



***Faith  
That  
Honors  
God***

***William A. Lee***

# ***Faith That Honors God***

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***Published By  
Living Rivers Ministry***

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## **Faith That Honors God**

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***Dedicated To***

***My Lord***

***Jesus Christ***



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## ***Faith that Honors God***

Most of us have heard about or read stories in the Bible about the great heroes of faith, how they stood with God in the midst of overwhelming circumstances. They won battles, overthrew kingdoms and were given great power, turning away whole armies. Many received God-given dreams and promises that, in the natural, seemed impossible. Some were kept from the jaws of ferocious lions, some were saved from the fiery furnace, and others were made strong again after they had been weak or sick.

However, none of these heroes of faith could read their own story in the Bible and see the outcome. Most of them probably did not even understand the dynamics of faith, and the principles that govern it as Jesus revealed to us in the New Testament.

Many of these heroes of faith may seem larger than life, but they were actually ordinary people like you and me with everyday problems. Nevertheless, they honored God with their faith and their stories were recorded as examples of faith to help encourage us.

Whether or not you realize it, you have faith and you use it on a regular basis. You may or may not recognize it, but you do have it. In fact, our ability and capacity to use faith is a direct result of being created in the image of God.

**Romans 12:3 ...God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**

It will help us to understand that all men have faith, not just Christians. If that were not true we could never have believed on Christ to be saved. All men believe something because God created all men with the capacity and ability to believe.

However, many of us seek to have more faith, but in truth, we don't really need more faith – we simply need to develop the faith that we already have. To illustrate this point further, think about the physical muscles in the human body. When we were born, we were given every muscle our body would ever need to work properly. So we don't need more muscles. We already have all the muscles we will ever need. But if we want to have stronger muscles, then we must work out and develop them. Likewise, if we want to have stronger faith, we must use and develop what we

have been given. The more we use and develop our faith the stronger our faith will become. And if we continue to develop our faith, we can ultimately become “Green Beret” Christians – the devil’s biggest nightmare!

Like the heroes of faith, we too can honor God with our faith. You may not have considered this before, but your faith in God is actually one of the highest expressions of the love and honor you have toward God. Plus, it is your faith that gives you the ability to connect with God personally, and receive the gifts and promises He desires to impart.

Learning to walk by faith is not an option. Walking by faith is an absolute necessity for every Christian to understand and put into practice. In fact, as we walk with God, there probably will not be a day on this earth that we will not need to use our faith in some way.

In this book we will learn what faith is, how it honors God and how to use our faith like a mechanic would use a tool. We will learn why our faith is important to God and why it should be important to us. We will also take a fresh look at faith, dispel any possible misunderstandings, and make sure we are all using our faith to its greatest

potential. By all means, do not forget that when we endeavor to learn more about God and His Word, that always honors Him.

Over the years I have had many discussions with Christians about faith. I have heard some people say that they thought that faith was their religious affiliation, and I have heard others say that they thought that faith was synonymous with believing, and I have heard many other things too. While faith and believing are closely related, there is more to faith than simply believing something. Therefore, it is important that we all understand what biblical faith is and how it works. I say “biblical faith” because that is what we have to base our faith on – the Bible, which is the inspired Word of God.

In my own life, it took the first ten years of my Christian walk before I really had a decent understanding of the subject of faith. And when I think back on those years, I wonder why it took me so long to understand the concept of a simple five-letter word. For the longest time, faith seemed like some big abstract idea that I was never quite able to grasp. Maybe, like me, you have heard ministers talk about faith but it still seems out of focus. The concept may have seemed like some great biblical

mystery that only a few select church leaders and patriarchs ever truly grasp. However, nothing could be further from the truth. Faith, as you will soon see, is not a difficult concept to grasp. And hopefully, you can benefit from what took me many years to understand.

I think the main reason I had a hard time grasping the subject of faith was due to the fact that I had a tendency, like many Christians, to over-spiritualize the subject. Nevertheless, if we want to have a relationship with God that truly pleases and honors Him, then we must learn how to use our faith. Take a look at the following Scripture, as it is a very sobering and thought provoking.

