protecting us from all of the things that come against us.

You see, the problem is, it is the church, Christians, that are supposed to do these things, by equipping the saints, to go out, and demonstrate the power of the righteous, with God backing them up, to overcome what the enemy throws against them. These preachers, have turned all of that over to the government. An entity, that, for the most part, is totally hostile to Christianity, in the first place.

No Christian, should ever feel like they are alone, in any situation, because, if you could really see in to the realm of the spirit, with your natural eyes, you would see things that would blow your mind. That is why we can't do it naturally, because we wouldn't be able to get anything done, we would be distracted by what we saw. So, we are to just be knowledgeable that they are there, and that God is in control.

Before closing this part, let me tell you a testimony that a young lady gave in her bible study one day.

She said, she was heading home, from church one evening, and that she always took a path through a park, to get to her house.

Well, on this one particular day, as she was heading home, a man was walking toward her, headed in the opposite direction. As they passed each other, she noticed his face, and that he looked kind of wild eyed. So, she quietly prayed, as she continued home.

The next day, some police knocked at her door, and asked her if she had seen any strange people in the park last night, and she mentioned this man. And they asked her if she could identify him, if she saw him again, and she said she could.

She then asked them why.

They told her that a young woman had been assaulted and raped in the park last night, about 9:30. And she remembered, that was about the same time she was in the park.

So, she went with the police, to see if she could identify a suspect that they had in their car.

When she looked in the car, she saw this same, wild eyed man.

She asked the police, if she could ask him something, and they didn't object.

So, she asked the man, why didn't he attack her last night??

The man said, 'Because there were two giants walking with you.'

Maybe that is why he was looking wild eyed. He could see, what were Angels, walking with her.

Many times, God will allow your enemies, unbeknownst to you, to see the protection you have, and they will steer clear of you. None of us knows, how many times someone has thought about doing something to us, but, God showed them our Heavenly protection, and they backed off, and did something to someone else.

**You are never alone. No matter what the circumstances.**

Being hauled in to court? Your protection is with you. Facing foreclosure?? God is there. Driving on the streets, and highways?? He is there with you.

So, it is not what you can physically see, but what God says, that should give you peace of mind,

### **Laying It All on the Line**

Our next story takes place, during the ministry of Jesus Christ. And once again, this person, is not listed in Hebrews 11, but could very well be.

The story is found in [MARK 5:25 - 34]. It is the familiar story of the woman, with the issue of blood.

Now, on the surface, what occurred, doesn't seem all that great, but, looks, can be deceiving.

**Mark 5:25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,  
Mark 5:26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,**

**Mark 5:27** When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

**Mark 5:28** For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

**Mark 5:29** And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

**Mark 5:30** And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

**Mark 5:31** And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

**Mark 5:32** And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

**Mark 5:33** But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth.

**Mark 5:34** And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

Here we see a woman, that has a sickness, that she has been dealing with for twelve years. She has done everything she knew to do, to get better. She went to doctors, quacks, listened to people recommending all sorts of tonics, herbs, and procedures, and none of them worked. Not only that, but she continued to get worse.

Have you been there??

Verse 27 tells us, that when she heard of Jesus, she sought Him out, and pushed through the crowd that surrounded Him, and touched the hem of His garment.

Verse 28 says, she did it, because she had determined that, that was what she needed to be whole.

Verse 29, shows that, after she did what she had determined to do, she got the results, she had sought.

These 3 verses, though saying little, actually say a lot.

Here is what is not evident, but are keys to walking in the God kind of faith.

First, the woman, had a need. It was not something she wanted, it was something she needed. She needed to be healed, because of the obvious discomfort, and from the fact



that it would eventually take her life.

She tried everything imaginable, and spent all of her money, in the process, but nothing worked.

There was no hope left.

Then, she hears about a man named Jesus. And right away, she knows, He is the answer. Now think about this. Someone, told her about Jesus. And what did they tell her?? Probably about all of the miraculous things He was doing. And that, aroused something in her. That something was faith.

The bible says, **[Rom 10:17] So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

I have said, and will continue to say, that when it comes down to which ‘religion’ people should be coming to, it should be Christianity. Why?? Because we have the answer to every thing that anyone could ever need. But, that is hard to do, if we can’t demonstrate it, with our own lifestyles, as Christians.

The testimonies too many Christians give, is one of defeat, suffering, waiting on the Lord to move, seeking government assistance, giving thanks for hitting the lottery, and other foolishness, that doesn’t distinguish Christ, above anything else.

How is it that we got saved?? Through the testimonies of other people. And we should be giving our testimonies to others, not only to encourage them, but to continuously encourage each other. **[Rev 12:11] And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.** The way to overcome a situation, is to be encouraged to defeat it. Not by having a pity party.

Let’s go on.

So, the woman, after hearing these testimonies, knows that getting to Jesus, is the answer to her problem. So, what does she do?? She acts on it.

Walking in the God kind of faith, requires action. As the apostle Paul says, **[Jas 2:18]**

**Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. [Jas 2:20] But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? [Jas 2:24] Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.**

Most Christians talk a good game, but when it comes down to backing up what they claim, they are absent. We will see more about this later.

So the woman, makes up in her mind, what she is going to do, and she proceeds to carry it out.

Well, when she gets to Jesus, she finds a crowd surrounding Him, and she has to make a decision. Do I wait, and come back later?? Or, do I break through to get to Him??

Many times, when we are in the process of walking in faith, we will find, roadblocks, and it is usually not the enemy that is the problem. Rather, it is family, friends, and yes, even other Christians.

Here you are, believing God for something, that He has promised you in His Word, and you give testimony of what you are operating on, and they will tell you things like, ‘Now, you know, it may not be God’s will.’ ‘What?? Are getting to be a fanatic, like those Word of Faith people, [name it, and claim it]??’ ‘God doesn’t do that stuff anymore.’

No support, whatsoever.

Now, I am not saying that they have bad intentions towards you, but, you present a threat to them. How?? By showing them their own weaknesses towards God. Especially if they have been saved, longer than you.

Have you ever seen a new convert, that is on fire for God?? Willing to do everything, the bible says. They are believing God for signs, and wonders. Then the elders in the church get hold of them, and the next thing you know, the fire is out. Quenched by those, that should be helping to build it.

And we wonder why God doesn’t move in our churches today, like He used to do in the past??

Anyway, this woman, made up in her mind, she wasn't going to let anything stop her from getting to Jesus, and she proceeded to force her way through, until she got to Him, and carried out, what she had said, by touching the hem of His garment.

And, what did she get for all of her trouble??

She got healed!!

But, that, as good as it is, is not the whole story.

You see, unless you know the whole story, you will not see how much faith this woman really had.

To start out, we see, she had an issue of blood.

This condition, according to old testament law, means that she is unclean.

