

Faith Church International
Presents: Faith School, Disc 5
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Introduction

Faith is not just an incident. Faith is a life style. Faith is not something we do when we have a problem. Faith is not what we use to fix situations when we're in trouble. Faith is the way we live. It's a life style. *"The just shall live by faith..."* That's really the faith that works, the faith that we learn to live by every day, on purpose. *Hebrews 11:13* says it's the faith we die by. People died in faith, the Bible said, *"...not having yet received the promise..."* because it wasn't to be fulfilled in their life time. Some of those folks in the Old Testament knew Jesus was coming but they knew it wouldn't be fulfilled in their lifetime. They died in faith believing anyway. In other words, they died living like he was already there! Even though they knew he wasn't going to come in their lifetime, they lived as if he had already come. That's called living by Faith!

Romans 12:3 says that we have the measure of Faith. God has dealt to every one of us the measure of Faith and that Faith is something that can be developed in our lives, and in fact, we have the responsibility to develop our Faith. Exercise it. Feed it until it grows stronger and stronger and stronger. How do you know when your Faith is getting stronger? It's easier to believe for something. If you lift weights, when you start out, lifting fifty (50) pounds is hard but after a while lifting fifty (50) pounds is easy, if you keep working it. Faith is that way. If your Faith increases and grows, a year from now it'll be easier for you to believe for a healing of a serious illness in your life, if you had need of that, when right now it's hard to believe for a minor illness, but because you keep using your Faith and growing, the day will come when believing for a healing of a serious illness is easy.

It might be hard for you right now to believe for fifty (50) bucks. I've had a struggle believing for fifty (50) bucks before in my life. When you don't know where fifty (50) bucks can come from then it's hard to believe. It's easy to believe when you have it figured out. But when it's absolutely impossible, you don't know where it could come from, that's when it takes some real Faith. After a while, you've learned to believe and exercise your Faith in the area of finances, and it's not hard to believe for fifty (50) bucks anymore. It might be hard to believe for five thousand (5000) but it's not hard to believe for fifty (50). But one day, praise God, if you keep growing your faith, it's not hard to believe for five thousand (5000)!

The Holy Spirit is all about developing our Faith. He is the Spirit of Faith. The Bible says, *"...we have not received a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and of sound mind..."* The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of Faith. The devil is the Spirit of Fear. Did you know that? The devil is always expecting something bad to happen. That's fear. He IS the spirit of fear. He has no Faith whatsoever. God, on the other hand, has NO FEAR. God is ALL FAITH. He's always expecting something GOOD to happen. When you're full of God's Spirit, you'll be full of Faith because God's Spirit is the Spirit of Faith.

1. There is a Difference between Faith and Trust

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- Faith is not a *passive* thing. Faith is a *possessive* thing. Faith takes.
- You have to *Trust* when you have no promise to go on, you have nothing to base your Faith on except that you know God is a good God and the nature of God is that he is good. You just have to trust Him to work things out because you don't understand. You don't know what the deal is.
- Faith is based on something that you know. Faith is based on the promises of God.

2. Psalms 112, a "Faith Psalm" (All) **Verse 1**, "Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His Commandments. **Verse 2**, His seed shall be mighty upon Earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. **Verse 3**, Wealth and riches shall be in His house: and His Righteousness endures forever. **Verse 4**, Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; He is gracious, and full of compassion and righteous. **Verse 5**, A good man shows favour, and lends: he will guide his affairs with discretion. **Verse 6**, Surely he shall not be moved for ever; the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. **Verse 7**, He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD. **Verse 8**, His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies. **Verse 9**, He has dispersed, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever; his horn shall be exalted with honour. **Verse 10**, The wicked shall see it, and be grieved, he shall gnash with his teeth, and melt away: the desire of the wicked shall perish."

- This is a Psalm for today.
- This is a Psalm for *right now*.
- This is a Psalm every one of us should memorize for this season that we are in and for what is going on in our world right now.

3. Little Faith: Faith that Didn't Last Long Enough

I. Matthew 14:22-33: Verse 22, And straightway Jesus constrained His Disciples to get into a ship, and to go before Him unto the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Verse 23, And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, He was there alone. **Verse 24**, But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. **Verse 25**, And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. **Verse 26**, And when the Disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. **Verse 27**, But straightway Jesus spoke unto them, saying Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."

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Verse 28, "And Peter answered Him and said, Lord, if it be You, bid Me come unto You on the water. **Verse 29**, "And He (Jesus) said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. **Verse 30**, But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord save me. **Verse 31**, And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O you of little faith, wherefore did you doubt? **Verse 32**, And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. **Verse 33**, Then they who were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth You are the Son of God."