### **HEBREWS 11:6**

**6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

Now read this verse again as I have changed the word “please” to the word “honor.”

### **HEBREWS 11:6**

**6 But without faith it is impossible to honor Him, for he who comes to God must believe that**

**He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Author's Emphasis)**

I changed the word “please” to the word “honor” in this passage for the following reason: I wanted to point out that when we honor, respect and esteem people we will always bring a certain amount of pleasure, blessing and satisfaction to them. However, when we dishonor or disrespect others we will not bring them pleasure or be pleasing to them.

We can see from Hebrews 11:6 that it is very important that we understand the concept of faith and how to use it because our entire relationship and walk with God is based on and works by our faith. God chooses His words very carefully and when God uses a word like *impossible* we must understand that He means it!

Faith is the key that opens the door by which we are able walk and commune with God. Our walk with the Lord is greatly dependent upon our faith. Faith is the only way to receive and walk in the promises of God, so we would do well to learn how to use our faith to the best of our ability. Keep in mind that simply understanding the dynamics of faith and how it works will not automatically give

you more faith, but utilizing the understanding will help you to maximize your relationship with God and your effectiveness as a Christian.

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:7    For we walk by faith, not by sight [physical senses].**

As we gain a clearer perspective of how faith works, we will be less likely to do something that we thought was *faith* but, in truth, was nothing more than a *lack of wisdom* or *conjecture* on our part. Like myself, I am sure that you would not want to do anything foolish or presumptuous that would bring dishonor to your witness, to other Christians and most of all, to the Lord. So let us learn all that we can about biblical faith and how to use and develop it.

# ***The Seed of Faith***

Faith is one of the most important principals in the Bible you will ever come to know. But just because you know something does not mean you understand something. And if you do not understand how faith works, most likely you will find that you are on a one-way street to frustration.

If a farmer did not now how a seed works he would be very frustrated. Most all of us at one time or another planted a seed and watered it. Then we looked at it the next day and we did not see anything. Then the following day we went out and looked at it again and still nothing. If we did not know any better we might go out and dig it up. And that is exactly what many of us do spiritually; and then we sit there frustrated wondering why we never saw the fulfillment of the promise for which we believed.

Many like me are interested in the mechanics of faith. But if you were wise, you would never let a mechanic work on your car if he did not understand what he was doing. He may have read many manuals about car repair and know many things. But if he does not understand how to put it

all together, your car may not run correctly. It may even leave in worse condition than when it arrived.

So how does faith work? First, faith believes it receives when it prays. That is to say that if you are asking the Father for anything in Jesus name then you must believe you receive it when you pray. If you need a healing then you need to receive it by laying hold of God's word which says: by Jesus stripes you were healed.

But here is where many miss the boat. When you receive from God you receive by faith; but what do you actually receive? You receive exactly what you asked and Gods word becomes your confirmation and evidence of the thing you believe you received. For instance, if you purchased a product by phone, and they give you an order or confirmation number, and tell you the package is on the way, then you are expecting something to show up at your door.

In the same way if you asked God for some corn and He gives you a corn seed you may not think you received what you asked for, but in truth, you did. If you receive that seed and plant it you would find that you would have exactly what you asked.

Faith is a spiritual force and faith grows like a seed but how fast it grows has everything to do with the ground and environment it is placed in to grow. It also has a lot to do with the seed. If you want an apple, it is going to take longer to grow than corn. After all, an apple seed would have to first mature into an apple tree which could take several years before it produces an apple. Corn, on the other hand, could grow and mature within a short season. Everything in the spirit grows like a seed. And if we understand this concept, it will stop our frustration where receiving is concerned.

Faith is also a spiritual force that is not subject to the laws of time and space. But it is safe to say you will reap if you faint not. If you do not give up, you will end up with the promise. But we must not only receive what we ask for by faith, at the time we ask and or believe, but then we must learn to tend that faith seed in our heart and water it with the word of God until it grows and matures to ultimately produce the glory, which is the fruit we are looking for.

All too many are looking for the fruit the moment they are finished praying. And we all need to be in expectancy, but we all need to keep in perspective

the spiritual law of the seed, and let patience have its perfect work.