**Lev 15:25 And if a woman have an issue of her blood many days out of the time of her separation, or if it run beyond the time of her separation; all the days of the issue of her uncleanness shall be as the days of her separation: she shall be unclean.**

**Lev 15:26 Every bed whereon she lieth all the days of her issue shall be unto her as the bed of her separation: and whatsoever she sitteth upon shall be unclean, as the uncleanness of her separation.**

**Lev 15:27 And whosoever toucheth those things shall be unclean, and shall wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and be unclean until the even.**

**Lev 15:28 But if she be cleansed of her issue, then she shall number to herself seven days, and after that she shall be clean.**

**Lev 15:29 And on the eighth day she shall take unto her two turtles, or two young pigeons, and bring them unto the priest, to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.**

**Lev 15:30 And the priest shall offer the one for a sin offering, and the other for a burnt offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for her before the LORD for the issue of her uncleanness.**

As a result of this, she should not come in to contact with anyone. She is supposed to walk on the other side of the street, when she sees someone approaching, and if that is not possible, she is supposed to announce to them, that she is unclean, before they get close

to her.

Failure to do this, or making contact with anyone, would mean that she could be taken before the priests, and they could order her to be stoned to death.

Now look at this verse again. **Mark 5:27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.**

What did she do??

Well, she sees this crowd, and rather than announce that she is unclean, she presses her way through, to get to Jesus. In other words, she puts her very life, on the line, for her faith in Christ.

Not only that, but, Jesus, being the Author of that law, and being called Rabbi, could, have sentenced her to death as well.

But, she risked it all, to get healed.

Most of us, at the first hint of persecution, will back off. We will say, it's not worth it. But, look at this woman. In her mind, she probably said, 'If I don't do this, I am going to die, so there is no difference. I might as well go the distance, because I have nothing to lose.'

Think about this.

Most of us, will really put all of our trust in God, when our backs are against the wall, and we have no other choice. As long as there is another option to try, we will do it, first.

We will spend all of our money. Suffer all sorts of things. And in the end, be nearly dead, before we look towards Jesus Christ.

This woman exhausted all options, before she knew about Jesus. Today, we know about Jesus, but we still want to try other things first. What a waste.

Jesus doesn't want us to go broke, before we come to Him. He doesn't want us to have our backs against the wall, before we come to Him. He is ready to do, what we need Him

to do, before we run in to problems.

**So, she risks her life, to get what she needed. Then something interesting happens.**

Jesus, didn't see her, probably because He had His back to her. But, when she touched His garment, He asked, 'Who touched Me?? His disciples, said, 'You have a crowd, surrounding you, trying to touch you, and you want to know, who touched you?'

What Jesus was really reacting to, was the fact that someone had touched Him, by faith. Notice, Jesus did not lay hands on this woman. He did not pray for this woman. For all intents and purposes, He was unaware of her presence, until she touched Him, and He felt power go out of Him.

**If you want Jesus to notice you, above everyone else, you have to approach Him through, or by faith.** The bible doesn't say if any of the crowd got healed, so I won't really comment on that. However, in church, every Sunday, people come in sick, and leave the same way. They are all in God's house, but Jesus hasn't healed them. Why?? Because they aren't acting in the God type of faith. They aren't laying it all on the line.

**To the extent you operate by faith, that is what you will get from God.**

Anyway, when Jesus turned around, He saw her, trembling in fear. Why?? Because she knew that she had violated the law. But, she told Him why she did what she did. And, hearing that, He told her, **[Mark 5:34] And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.**

Under old testament law, the only ones that could pronounce a person, clean, or unclean, were the priests. That is why, when Jesus healed people, He told them to go and show themselves to the priests. That way, they could be free to go back among the people.

But, if you notice, Jesus said her faith, had made her whole, and to go in peace. Notice, **it was her faith**, that did it, not His faith.

**Jesus has faith, but it is not His faith, that will heal you, but rather, your faith, in Him, that will do it. If only we could grasp on to this one thing, we would be, awesome witnesses for Christ, and draw the world, to Him.**

So you see, it all depends on you.

## **Faith Outside the Box**

This story carries with it, a circumstance that shows something that a lot of people, especially, Christians, aren't even aware of.

This will open your eyes, to just how seriously God looks at faith.

**Mat 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,**

**Mat 8:6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.**

**Mat 8:7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.**

**Mat 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.**

**Mat 8:9 For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.**

**Mat 8:10 When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.**

**Mat 8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.**

In this story, a centurion comes to Jesus, not for himself, but for his servant, who was very ill, and tormented.

Again here, we see a man coming to Jesus for something. And it should be evident, that the only way he knew about Jesus, is through testimonies, he heard from someone else.

So, anyway, Jesus, upon hearing his request, replies, He will go to the man's house, to heal his servant.

Notice, Jesus, is willing to grant his request. Jesus, in all of the accounts where He is asked to do something, as far as healing someone, or delivering someone from some

affliction, never turned them down.

You can rest assured, when you ask Jesus for something, He will do it. **[Luke 11:9] And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.**

Jesus, said it, so it must be true.

One thing I want to make clear, here, is that we are talking about ‘needs’ and not ‘wants.’ There is a big difference. The bible says, **‘Phi 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.’** I may need a car, but I shouldn’t put my faith in God, to give me a Rolls Royce. I may need money to pay my bills, but I shouldn’t be asking God for millions of dollars.

Do you see the point??

Anyway, the centurion tells Jesus, that He, Jesus, doesn’t have to come to his house, because, he is unworthy, of Jesus, coming in to his house.

Now, why is he saying this??

It is because, he represents, the conquerors, of Israel, at that time, Rome. And as such, Israel, is sort of like servants of Rome. Sure, they have their own internal government, but they are still in servitude to Rome, and they hate them. So the centurion represents their enemy.

Anyway, the centurion, tells Jesus, that all He has to do, is just speak the Word, and his servant will be healed. Then he goes in to the detail of the chain of command and how orders are followed, and obeyed.

He knows that Jesus, has authority over diseases, and afflictions, so he, in effect, tells Jesus, to just speak the Word, and his servant, will be healed.

Jesus, marvels at the statement, and says something very interesting, that I want to address. He says, He has not found this type of faith, in Israel.

Now what was Jesus saying.

Well, what He was referring to is, this centurion representing Rome, Israel's enemy, also represents, what today, is called, the unsaved, while Israel, represents the Church.

So, in a nutshell, what Jesus was saying, is that He hasn't seen the type of faith that this unsaved centurion was showing, in the Church. What an indictment, of most of our churches today.

The Church, those of us that are saved, are God's children. And, He has, through His Word, made Himself obligated to us. However, that does not necessarily mean, that He won't respond to anyone, operating in faith, that is outside of the family.