- Peter wanted to walk at the same level of Faith as Jesus. That's the way we are.
- Peter had enough Faith to get started but not enough Faith to finish.
- When Jesus said, "Peter, why did you doubt?" He was saying, "Why didn't you stay in Faith? The Faith you started in was working fine. It could have finished the job."
- Peter quit looking at the Word of God. Circumstances produce fear. The Word of God produces Faith.

The Bible says, "...the entrance of thy word giveth light and giveth understanding to the simple..." When God speaks to you it's like looking at a dark night and there's a flash of lightning and then all of a sudden the horizon lights up for a split second. You have to recall from memory what you saw for that split second. That's why God gave you a memory. You have to recall it. We ask God to send that lightning again and he may not, but he'll say, REMEMBER. "Do not let the Word depart from before thine eyes, keep it in the midst of thine heart for it is life to those that find it and health to all their flesh..."

Don't let the Word depart from before your eyes! Keep it in the midst of your heart! You got a flash of lightning! A lightning flash went through your spirit when God spoke to you. When we pray for the latter rain and we talk about latter rain, latter rain brings thunder and lightning! When the latter rain is falling, lightning is flashing through your spirit! All of a sudden, you might be sitting in darkness, but the Bible says, "...unto them that sit in darkness there will arise a great light..." All of a sudden, you see! God sends that flash of lightning into your spirit and it illuminates your darkness, it illuminates your horizon and you see yourself in the light of that Word.

You see yourself now the way God sees you because God's Word reveals the true condition. It reveals the situation the way it is or the way it can be. The way it *is* from God's perspective is the way it *can be* for you.

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4. What Does It Mean to Remember?

- To *dis-member* means to cut it all up in pieces. To *re-member* means to put all the pieces back together.
- God will speak to you and you'll get a flash of lightning. That will be one piece of it. He'll speak to you something else and you'll get another flash of lightning and you'll see another aspect. He'll speak to you something else and you'll get another flash. And then when you re-member all of that. You put it all together. You will see the whole deal.
- That's what he meant when he said, "*Do not let the Word depart from before your eyes...*"
- Put it back together from your memory.

5. You Have to Keep Your Brain Healthy

- Take fish oil. Take natural supplements and vitamins.
- You have to help your memory. Exercise it. Some of you have to look at your driver's license just to know your name!
- Memorize things. Do memory exercises.
- You have to couple the Natural with the Spiritual.

6. You Have to Recall the Truth of God's Word

*I. **James 1:21-25: Verse 21**, "Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. **Verse 22**, But be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. **Verse 23**, For if any be a hearer of the Word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: **Verse 24**, For he beholds himself, and goes his way, and straightway forgets what manner of man he was. **Verse 25**, But whoso looks into the perfect Law of Liberty, and continues therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."*

- We're going to need your memory in order to live the Faith Life.
- We're going to have to be able to recall what we saw.

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- We have to bring it back up, envision it, and see it.

II. Matthew 14:29-33: Verse 29, ““And He (Jesus) said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. **Verse 30**, But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord save me. **Verse 31**, And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O you of little faith, wherefore did you doubt? **Verse 32**, And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased. **Verse 33**, Then they who were in the ship came and worshipped Him, saying, Of a truth You are the Son of God.”

- Do you know what Peter saw when Jesus said to him, “Come...”? Peter saw himself walking on the water. And he just did what he saw.
- As long as he didn’t let the Word depart from before his eye, the Power was operating to defy the Laws of Nature. The Power works as long as you keep your eye on the Word.
- What you’ve seen by revelation is what keeps the Power of God working.
- Peter forgot what manner of man he was.

-When you recall the Word, you call up the anointing.

Notice this, Jesus stretched out a hand to Peter and he pulled him back up out of the water. I don’t think that Jesus walked back to the boat holding Peter down there in the water while Peter was swimming along behind Jesus. I think Jesus took Peter by the hand and pulled him up out of the water until Peter got back up on the water, until Peter got back up on FAITH again.

-The Lord will not stop the storm just because you’re afraid. What the Lord is going to do is stop the fear.

Don’t forget you’re a healed person! Don’t forget you’re the Righteousness of God in Christ! See yourself! Don’t forget that you’re Accepted in the Beloved. Don’t forget that you’re Raised up Far Above all Principality and Power, Seated Together in Heavenly Places! Don’t forget that you have all authority over the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you! Don’t forget that you are made in the image of God and as Christ is, even so are you in this world! That man in *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John* is really YOU! Don’t forget what manner of man you are.