God wants all His children to learn how to receive His promises by faith, but he also wants us to realize that it almost always starts in the form of a faith seed. And it is our responsibility to grow and tend our faith until it produces the fruit of the promise in our lives in a tangible way.

The amount of time it may take to produce results has a lot to do with our level of faith, as well as, need versus desire. When I was first born again, I asked God for a new truck because I was in need of transportation. I had an old VW bus that had broken down. When making my request I did mention some details like blue, with chrome wheels and a camper shell. I believed that I received it with simple, childlike faith and continued to thank the Lord for it. Within only one month, the truck was brought to me, exactly what I had asked for and much better than I had imagined.

However, I have also heard stories from other Christians, where they believed God for a brand new Cadillac paid in full, but it took several years of standing in faith before it manifested. So why such a big difference? When we ask big it may

take more time depending on our level of faith. Now, if they had asked God for some basic transportation and left more of the details to Him, they very well may have seen their vehicle much sooner. But even if you have strong faith, if you ask big then be prepared to stand. God will honor His word every time but the time it takes for the seed to grow and produce fruit, has everything to do with the type of seed and whether or not it is truly a need. Don't get me wrong God will give us the desires of our hearts and answer every prayer but we must receive it by faith.

Receiving from the Lord has a lot to do with where our faith level is, but many times the Lord will carry new believers, but as we mature in the faith God will require us to learn how to walk by faith for ourselves. As we grow and mature in our faith walk with God, He expects us to learn how to operate in the principles of seed-time and harvest.

All of us believe something because God created us all with the capacity to believe. We all have a believer that believes something.

**Romans 10:10**

**10 For with the heart [spirit] one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

Our spirit or heart is the core of our being and it is the part of us that was designed by God with the capacity to believe. We cannot believe anything with our head or mind because it does not have the capacity to believe, rather, it only analyzes and makes choices.

Our heart is the believer, and whatever we receive or allow into our heart has the capability to come out as faith. It is similar to the earth in that it will grow whatever we choose to put in the ground. The earth itself does not choose what to grow it simply tries to grow whatever is put in it. With that in mind, let us take a look at some Scriptures in the Bible that teaches us more about our heart.

When discussing the subject of faith I think it is nearly impossible to not mention the teachings of Jesus, particularly the “Parable of the Sower” found in the gospel of Mark. So we will start there:

**MARK 4:1-20**

**1** And again He [Jesus] began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea.

**2** Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:

**3** "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

**4** "And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.

**5** "Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth.

**6** "But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

**7** "And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

**8** "But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

**9** And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

**10** But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable.

11 And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables,

12 "so that 'Seeing they may see and not perceive, and hearing they may hear and not understand; lest they should turn, and their sins be forgiven them.' "

13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?

14 "The sower sows the word.

15 "And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

16 "These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

17 "and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

18 "Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,

19 "and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other

things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

**20** "But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

There are many things that can be taught about this parable but we are going to focus mainly as it relates to the subject of faith. The very first thing I would like to point out about this parable is that Jesus told us that this is the *key* parable. Take a second look at verse 13.

**MARK 4:13** And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

If we do not understand what Jesus is talking about in this parable, then we will have a greater challenge understanding the other parables Jesus taught, not to mention faith.

This parable is about a sower. In modern language a sower would be called a farmer. Then we see this farmer is planting seeds and the seeds fall onto different types of ground. Jesus gives us the interpretation of the parable starting at verse 14.

**MARK 4:14**

**14 "The sower sows the word.**

This is the key verse in the parable. In the first part of these parable verses 3-9, we see that a sower was sowing seed. In explaining the parable Jesus said the sower sows the word. We see then that the *seed* in verse 3 then correlates to the *word* in verse 14. The word that the sower was sowing is no doubt the Word of God. The sower could be anyone speaking or proclaiming the Word of God.

The four places where the seed fell are representative of four different conditions of the human spirit when someone hears the Word of God. The main thing that I want us to see here is that Jesus likened *seed* to the *Word of God*. In fact, we could even take it a step further and say that Jesus was likening *seed* to *words*. Jesus also likened *seed* to *faith* in Luke 17:6.