It is a rare occasion, that something like this situation with Jesus, and the centurion will happen, but not all that strange. Faith, is faith. If anyone, saved, or unsaved, that is operating in it, the way God wants them to, and that is, through Christ, then they will be rewarded.

Anyway, Jesus tells the centurion to go back to His house, and as he had believed, so it will be done. And the servant was healed in that same hour.

Notice, Jesus didn't go in to a long drawn out prayer. He simply spoke the words that agreed with what the centurion had said.

Now granted, this was Jesus Christ, but, the point is, if you are walking in faith, the way Christ says you should, then you don't have to go into a lot of fancy words, to, as many people think, get a prayer through. **God is not impressed by our well speaking, or praying. It is our faith, that impresses Him.**

In fact, let's look at 4 scriptures that put everything in perspective as to what our faith in God does for us.

**Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.**

**Rom 1:17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

**Gal 3:11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for,**



**The just shall live by faith.**

**Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**

Notice, the underlined parts of the above scriptures. they all say the same thing, and that is, if you want to really please God, then you can only do that, living by faith.

A just person, is another way of saying, that in God's sight, because you are living by faith in Him, you are justified, meaning you are not going to be judged, because there is nothing to judge you for. That is another way of saying you are righteous. **[Gal 3:6] Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**

If you want to be righteous, then you have to live by faith.

All three of the stories above, showed how people, had a need, or situation, facing them, and they acted in faith, and were rewarded. You too, can move from facing the world, and its problems, wondering what is going to happen, and how you will survive, to taking command of the situation, and having peace of mind.

Now, it goes without saying, living by faith, takes work. It is not something that you just jump in to, and have control over everything that comes your way. Just like when you were born, you didn't come out, walking, and talking. You had to go through a growing process. Well the faith walk, is the same way. There is a goal that you should want to reach, and there are things that you need to learn, through experience, that will get you to that goal.

One thing, just as sure as anything, you will meet all types of resistance, from family, friends, Christian brothers, and sisters, and especially Satan, while you are in the process. But that is to be expected. Jesus had to go through it, so you know, if He had to deal with it, you will have to, as well.

The next section will provide all of the basic information that you will need, to help you understand, and prepare for what is to come in your Christian walk, that, if adhered to, will aid you in becoming victorious in all things, no matter what.

## **Faith that Grows, and the Challenges to It**

Just as a newborn baby, has a growing process to go through, to become an adult, so too, does the Christian, in order to become mature in their walk with Christ.

If you will consider all of the disciples, and even the apostle Paul, who wrote two thirds of the new testament, there was a learning process, a growing process, that they all went through. None of them, started out, as faith giants.

I am looking at the new testament saints' growth, more than the old testament giants, as it relates to **'faith in Christ.'**

One thing you must understand, our walk with Christ, is one that is totally rooted and grounded in **'faith.'**

It is this faith, that will move you in to the high position, above the common sense mode that the world walks in, and in to the 'hall of fame', that would cause God, to look at you with pride, and empower you with the power that Christ said you should have, to demonstrate what makes faith in Him, the way for everyone else to go.

**Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded [relying on common sense] is death; but to be spiritually minded [putting your faith in Christ] is life and peace.**

Walking by faith, is something that goes totally against your natural nature, to walk by sight (what you see, hear, smell, feel, and taste). To go against that, which you were indoctrinated with, from birth, and you are now, maybe 18 or older, [no offense to over-looking younger people], is a hard thing to do, because of the ramifications that one will face.

You will be called a 'nut', an 'idiot', you will be told you don't need to go that far. And, in many instances, these observations, will be coming from those that are close to you, and if anyone has a profound effect on you, it will be them.

And not that they are intentionally being evil, but, because you have stepped out of the carnal way of thinking, they can't understand [see], your logic.

As is, you may not be able to see it right now, but like that old Cheerios commercial, where the two older boys are trying to get this young boy [Mikey], who never eats any type of cereal, to try Cheerios. Well, he takes a spoonful, likes it, and devours the whole bowl. He tried it, and he liked it.

Once you get a taste of walking in faith, you will like it, you will want to devour it, and never turn back. Gay-rhonnnn-teeeeee!!

But, as I mentioned, it is a step by step process. One day, you can truly say, **[1Cor 13:11] When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.**

Do you realize, that operating in what we call common sense, means, that we are only using about 4-6 percent of our total brain capacity?? As is, geniuses, only use about a maximum of 8-10 percent. Why did God give us all of that extra capacity?? Or better yet, why aren't we using it?? The reason is, it is spiritual capacity, that can only be accessed through, spiritual means.

Not to endorse it, but you wonder how psychics, soothsayers, and other people that seem to have abilities that 'boggle the mind' are able to do what they do?? It is because they tap in to that capacity, which is real, and use it. Well, faith, is the key to accessing that part of our capacity. The only thing, of course, is that God controls that area, and to get the full benefits of that capacity, your faith must be towards Him, through Jesus Christ, who is the Door, to Him.

Well, let's get in to the meat of this topic.

Our key texts are **ROM. 12:3 For 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. and MATT. 13: 18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.**

**Mat 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.**

**Mat 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;**

**Mat 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.**

**Mat 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.**

**Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**

First you will notice, I, once again mention the fact that God, has given all of us, the same measure of faith, which enables us to operate in faith, both in the carnal things, and in the spiritual things. If it were not for this capacity, we would all be totally lost. We couldn't trust anything, past the moment we encountered it.

Faith, is the baby, that needs to be nurtured so it can grow. The problem is, when dealing with carnal things, it can only grow to about 10 percent of its total capacity. The rest, is totally spiritual, through Jesus Christ.

Well, how do we know if this works, apart from the bible telling us, that it is supposed to work??

Through examples.

What examples??

Well, just like there are biblical examples, in the bible, God provides us with living examples that, provide us with the visible substance, we may need to get us over the hump of going from carnal, to spiritual.

When I was first introduced to biblical faith, it was through bible teaching, on the subject.

So, first of all, you have to have the interest, to seek what God has for you, before you can receive it. God is not going to force it on you. If you want to remain a baby, you can remain a baby. But, don't expect to operate in the maturity of a person that has sought, studied, and put in to action, the things that God has told them to do.

So much is being said about, what has been called the 'Word of Faith' movement in this

nation, and it is mostly negative. Why?? Because of mostly ignorant, carnally minded Christians, that don't have a clue of what they are, and what they are supposed to be doing. This is what I mean about them being ignorant.

**By them standing up, and supposedly acting on their belief that they are right, and others are wrong, they have, in effect, limited themselves, and those that listen to them, to a sub par, Christian experience.**

Their argument is, they look at what some parts of the bible says, then they look at actual experience, and it doesn't add up, in their minds. So, they take the route, as carnal minded people think, 'experience is the best teacher.' The problem is, they aren't ready to try anything beyond what they are comfortable with, and therefore, never experience anything outside of that area. And therefore, anything that makes them feel like they are missing out on something, because they are lacking, is a threat, and they want to squash it.

