

INSTRUCTIONS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Photo

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Entry 9 - 2

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Faith that Will Not Fail

The most important fight a disciple faces is the battle for faith. Scripture says that every person has received faith but in another place it says that all men do not have faith; so what happened? Some lost their faith along the way. Some have lost so much faith they have suffered shipwreck. Even some seasoned veterans have lost their faith. Jesus told Peter that Satan had asked permission to sift him as wheat. Then He said He would pray so that his faith would not fail. If you are disillusioned, discouraged, depressed, critical, or have drawn back from serving the Lord passionately, then you have lost faith. None of us know what we will face in the days ahead. Whatever it is, we can be overcomers if we have powerful faith, or the shaking can cause us to lose faith. Jesus tells us to fight for the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith.

You may have a year of success or see calamity and chaos at your door. It is not what you face that determines your wellbeing. Your wellbeing is determined by the strength of God's faith in you. Faith decides whether or not you shine. As we get closer to Christ's return, life will become more intense. Every believer will need more powerful faith. Therefore, let's study faith and be like the wise ant who prepares for the winter. Little faith will not be good enough, you need a strong faith. Here are 3 areas for developing faith.

1. Good soil for receiving faith.
2. Steps to get God's faith.
3. Actions to grow faith quickly.

1. Good Soil for Receiving Faith

Faith does not come from the power of positive thinking, it cannot be produced by a sharp mind. Scripture says that faith is not of ourselves, it is a gift of God.

God is no respecter of persons, He gives faith to all who hunger for it. Therefore, our attitude plays a huge role in the release of God's faith to us. If we have a positive disposition toward the Lord, then we have good soil for God's faith to enter and grow in us. The parable of the sower is about the condition of our hearts. It teaches us that God's seed will not grow in us if we are hard-hearted, distracted with worldly idols, living in sin or if we are beaten down by unforgiveness and unresolved wounds. If, however, we have a tender, positive heart, then God's seed will grow and produce a great harvest in our lives.

Some of us need a life-style change. We need to;

1. Think positively, 2. Pray positively,
3. Speak positively, 4. Sing positively, 5. Act positively, 6. Give positively, 7. Serve positively.

A positive, peaceful, joyful life in Christ produces a heart full of good soil that God will put His faith in.

2. Steps to Get God's Faith

Here are 7 ways to get God's faith.

1. Hear: Faith comes by hearing. (Ro.10:17) Even reading the Bible will not give you faith unless you hear God speaking to you through it. Jesus said that the more you hear Him, the more He will give to you. (Mk. 10:24-25 NKJ) Seek the Lord and ask Him to help you hear.

2. The Word of God: Faith comes by the word of God. (Ro.10:17) This could say, Faith comes by hearing the voice of God. Unless you hear God's voice, you cannot have faith, and without faith you cannot get saved, receive direction, function in the gifts, or grow as a Christian. His voice does not need to be audible but you must believe that God is speaking to you. Jesus says, "His sheep know His voice." Talk to the Lord and listen carefully until you recognize His voice. Then you will have faith.

3. Impartation from God's Gov't: Jesus gives government to His people. Someone will have godly government for your life. They may be parents, pastors or mentors. Receiving life from them and having them pray over you will impart faith to you. Paul told Timothy that faith was imparted to him through his mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois. (2Tim. 1:5)

4. When you Minister: The teacher

learns more than the student and the one who ministers in faith receives more than the one receiving the ministry. Step out and exercise faith in response to God's word and He will give you faith. (Philemon 1:6)

5. Worship: Faith comes through the exercise of real worship because God speaks to us when we worship. The spirit of prophesy is released through worship. (Rev. 19:10) Christian singing is not always worship. Worship must flow from a heart of genuine affection and adoration toward God.

6. A Life of Godly Experiences: When we are God's disciple we learn that God is faithful. Faith comes because we experience God showing up again and again. It may be at the 11th hour but God always comes. Over time we are convinced, and a residual blessing of faith forms in us. Sarah had faith because she counted God faithful who had promised. (Heb. 11:11)

7. The Testimony of Others: Faith comes through the life testimonies of others. Many books and Bible stories illustrate miraculous events of God saving and blessing others. He speaks to us and inspires us through those stories. The stories of a good preacher should put faith in us. (1Tim. 4:12)

3. Actions to Grow faith Quickly

The Bible says that faith without action is dead. (Js. 2:19-26) We must step out in risky obedience when God speaks to us. A huge ship tied up in port will not

change direction even if we turn the steering wheel; the ship must be moving. If we take action and move forward then even the slightest turn of the wheel will change our direction. The word of faith is near us; it is even in our hearts and mouths, but we must act upon it. Here are some practical steps that will enable your faith to grow quickly.

1. Pray: Pray before you sleep at night and first thing when you wake in the morning. Ask the Lord to use you to minister to someone today.

2. Engage Your Radar: All day, as you go about your business, ask the Lord to use you. Engage your spiritual radar by listening to God intensely. Ask for a sign or a word and your radar will begin to pick up the signal or sound of God speaking to you. He is giving you direction.

3. Confirmation: Ask God for a 2nd sign to confirm what He is asking so you know it is not just your idea. For big things ask for a 3rd sign.

4. Action: Then, obey the Lord and speak, pray, give or minister as He instructs. You will see God's power and your faith will grow rapidly.

The just shall live by faith. If you follow these steps and live like this your faith will grow and you will be strong, but you must fight for faith. Some, who began in powerful faith, have not continued, but if you fight the fight of faith you will not fail. **AΩ**



*Christians for
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