**LUKE 17:6**

**6 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.**

It is very important to understand that our *faith* and *words* have a spiritual connection. We can see this connection taught in the tenth chapter of Romans.

## **ROMANS 10:14-17**

**14** How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe [have faith] in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

**15** And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!"

**16** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed [had faith in] our report?"

**17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

From these Scriptures, particularly verse 17, we can surmise that we cannot have faith in something that we have not heard. Faith comes by initially *hearing* words as we see here in verse 17 and in the parable of the sower that we read earlier. This does not necessarily mean that you have to audibly hear words to get faith. Faith can come from simply reading a message or report.

One time I was camping in Yosemite and I had to go to the camp store to get some provisions. As I was walking out the door I noticed the newspaper vending machine and I read the headline through the window as I passed by. The headline stated that a famous actor had died. Well, I had no reason to doubt the report so I chose to believe it. In fact, As a result of believing it I went and told my wife about what I had seen in the headline. I would never have told my wife about it if I had not believed the report even though I never heard a single word uttered or spoken about the matter. In fact, I even believed it enough to include it in this book.

Words are very important when we are discussing faith and how it works. Words are spiritual containers for thoughts and ideas and they convey our authority. They are very foundation and source for everything that we believe. Every person on this planet is a *sower* of words as well as a *believer* and *reaper* of words.

Now faith comes by *hearing* words but faith is also expressed and released by *speaking* words. In fact, we believe the words that we hear ourselves speak out of our own mouths more than the words spoken by any other person. Why is that so?

Because the words we speak come directly from our own spirit and our spirit is the part of us that has the capacity to speak as well as believe.

Man's ability to speak words is a direct result of having been created in God's own image and likeness, ***a speaking spirit***, which sets us apart from all the animals on this planet, which do not have the ability or capacity to speak. Words also give us the ability to socialize with other people and express what is contained in our heart or spirit.

Ultimately, whatever we truly believe in our heart we will speak out of our mouth and confess on a regular basis. Our mouth and our believer [spirit] are directly connected.

## **LUKE 6:45**

**45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good [words containing and conveying good]; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil [words containing and conveying evil]. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.**

Evil words could be profanity or they could simply be words spoken that stand against or contrary to the truth of God's Word. Words are merely a

reflection of a person's heart and they reveal the character of the person speaking them.

If we ever want to know anything about a person all we have to do is ask a few questions and then listen carefully to them for a few minutes. They will begin to tell you what they like and what they do not like, as well as, what they believe and what they do not believe. Most people, given an opportunity, will tell you everything about themselves if you give them enough time.

We only know people by their words and their corresponding actions. It can truly be said: "People are the culmination of all their words!" and, "You are the culmination of all your words!" You and your words are "one," just as God is "one" with His Word. In fact, God is so serious about His Word that the Scriptures even tell us that God chooses to honor His Word even above His own name (Psalms 138:2). This is one reason that we can securely put our faith in God with confidence because He considers His Word to be more important than His name. As a result He watches over His word to perform it and He never lies (Jeremiah 1:12, Isaiah 55:11, Hebrews 6:18).

So why does God put so much emphasis on words? Simply put words are spiritual containers that have the capacity to convey life and faith or death and fear!

## **PROVERBS 18:21**

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

Keeping these thoughts in mind, let us look at another very interesting aspect of faith, let's take a second look at Luke 17:6 which we read a little while ago.

## **LUKE 17:6**

**6 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.**

We have seen that the Bible teaches us that “words are like seed” and “faith is like seed.” We also learned that faith is released through our words. I believe that the Lord is showing us a very important concept here. Read Luke 17:6 again below. I have substituted the word “faith” with the phrase “the Word of God” and I made a couple other changes for clarity. Pay close attention to the

words that I have underlined and the brackets then compare it to the New King James Version above.