They don't realize, that, what they are actually doing, is the same thing Israel did, when they argued against Moses, in the wilderness. They were arguing, or fighting against, not Moses, but God.

Now, I realize, that there are some things that happen in the 'Word of Faith' community, that are not conducive to drawing people to Christ, let alone in to walking outside of carnality. **But, does the failure of a few, make God's Word, of non effect?? No!!** It is only another obstacle, that, can be used, by others, to keep you from daring to go beyond, the 'comfort zone.' But, it can be a building block for you, personally, to go beyond, where others failed.

Just as body builders, build their muscles, by using weights that resist their efforts to move them, to make them stronger, so too, your faith, will only grow, through resistance, or adversity.

What God wants, is for us to be so totally dependent on Him, and His Word, that without it, we would truly, fall.

**You know, many Christians sing the song, 'Without Him, I could do nothing. Without Him, I would fail. Without Him, I would be drifting, like a ship, without a sail.' Yet, when a problem presents itself, the first thing they do, is call on their**

**carnal thinking, to get them out of it.** They are putting their faith, in their limited, carnal way of doing things. And, as the scripture says, that leads to death[destruction]. And, as things get worse, they continue to remain in their carnal thinking, and only continue to go downhill and backwards.

Think about this.

**If the bible says this is what will happen to those that think carnally, and it happens, then shouldn't the opposite be true for those that choose to walk by faith?? After all, if experience proves a negative, then it should also prove a positive.**

So, don't make too much about what others in the Christian community say, because, most of them just don't know what they are saying.

Anyway, when I first got saved, back in 1978, those that I looked up to, as far as examples, of faith giants, were Kenneth Hagin, Fred Price, Kenneth Copeland, R.W. Shambach, Benny Hinn, and a few others.

I went to their crusades, and saw miracles, occur on a regular basis, as well as hearing the testimonies of individuals, that stood on faith, the way they were taught by these faith giants, and that built my faith, even more.

I wanted to get as much teaching in it, as I could get.

In my way of thinking, at that time, if I had just a fraction, of the faith they had, I would be happy.

Then, they told me something that essentially blew my mind.

They said, that they started out, with the exact same amount of faith, that I had. Not more, but the exact same amount. So, how did they get to where they are?? It has to do with, what they did, with what they had.

We are going to look at it, through the passage of scripture in **Mat. 13.**

**MATT. 13: 18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.**

The very first thing we should recognize, is that this is Jesus Christ speaking, and He is directing the people, to hear.

One of our problems in the Christian community, is that most of us, don't want to 'hear.' When I say 'hear', I am not talking about hearing, with your carnal ears, like Elisha's servant, saw things with his carnal eyes. What Jesus is commanding, is that they hear with their spiritual ears.

But, wait a minute. How can carnal people, listen with spiritual ears?? Well, they can't. However, Jesus says, this is a parable.

**So, what is a parable??**

**It is, a spiritual truth, that is presented in a carnal example, so that the listener can understand it.**

Jesus knew that He was dealing with carnally minded people, and in order to get this point over to them, He had to present things to them, in language they would understand. And since many of these people were familiar with farming, planting, seed, and harvesting, He used this example to make His point.

**Mat 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.**

What Jesus is saying, is when anyone hears the Word, and doesn't understand it, meaning they don't have any capacity to retain, and act on what they heard, then essentially, they are just like ground, that many farmers, know, is not the right place to plant their seed, because it will yield, absolutely nothing.

If one was to throw any seed, on the ground, in that condition, it wouldn't do anything but sit on top of it, where the birds, could come along and eat it.

In the spiritual realm, He is talking about people, that come to church, and hear spiritual truths, but because they are too carnally minded, in their way of thinking, they, totally reject it, and therefore it profits them, absolutely nothing.

There are many reasons why they totally reject it. It goes against what their pastor or denomination told them. They weren't raised that way. They have too much education [education] for that. The doctor said it's impossible. Science says it is foolishness. Whatever the case, the Word, is just made a waste, on them.

After they leave, they have completely forgotten what they heard.

**Mat 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;**

**Mat 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.**

Here, we see the case where some of the people, hearing the same Word, receive it, meaning they realize, something has possibilities about what they have heard, and they want to take advantage of it.

They get fired up.

Then, after a while, when persecution, or problems come to them, because of what they heard, and tried to act on, they get offended, and forget about it, and go back to being the way they were, before they heard it.

**Mat 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.**

This person, is one in the same crowd, that heard the same Word, and reacted the same way as the person above, and was ready to run with it. But, after a while, he considers, things like, 'what will my friends think??' 'What will my family think??' 'Will I look foolish to people??' And after pondering these things for awhile, they decide to drop it, and get back to normal.

In farming terminology, some seeds find their way in to places where they can take root, and possibly sprout a little bit. But, because the roots, are not firmly planted in the ground, when the weather gets too hot, or cold, or too adverse, because the ground, or place where the plant sprouted, is not an ideal spot for growth, and provides no protection from the elements, the plant, dies.



Also, people may accept it, for the wrong reasons, like getting rich quick. If they figure they can use the Word to get rich, and it doesn't happen right away, they throw it out.

**Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**

Then, we have this group.

This is the group that heard the same thing, and understood it, and got fired up as well. They then, went out, and despite the persecution, the adversity, the possibilities of getting rich, had their minds fixed on following the direction of the Holy Spirit, determined that they were going to sell out to Christ, for the long haul. They saw the prize at the finish line.

They were willing to follow all of the directions that needed to be followed, to gain what is promised.

However, if you will notice the end of the verse.

It says some gained 100, some 60, and others, 30 fold.

Why the difference?? Is God being fair?? Does He have a bias?? Some would use this to say, 'see, be happy with what you have. If God wanted you to have more, you would have it.' They think God has predestined the person to either have what they have, or something less.

But, that is not the case at all.

**The amount of return on what was planted, depends totally on the individual.**

Here's how.

Lets look at 3 farmers.

All three have farms with soil that is perfect for growing corn.

All three, go to the same store, and purchase the exact same amount of seed, of the same type.

They go home and plant all of the seed, the way it was designed to be planted.

Everything that these farmers did, was exactly the same. There was no difference.

So, what happened to cause the difference in their returns??

Well, one of the farmers, went out, and watered, weeded, and fertilized his crop, every day. One went out, and did the same things, but at a frequency of maybe 3 times a week. The last one, did the same things, but only once a week.

So, when harvest time came around, the one that took care of his crop everyday, had the 100 fold return. The one that did his 3 times a week, got the 60 fold return, while the last one, got the 30 fold return.

Now, I don't know about you, but if a person came up to me and said, I have 1 million dollars for you, free. All you have to do, is tell me, which do you want. All of it, sixty percent of it, or thirty percent of it. Which do you think I would say?? Which would you say??

