

FAITH IN TWO PLACES

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We are a people who live by faith.

Counterfeits look like the real thing. But ... we have to have the real thing ... real faith.

1. **Faith is not feeling** ... not how we feel about a thing.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Our physical senses are limited to the physical world ... they don't serve us so well in the spiritual world. Faith is not affected by feelings.

2. **Faith is not the same as mental assent,** mental agreement.

In our minds we agree with the scriptures ... we agree with the Bible that they are true. But ... it doesn't usually affect how we live ... or the decisions we make. There are no corresponding actions in our life.

James 2:14-20

What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? (WEYMOUTH: Corresponding actions) Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works is dead?**

If it is just head knowledge ... your faith is dead!!

3. Faith is not hope.

Hope is important. Faith is the substance of things hoped for. They are sort of connected. But faith and hope are different. Hope is an expectation of something good ... out in the future. We hope for the resurrection. It's in the future. Without faith ... hope won't deliver. Faith is the proof ... the evidence that we will have our legitimate desires.

Matthew 21:21-22

So Jesus answered and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if **you say** to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' it will be done. And **whatever things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.**"

This is definite ... if you Peter, James, John ... whoever ... **speak/say** to "this mountain" ... any concerns that you have ... to be removed or brought into your life ... they will come to pass.

ASK, BELIEVE, RECEIVE!! ... then ... wait until you receive.

Mark 11:24

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you **ask** when you pray, **believe** that you **receive** them, and you will have them.

Mark 11:24 WEYMOUTH

That is why I tell you, as to whatever you pray and make request for, **if you believe that you have received it it shall be yours.**

Mark 11:24 NASB

Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, **believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.**

Do most of us do this? Usually ... no!! When you pray ... believe you have received!! If we don't do this ... we aren't following Jesus.

How do we know that God wants us to have what we have asked for? The answer is ... FIND OUT FIRST... **Faith begins where the Will of God is known.**

4. Faith is not being presumptuous. Faith has to be based on The Word of God. Some people trust God to help or deliver them in a specific situation... but where God has not spoken. See the following example:

Acts 19:13-16

Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, "We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches." Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.

And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?"

Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

These men believed "they were the men"... they were genuine, sincere ... but ... they were totally presumptuous. They weren't Christians.

5. Faith is not resignation.

It has some similarities to true faith. Whatever happens to me ... I'm just trusting God ... I'm resigned to whatever happens to me ... it's God's express will. I'm going to accept whatever takes place ... and believe that is what God wants for me. I'm resigned to God knowing better than me. That is not faith ... that is passive acceptance ... that is not Bible Faith!!

Faith is the proof of things not seen.

There are many things in our life that are our own choosing. We sow "dodgy seed" ... and get an unpleasant harvest. Sometimes it is satan who comes looking for someone he can devour and destroy.

We shouldn't resign ourselves to things happening in a passive sense.

1 Peter 5:8-9

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **Resist him,** steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

There are some things that we have to resist. God's word is there to teach us, to instruct us.

Ephesians 6:11-14

Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (satan is working on strategies to "take us out") For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. **Therefore take up the whole armour of God,** that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, (that's the antidote) having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,

The number one antidote is THE TRUTH! How do we discern what is God and what is satan? We have to know The Word of God.

One pivotal scripture that should help us:

John 10:10

The thief (satan) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. (bad things in our life) **I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

Luke 13:10-17

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

How many well meaning church members would have said, "If God wanted you to be healed ... He would have healed you by now?"

BUT ... THE THIEF ONLY COMES TO KILL, STEAL AND DESTROY.

Acts 10:38

how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

So faith is not just accepting whatever happens. Faith is focused on what God has said and believing and receiving what God has said. What does the Word of God say? Are we single minded?

1 John 5:14-15

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

How do we release faith? Mainly by what we say!!

A man or woman of faith ... **SPEAKS TO THEIR MOUNTAINS!!**

Matthew 17:14-20

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him."

Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, (spoke to it!!) and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"

So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say (with your mouth) to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

If you have faith ... YOU WOULD SAY!!

Luke 17:5-6

And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."

So the Lord said, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

Romans 10:8-10

But what does it say? **"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"** (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you **confess with your mouth** the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

FAITH IN TWO PLACES ... IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART. The Heart and Mouth connection.

Mark 4:36-41

Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

Then He arose and **rebuked the wind, and said to the sea,** "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

Jesus spoke to the wind ... He spoke to the sea.

Luke 4:39-40

So He stood over her and **rebuked the fever,** (spoke to it ... in a strong voice ... harshly!!) and it left her. And immediately she arose and served them.

When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

2 Corinthians 4:13

And since we (we believers) have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, **"I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak.** (quote from Psalm 116:10)

Words can be corresponding actions.

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in **the power of the tongue,**
And those who love it will eat its fruit.

Faith is not a nice idea ... not a luxury. God's Word says in four places that **WE SHOULD LIVE BY FAITH.**