Keep walking in that image. That’s what he means when he says renew your mind. Cast down imaginations, images that are contrary to the Word of God. Get the vision that comes from the Word. As you meditate on the Word of God, Revelation Knowledge will come and you’ll see and it will get clearer and clearer till one day you just see yourself as Jesus is. And when you see yourself just as He is, you just start walking that way because you’re just acting on what you see.

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When you're faced with a sickness, you see yourself as Jesus, what do you do? When you're faced with a devil, you see yourself as Jesus, what do you do? When the storm comes, you see yourself as Jesus, what do you do? You just act on what you see. What did HE do? You just act like He would act.

Jesus was basically saying, "Come on Peter. You started in Faith. Finish in Faith." Peter got back up with Jesus and they finished walking back to the boat. Jesus finished teaching Peter the lesson, that fear was stealing his miracle and if he would have stayed in Faith, even though a storm is blowing all around you, the Power of God will keep working. And you can just walk all the way through the storm! Stay in Faith! Finish all the way!

Little faith is faith that doesn't last long enough. Little faith is faith that's been overcome by the five (5) physical senses. Little faith is faith that started out looking at the Word, and then quit looking at the Word, and the Power of God quit working. We are forgiven and healed. The same Faith works for both. Most of us have seen the one that we are forgiven, but we haven't seen that we are healed. But when we see *both* we can say, Thank you Jesus that I am forgiven and I am healed! Jesus is my Savior totally! I'm forgiven and I'm healed! When the Word is before your eye, fear can't creep in.

Colossians 3:16, *"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another, with psalms and hymns and spiritual psalms, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord."*

7. Great Faith

I. Matthew 8:5-13: Verse 5, *"And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum (His Headquarters), there came unto Him a Centurion, beseeching Him, **Verse 6**, And saying, Lord, my servant lies at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. **Verse 7**, And Jesus said unto him, I will come and heal him. **Verse 8**, The Centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof: but speak the Word only, and my servant shall be healed. **Verse 9**, For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say into this man, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my servant, Do this, and he does it. **Verse 10**, When Jesus hear it, He marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. **Verse 11**, And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the Kingdom of Heaven. **Verse 12**, But the children of the Kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **Verse 13**, And Jesus said unto the Centurion, Go your way; and as you have believed so be it unto you. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour."*

- Great Faith requires no evidence apart from the Word of God.
- Faith, or acting upon the Word of God without having any extra evidence in the five (5) physical senses, will release the Power in God's Word into your spirit.
- The Power gets released into your spirit then it goes into your body.

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A Word from the Lord

"If you'll take hold of My Word, says the Lord, if you'll lay up My Word in your heart like a treasure, hide it in the midst of your heart, keep it in the midst of your heart, says the Lord, don't let it depart from before your eyes, you will finish by Faith. For some of you will go through some hard times, some challenges, some trials and difficulties, some devils that will try to make life difficult for you, but I say to you this night, says the Lord, if you will keep your eye on My Word, My Power will be released and you'll go through all the way. You will finish.

You will work and you'll never miss a day, another day, all of your life, says the Lord. You'll work and you'll never miss another day of work. You'll never have to call off because of sickness. You'll never have to quit your job because of disability or disablement. But you will work every day of your life and you will be strong and you will finish your time, says the Lord, on this Earth. You will grow old and strong and you will go out of this world with a blaze of my glory, saith the Lord."

Hallelujah! Amen.

God wants you to get to the place in your life where Faith acts on the Word of God without any extra evidence from the five (5) physical senses whatsoever. When you act on the Word of God that way, it will release the Power of God into your spirit and it will fly into your body and He'll drive out sickness and disease. We have healing *in* us! Great Faith requires nothing but God's Word alone. Period.

8. Make God's Word the Final Authority in Your Life

- Jesus' Word is the Final Authority. When you make God's Word the Final Authority in your life, and you don't need any other supporting evidence, whatsoever shape or form, from any realm. Sickness has to obey.
- Enter into the finished work of every Word.
- When God says something, it's already done. He speaks the end from the beginning.
- When you've made God's Word the Final Authority, you start planning on it. You act on it. The Word itself encourages you.

The moment you start looking to the natural for a little encouragement to believe that God's Word is true, that God's Word is working, you're going to get fearful, you're going to get out of Faith, you're going to get defeated. You have to stay with the Word, plus NOTHING.

I. Mark 4:26-29: Verse 26, *"And He said, so is the Kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; **Verse 27**, And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knows not how."*

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Verse 28, *"For the earth brings forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. **Verse 29**, But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest is come."*

- The farmer has to have Faith because he planted that seed into the ground. He covered it up with dirt. He *can't* see it.
- He's not digging around trying to check on the seed.
- He's not worried. He sleeps like a baby. That's how Faith works.

-You have to make God's Word Final Authority.