All of it!!

Well, if you think about it, God is telling us, that He has 100% of His power and blessings, ready for us to use to live by, which percentage of that power do you want?? I want it all.

Well, if I, or you want it all, then we have to set about to **do all, that God says needs to be done**, to get it.

And that is where we fall short. We tend to have a welfare mentality where we don't want to work for something. We want it given to us. I hope that if you have kids, and they are old enough, that you aren't steadily giving them things, without them learning to work for what they get.

Well, what does it mean to **do all??**

It means, we have to study the Word. **[2Tim 2:15] Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.** Meditate on it. Pray. Ask questions. Have an open mind, to soak up the Word. And, most importantly, begin to put action behind what you are standing on. **Jas 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?** My faith, and your faith, will not grow, if we don't use it. **Jas 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.**

Claiming we have faith, is one thing. Demonstrating that faith, is totally another.

Winning souls to the Lord, which is what God wants us to do, is a lot easier, when you can demonstrate the power that you have, above any other faith. **1Cor 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:**

Have you ever heard the saying, 'use it, or lose it??' Have you ever seen what happens to a person, that either is immobilized, in a cast, or bed ridden?? After a long time in that condition, the part of their body, in the cast, or, they themselves, are weak, and out of shape. They need to exercise, that part, or themselves, to get back in to shape.

During that period of inactivity, it or they, shriveled up, and became, useless, so, it had to be reconditioned, by working it.

Well, your faith is the same way. You have to work it, or put it to work.

When the seed of faith (the Word), is planted, what do you do with it?? If you don't do something with it, it will fade away. You need to begin putting it in to action, as soon as possible.

How do you act on it??

Well, the first thing you do, is start confessing it.

The first thing most of us did, when we got saved, was tell someone. That act of confessing it, is considered the first step of confirming your faith. Then, we get baptized. You are putting in to action, the spiritual conversion. You are letting everyone know that

you are putting your faith in God, through Jesus Christ.

This action, then opens us up to attacks that the enemy will bring, to get us to reject, or denounce it.

These attacks, will produce the resistance, that will either tear us down, or build us up. As we resist these attacks, by acting in accordance to the way Jesus did, we are now, providing works, that are showing these attackers, and the enemy, our faith.

The more we resist these attacks, the stronger we get, spiritually.

Soon, when they come, they don't even phase us. We brush them aside, and even rejoice in the fact that we are targeted by the enemy. For Jesus told us that this would be so. And He said, **Mat 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**Mat 5:11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.**

**Mat 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.**

You act, on these promises, because of your faith, in Him, and His Word. As God sees your faith at work, He will begin to give you more power, to resist, even more, stronger attacks.

It has been said, rather jokingly, among Christians, that **'If you say you are saved, and the devil is not attacking you, then you better check your salvation, and see what you are doing wrong.'** However, this is a point of Truth.

Using Jesus, as an example, we can see that before He was confirmed by God following His baptism, the devil never bothered Him. He went in to the temple, and listened to the Rabbi's, and elders teach, and even taught, Himself. No problem at all.

However, after His conversion, the first thing that happened, was, He went in to the wilderness, and was attacked by the devil. This attack came, to try to get Him to abandon His position, for the exact same things, he, Satan, used, against Eve, in the garden of Eden, to get her to disobey God, and then get Adam, to do the same thing.

Jesus goes in to the temple again, and a man, possessed with the devil, cries out against Him.

The points I want to make here, are, no matter what you are going through, Jesus, has already been through them, and He is ready to lead you through them as well. There is absolutely nothing new, that the devil can try, that Jesus hasn't already conquered. The other point is this. The devil, can be in a person, in the midst of the church. And you won't know it, until you decide to take a stand on God's Word. Then they will reveal themselves to you.

That's right, the devil, can be sitting right there in the pew, next to you, he could be on the deacon board, the usher board, in the choir, or even in the pulpit, and you won't know it, until such time as you take a stand on God's word.

This is where the rubber, meets the road. This is where your faith can really be tested. For the last place you would think the devil would be, is in the place where you should be able to find the greatest support, and that is in the Church. And especially, the pastor.

Look at how the religious leaders, that had allowed Jesus, to sit among them, and read scriptures, turned on Him, as soon as He let them know, what was what.

Faith, true faith in Christ, requires you to take a stand, many times, against everything that makes sense. And it is this faith, that will put you smack dab in the cross hairs of the enemy.

**Heb 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

The pure, unadulterated Word of God, will provoke a response from those that hear it. And, if the devil is there, you will know it. He will act up. He can't help it. It is his nature. He can't stand the Truth. And therefore, anyone under his influence, will let it be known where they stand, and who is their master.

You may know what I mean, because you used to be there. I know, I was.

Now, there is a difference between, rebelling against the Word, and having questions.

Many times, His disciples, heard Him say something, and didn't understand, and asked questions. Nothing wrong with questions, unless they become an attack on the messenger. Then that is the devil.

And remember, we are talking about the unadulterated, uncompromised Word of God.

Not the sugarcoated, feel good, everybody is ok word of god [the small 'g' denotes it is not God's Word.].

Now, we will look at how to begin your walk in the God Type of Faith [Faith in God].

## **Walking by Faith, Not by Sight**

What we are going to do now, is go through a step by step process to get you started on the right step, in your walk with Christ.

If you will notice, I keep mentioning walking with Christ [the Word of God], and Christ being the One that you have to identify yourself with, to be a witness for God.

From the offset, **‘your whole walk with God, has to be with Jesus Christ, and Him only.’**

It is not Mohammad, not Buddha, not Krishna, definitely not the government, or ourselves. It is Jesus Christ, and Him only, that God has given us, as His Representative, through whom we must go, to attain what He has for us.

It is not an either/or any combination of, that will work, but, **Jesus only.**

This stance, will put you smack dab in to conflict with most everybody, because they will see you as belittling them, and their religious beliefs. They don’t mind it, if you, like most Christians, keep it to yourself. Just don’t speak out, because you are then, offending them.

But, that’s too bad.

If you look at Jesus, He proclaimed His message, irregardless of what others thought about it. However you will notice, He did not act, or speak in an offensive manner, towards them.

That is what we have to learn to do. Stand on the Truth, without being offensive. This is all part of our faith walk.

The bible tells us, **2Cor 5:7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:).**

What this means, is that we have to get ourselves in the position where, things that we see, hear, or read about, have absolutely no effect on our faith in God. Despite what the overwhelming amount of evidence may show, if God says different, then that is what we

will stick with.

Look at it like this.

Man, builds his faith on what his mind is able to comprehend. As mentioned earlier, if you could go back to the 1800's, and tell the people back then, that we have gone to the moon, and are building a space station, in space, and that we can go from California, to New York, in just a few hours, they would think you were nuts. If you went back further in time, to the era, where they burned witches at the stake, you would be at peril.

Why??

Because their minds, can't fathom, what they are being told, because even though it is the truth, their minds, are not conditioned to accept what they are being told. It takes time, and experience to be brought to a place, where they can accept new things, as being truth.

Even then, they might see it as, 'the work of the devil.' So, then you would be faced with trying to convince them, that it is not of the devil, but a gift from God.

Well today, man, is still in that same condition, despite the advances we see today. We still rely on our own intelligence, and experience to guide us through life. Anything that comes along to challenge that belief, is looked at as being the ramblings of a 'nut case.'

The first thing you need to do, after you get saved, is get water baptized. Why?? Because Jesus did it.

You want to get in the habit of doing, and saying what Jesus said, and did.

After He got baptized, He went in to the wilderness, to be tempted by the Devil.

The wilderness experience, is a time when you get alone with Christ, through prayer, and studying His Word. It is through this process, that you will begin to see, just what God has to say about your relationship with Him. He will begin to shape and mold you, in to the man/woman, He wants you to be.

As you study His Word, you will find out, that He, has opened up your access to all of the blessings that God has set aside for His children.



That's right, His children.

Despite what is commonly bandied around, that 'we are all God's children', that simply is not the case. **No one is a child of God, unless they are saved.**

**John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** If Christ is God's only child, then how can anyone think they are His child, without some action being required to admit them in to His family??

That action is adoption.

**Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**

**Rom 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.**

**Rom 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:**

So, now that you are saved, you are God's child. And as such, you should know, that just as your parents, did all they could do to protect you, and to support you, so too, God, is ready to do that, and more, for you. All you have to do, is put your trust in Him.

And as such, you need to know, just what God has in store for you.

Most Christians today, know very little about what they have inherited, once they got saved. They just live their lives, going from pillar to post, sometimes up, and sometimes down. Rolling with the punches, yet never having victory over their situation, because they don't know how to access the power that God has given them, because they don't know there is any thing for them.

**Remember, faith requires substance, and hope. If you don't have any substance, then, there is no hope, and faith, is non-existent. And without it [faith], it is impossible to please God.** That is because, God gives us the substance needed for our faith to be built on, and to not utilize it, is saying we don't trust His Word.

So, now, to walk by faith, you have to undergo a complete renewing of you way of thinking. You have to renew your mind **[Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this**

**world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

You need to realize, that your growth, is totally up to you. Not everyone will grow at the same rate of speed. Remember the 3 farmers, [on page 35]?? This is why it is a wilderness experience, because you are essentially on your own, with God.

Sure you may have others around you to help you, which you should, but, your mind, is your own, and only God, can change it, and He can only do that, as you yield it to Him.

Friends can tell you what you should do, but it is up to you, to do it.

Of course, the devil, will also be trying to keep you from doing it. It is a battle, but, we all have to go through it, at the beginning, and occasionally, the rest of our lives.

I am telling you this, so you will not get discouraged, when trouble comes, and go back to being carnal in your thinking.

You have these promises from God.

**Isa 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.**

**Isa 44:1 Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen:**

**Isa 44:2 Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.**

**Isa 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:**

Now, think about this.

Faith, as I mentioned at the beginning, requires substance. And one of the characteristics of substance, is something that you can see. Well, if you see these scriptures, you now have the substance you need to build your faith on.

Do you remember the story of Elisha, and his servant?? Elisha, built his faith on promises like these, to keep himself at peace, when facing overwhelming odds. He was able to show the evidence of his faith, by keeping his peace of mind, and confessing it.

Confessing what you have faith in, is the way to give others evidence of that faith.

Now that you are saved, the only evidence you can continually give people, about your faith, is by confessing it. So confession, plays a basic part in completing the total definition of faith, as stated in **[Heb. 11:1]**.

This, is the first chance you have to exercise your faith. And exercising, is what you need to do, to get stronger, and remain healthy, both in the physical, and spiritual realm. What you have to do, is learn to remain steadfast in your faith, despite what the circumstances show.

If you will remember, when you first got saved, nothing appeared to change. You could look in the mirror, and you still looked the same way you did, before you got saved. You may not have felt any different, and relatives, and friends didn't see anything different, so there was no physical evidence of your getting saved, so what is there to go on?? The Word of God.

Why is it like this from the beginning??

Because, in many instances, you may ask God for something, and He may have promised to give it to you, yet you may not see it, for some time.

God gives us many examples of this type of situation, in the life, of the man, who is known as the father of faith, Abraham.

God, promised Abraham, an heir, that would be the first in the line of making Abraham, the father of many nations. Yet Abraham, had to wait about 25 years, before the promise was fulfilled.

Yet, in all that time, his faith in God, never wavered.

That is what you must learn to do. You can't let circumstances shake your faith in God. And that is just what the devil will try to do. Present circumstances, that are designed to

make you doubt God, and His promises. And he is a master at it.

He is so good at it, that he can get people to turn their backs on God, because things are getting too hard.

**In all situations, you must know what God has to say about your circumstances, and make up in your mind, that no matter what, you are going to trust in His Word, because He doesn't lie.**

**If He said it, then that settles it.**

So, here is what we have, so far.

1. God's word, provides the substance for our faith to begin to grow.
2. Confessing our faith in that word, completes the action of faith, and opens the door for us to receive the manifestation of the end result we are looking for.
3. We know that the enemy will use anyone, and everyone to get us to change our confession, and we have to be prepared to stand, no matter what.

Think about this.

Before you got saved, you were never persecuted by the devil. It was only after you got saved, that the persecution began.

Relatives and friends, began to question your change to Christ. Especially, if they are still comfortable in lifestyles that Christ says you need to turn away from.

They will still try to get you to, not be so rigid in your faith, you know, to compromise. 'It doesn't take all that' they will say, 'Nobody's perfect.' 'You can still have your fun, God knows your heart', or 'You think God is going to forget all the mess you were a part of??'

All of this, to try to get you to forget your confession of salvation, through Jesus Christ.

Now, to go beyond that, and start believing in things that most of the world, would consider impossible, is really going overboard, and they will really start persecuting you.

They will call you a 'nut.' They will call doctors, to have them examine you, or tell you that you are being illogical.

Going back to Abraham for a minute.

His original name was Abram, but after Gd promised him that he would be the **'father of many nations'**, God changed his name to Abraham, which meant, **'father of many nations'**. [Ge 17:5 **Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.**]

So, every time Abraham used his name, he was declaring that he was the **'father of many nations'**, decades before he had his first son, by Sara.

In other words he was professing God's Word, all that time, with no evidence. other than what God said.

If he was living today, most people, including Christians would think he had a screw loose or something. They would say, **'As old as you and your wife are, that is impossible. You are being illogical'**

**The dumbest thing you can do, in the eyes of unbelievers, is go around confessing something, when there is absolutely no evidence to support what you are saying.**

**But that is, the God type of faith.**

And, remember this. God specializes in the illogical, and the impossible. He wouldn't be God, if He didn't.

## **Foundations for Your Faith**

Now, in order to start building your faith, you have to know, just what God has to say, about what you are seeking.

The bible addresses every situation you may find yourself in, and God has set certain criteria, for you to follow.

It is up to you, to search, and find out what you need to be doing, in order to get the best results.

Remember this, God wants to show His power through His Children, but He will not show it, through anyone that is not willing to **commit their all, to Him.**

Most Christians, though saved, tend to be satisfied with just that, and not wanting to get all 'religious', if you will, and as a result, they miss out on what God really wants to do for them, because they are not, where He wants them to be. And, as a result, anyone that is making them look bad, is going to receive persecution, from them.

**What they don't realize is, their persecution of those that dare to step out on faith, only causes them, to suffer more, for it. Why?? Because they are not only persecuting the person, but, are actually persecuting, or fighting against God.**

Looking at Christ's ministry, you will see that He was persecuted not only for what He said, but also for what He was doing. Why?? Because the people that were in need of healing, were drawn much more to Him, and away from the religious leaders, because He was demonstrating the power of God. And, as a result, they, the religious leaders, missed out on everything that God had for them. It is not that God didn't want to bless them, but because of their unbelief, they fell out of the area of faith, needed for blessing.

You know, the tragedy of that type of thing, is that it not only affects the ones that are doing the persecuting, but, the fallout of this type of action, is that it negatively affects those around them, especially their families.

Look at these passages of scripture.

**Mat 13:54** And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

**Mat 13:55** Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

**Mat 13:56** And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

**Mat 13:57** And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

**Mat 13:58** And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

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**Mark 6:2** And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

**Mark 6:3** Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

**Mark 6:4** But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

**Mark 6:5** And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

**Mark 6:6** And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

Both of the above scriptures, taken from two different books, describe something very interesting about the same event. Passages like these, are what is known as the '**harmony of the gospels**', because they blend in with each other.

The scriptures reflect an incident, when Jesus, came in to His own hometown, and started teaching. Remember now, this is the same Jesus, who, when as a child, sat in the temple, and listened to the religious teachers, teach the old testament scriptures.

His teaching, now, however, was not all that big an issue, until He started talking about things like divine healing, deliverance, and the overall power, He had over all the power

of the enemy.

Well, these religious leaders, began to remind the public, that this Man, was really, one of the common people. He was just an ordinary person, with no divine beginning. And as such, could not have any more power than anyone else.

They cited His lineage, and talked about His mother, father, brothers and sisters. All of this, made the people look at Him, in a different light, than those that didn't know anything about Him.

As a result, when He told them about who He really was, and what He was able to do, they didn't believe Him. And, as a result, He was not able to any mighty works. He could only do a few minor things.

Why??

Not because He didn't have the power, but **because of their unbelief.**

Remember what Jesus told the woman with the issue of blood??

**[Mark 5:34] And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.**

Or, what about the centurion??

**Mat 8:13 And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.**

In both instances, the faith that was necessary for miracles to happen, had to come, not from Jesus, but, from the one desiring them.

You will hear a lot of people, especially church folk, talking about how, putting the blame for their not getting healed, or delivered, on them, isn't right. Yet, looking at what Jesus had to say about the situation, and what happened when He faced the people's unbelief, you can see where the fault lies. And it is not with Him.

Again, nowhere in the bible, will you find any person coming to Jesus, asking for healing



or deliverance, getting turned down by Him. It is only unbelief, that hinders Him from doing it.

This is why most churches today, don't say anything about divine healing, and other miracles, because they don't believe in them. They are, carnally minded. The only way they will believe, is if they see it first. But, just like Jesus told a doubting Thomas, who did not believe He had risen from the dead, **John 20:29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

The responsibility for receiving healing, deliverance, and other miracles is always on the individual. People that say God does not do miracles anymore, are saying so, because they don't have any faith, or if they do, it is not strong enough to get them what they need.

This is why I say, you have to take it on yourself, to study the bible, ask questions, pray and fast, as well as act on what you have learned, in order to receive what God has for you. No one else, not even your pastor, brothers, sisters in Christ, or even myself, can have the final say as to what God can, and cannot do.

If I had listened to what I was being told, when I first got saved, I probably would not have been in position to experience some of the personal miracles that I did.

I have been divinely healed. I have prayed for individuals with recurring migraine headaches, and after prayer, they have never had the problem again. I have been faced with a week of raining while I was trying to fix my car outside, then commanding the rain to stop, and God, stopped the rain during the daylight hours, when I was able to work, and after I finished for the day, the rain would start up again. The reason for this, is that during that prayer, I was aware that there had been a long drought, and people had been praying for rain. So, they needed rain, and I needed no rain. So, recognizing that fact, I prayed that God would stop the rain, but, I was willing to sacrifice my own needs, for those that needed the rain. God answered by accommodating all of us.

Then, there is the ultimate in my experience with God, and miracles, when, in 1986, I prayed for my dead son, and God raised him from the dead, back to life.

That prayer, was in line with the teaching of Christ, which says, **Mat 10:7-8 And as ye**

**go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.**

One thing you need to learn about the things Jesus says, is, they are not to be looked at, as suggestions, but rather, as commands. And therefore, if He commands something, then, He is fully able to supply you with what you need to get it done.

If you are hired by a company to do a specific job, the company has to provide you with what you need to get the job done. Right?? Well, Jesus is the same way. He never commands us to do something that we, with His help, can't do.

Notice, the whole thing is, **with His help.**

**John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

Throughout the bible, men were able to accomplish great things, but only with God's help. You must keep that in mind. It is not you, but, Him, working through you, that enables you to achieve whatever you do.

And, He can't do that, unless you are operating, in faith.

And where do you get this faith??

From Him, through His Word.

Now, I can't address every situation you might face, because it would take more space, and time, than I have available to list them all.

Needless to say, there are different scriptures, for different situations. And as such, each has its own set of criteria that needs to be followed, to get the best results, in the shortest time.

Several scriptures that will help you along the way are,

**Mark 11:23-24 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his**

**heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**

This passage of scripture, forms the basis, of what acting by faith is. This is the scripture that is usually described by the unbelievers as **[name it, and claim it]**.

Even though abuses of this scripture are common place in Christian circles, that does not negate the fact that it is essentially, the first basic instruction given us by Christ, for operating in faith.

When it comes to what you desire, you must know two things.

- 1. You should be desiring those things, that will glorify God.**
- 2. Those things that glorify God, are things that you need.**

Remember, the bible says, ‘**Phi 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**’

Anything outside of that, and you are not seeking them, or it, to glorify Him, but to lift yourself up, before men.

Too many, in church, feel this gives them license, to get rich, and drive fancy cars, and have all types of wealth.

If, God knows that you would use that type of wealth, to help others, then, that is a different story. He would allow you to achieve it. But, it takes a special anointing to handle that type of responsibility, and there are only a few, that can handle it.

There are many churches, and Christians, that, have achieved a lot of wealth, that are living high on the hog, so to speak, and yet, fail to help the needy that may be members, of their congregation, or family, and neighbors. God is not pleased with this, and may very well take it away from them. Of course, he may allow them to keep it, to their own self detriment. The reason being, they are making, not themselves, but Him look bad. And, if you are making Him look bad, then you will pay a price, that you may not be aware of.

The bible says, **Heb 10:31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

The fear of God, and His judgment, is something that is severely lacking in mankind today, especially in this nation, and the black community. Our whole outlook, is one of , **'If God isn't doing for me, what I want Him to do, then I don't need Him.'** And what is that want?? Give me lots of money, make me feel good about myself, and destroy those that are against me.

Their faith, is based strictly on what is good for themselves. They don't care about what God thinks about it. As a result, He will not bow to their demands, which is what they think He should do, but, will set about to destroy them.

But, those that He knows will make Him proud, and will do things that will glorify Him, in the eyes of others, will receive His blessings, because their faith is rooted in what He wants, versus what they want.

This is why, when you take a stand on God's word, as it pertains to your faith, you will receive a lot of flack. Those bringing it, are probably those that hold the wrong view of God, and therefore have missed out on the blessings that He has promised to those that put their faith in Him.

The amount of positive results you achieve in your faith walk, depends totally on you, and not God. Remember these words from Christ, **'thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.'**

When walking by faith, you should follow the directions of basic scripture above, which states, **'the things you desire' when you pray [ask God for], believe you have received them, and you shall have them.'**

Asking God for something, is not that big of a problem, because everybody at one time or another, will ask God for things, even the atheist, in the privacy of their own surroundings.

The problem comes with the second part of that scripture, where it tells you to do something that goes against logic, and that is, **believing you have already received it, without any outside, visible confirmation of that fact.**

How do you go about doing that?? You do it first, by confessing it.

When you first got saved, and even now, you accept salvation, without any visible change in your appearance, or how you are feeling. The more you confess it, the stronger you become in your belief that you are saved, according to God's Word. And the stronger you become in that belief, the more unshakable you are to those that would seek to discourage you.

The same thing applies to anything else you are trusting God for.

Let me give you an example of an experience I had, when I was a little kid, concerning something I asked my dad for.

At the time, a majority of all my friends had bicycles. And many times, I would have to ask them to let me ride.

One day, I went out to play with them, and all of them had gone to a park,, several blocks away, and I was left alone.

I went back in the house crying my eyes out. After I told my mother what was wrong, she told me to call my dad, and ask him to get me a bike.

Well, I called him, and he said he would get me one, on the weekend.

The minute he said that, my whole demeanor changed. I got happy. I told mom that he said he would get me a bike. But, the biggest change came, when I saw my friends later. I told them, 'I have a bike too!!' The thing is, that was a few days before I actually got the bike. But my statement, even back then, as confessing something based on nothing more than my dad's word.

Now, if I can do this, based on the word of a man, who, could possibly fail to keep his word to me, how much more should I put at least that much faith, in God's Word, who never fails??

Do you see my point??

Walking by faith, is a state of mind. Which in turn leads to a lifestyle change.

Part of that lifestyle change, also requires that you put some action behind that belief. Confessing it is a start, but depending on what it is you are seeking God for, you may be required to do more.

**Example.**

If you ask God for a job, so that you can feed your family, merely confessing that you have a job isn't going to get it. You have to go out and seek it. God is not going to necessarily drop it in your lap. You have to go out and seek it, with a positive attitude.

Many employers, look at perspective employees, to determine what type of inner confidence they have. Your faith in God's Word, will give you all the confidence you need.

If the employer tells you they will get back with you about your application. You don't wait for them to call you back, you call them, or even stop in from time to time, maybe once a week, to see how it is going.

What you are doing, is claiming that job as your own. And your employer will be more encouraged to give it to you. For God will have intervened on your behalf with that employer.

Therefore, you asked God for a job, then put action behind that request, and later, you received it.

That's the same way the woman with the issue of blood, and the centurion, with the sick servant did.

Before closing, let me give you two more scriptures.

**Rom 4:17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.**

Notice the last part of the above scripture, that is underlined.

One thing God does, that we need to adapt ourselves in to doing, is learning to call things,

as we want, or expect them to be, and not as they are.

Faith, is strengthened, when we learn to speak things, that demonstrate the faith we have in the Word of God.

God called Abraham, the father of many nations, long before he had his first child. He said, '**I have made you the father of many nations.**' He was using it as a past tense statement, meaning that He had already done it.

Well, when you step out on faith, regarding a negative situation, after you pray about it, begin to address it as having been remedied positively, rather than still confessing it as being unchanged.

### **For example.**

If you have a headache, rather than running to the medicine cabinet for the aspirin, pray about it, commanding it to go, in Jesus' name. Then, begin to confess that you are healed, even though the pain may still be there. You will be surprised how fast the pain will leave.

This is one simple step to operating in faith, but it shows the principles of faith in action.

What you are actually doing, is calling things as they are, in the spiritual realm, versus as they appear in the physical realm.

Remember, everything that is in this physical realm, started out in the spiritual realm. God, spoke them in to existence. By the same token, your healing is in the spiritual realm, and needs to be spoken in to the physical realm as well.

When you speak the word of God to your situation, and then confess it, you are actually opening up the door to the spiritual realm, reaching in, and drawing the solution from it, in to the physical realm.

The word of God, all of it, is the key, that opens up that door. Therefore, if you partially use it, you will get partial results at best, or none at all.

**Rom 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God**

**without effect?**

**Rom 3:4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.**

The mere fact that the majority of those that claim that God doesn't do that stuff anymore, are those that claim to be 'religious experts', shows the problem that we face in the church today.

People are more likely to listen to those with degrees, before, or after their names, than someone that no one has ever heard of.

That's the same thing that happened with Jesus, and the religious leaders of His time.

**Mat 13:54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?**

**Mat 13:55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?**

**Mat 13:56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?**

**Mat 13:57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.**

**Mat 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.**

If you want to get the 100 percent, of God's best, then you need to realize, that just because these people claim 'it doesn't work', or it is a deception, doesn't mean God's word is not true, but rather, the 'door' has been shut to them, because of their unbelief. The 'door' is shut, and they are not knocking. **[Luke 11:9] And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.**

Your future, rests totally in your hands, and what you do, with the word of God.



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