## **LUKE 17:6**

**6 So the Lord said, "If you have the Word of God as a seed [planted in your heart in abundance], you can say [with power] to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you [your faith filled words]. (Author's Emphasis)**

Notice the phrase “you can say” in Luke 17:6. Our faith has a voice and speaks what it chooses to believe. If we believe the Word of God and His Word has been planted in our heart, then out of the abundance of our heart our faith will speak with power. Whether our words are powerful or not has everything to do with how much we really believe what we say.

## **MARK 11:23**

**23 "For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says.**

Did you notice how Mark 11:23 sounds a lot like Luke 17:6? Mark 11:23 is amazing, particularly the last part of the verse where it says, "...he will have whatever he says." Unfortunately, this is where many Christians miss it. They hear a message preached: "You can have whatever you say." They start out making all kinds of confessions hoping that what they are saying will manifest by the end of the week. The problem is that, in most cases, they have not yet developed their faith to the level needed to receive the particular promises for which they believe. For this very reason many Christians often end up with shipwrecked faith.

Give your faith time to work and grow. Try not to bite off more than your faith can chew. If you cannot lift a hundred pounds then try starting with fifty. Work with your faith at the level you are until it grows stronger. Start applying your faith to small things before you try to take on the world.

Nevertheless, your faith will work every time if you do not doubt and you are patient while it grows. Believe God and doubt your doubts because doubt will put faith out like water on a fire. And the only way to replace doubt with faith

is to get the Word of God into your heart in abundance.

A woman may become pregnant overnight but the birth usually does not come for another nine months. Faith is a lot like a pregnant woman, She may not show for a while but a child has been growing in her womb since conception. She just has to feed her body daily and the child will come when it is ready. Likewise, we need to feed on God's Word like daily bread (Matthew 4:4) until it develops the faith in our heart. Feed your faith and starve your doubts.

Since we have discovered that faith comes by hearing words, then it only stands to reason that it must be important what kind of words we are hearing. For instance, have you ever had a person you respected tell you their negative opinion about another person? Perhaps you previously never had a negative opinion about the person that they mentioned. How did the things you heard affect your opinion about that person? Most likely the next time you saw that person you remembered what you heard about them and it probably even affected the way you acted toward them. Why? Because faith comes by hearing words and you began to act on what you heard, whether or not

what you heard was true. That is why gossip can be so damaging. Understand that faith in God comes by hearing God's Words but faith can also come from hearing the words of men.

At times God can inspire men's words and at times men's words can also be inspired by the devil. You can see an example of this in the life of Peter. One time he told Jesus that He was the Christ the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:13-16). Jesus told Peter that he was blessed and that God the Father had revealed this to him. But not long after this Peter tried to persuade Jesus not to go to Jerusalem and Jesus rebuked Peter telling him that the devil was speaking through him (Matthew 16:22-23). This is why it is very important to be careful what we hear because faith can even come from hearing the words of the devil.

Keep in mind, the devil's words will produce faith the same way that God's words produce faith but the results are twisted and perverted. Faith in the devil's words is better known as "fear." Fear is really faith in the ability of something to bring harm. Hearing and receiving the words of the devil will always bring fear and doubt into our hearts. But hearing and receiving the Words of God will always bring faith and hope into our hearts. This is

why the Scriptures teach us to guard our heart. There is never a need to guard something unless there is an enemy that could potentially attack.

### **PROVERBS 4:23**

**23   Keep [guard] your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues [forces] of life.**

The principles and laws that govern faith work for everybody, sinner or saint, and the reason they work for everybody is because everybody came out of one body – Adam’s. Read the account of creation in the book of Genesis and see how many times God *said* and *it was* so. God created everything by His words.

### **HEBREWS 1:1-3**

**1   God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,**

**2   has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;**

**3   who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

We were created in the image and likeness of God, we are speaking spirits, and like God we uphold the life that God gave us in this world by the words we speak. This may sound like a pretty hard pill to swallow, but do not rely on my word only. Take a look at the following Scriptures.

### **GALATIANS 6:7-8**

**7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.**

**8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.**

### **MATTHEW 12:35-37**

**35 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.**

**36 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.**

**37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."**

### **PROVERBS 18:21**

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

Take a second look at Proverbs 18:21. This verse is a major wakeup call. Notice the phrase that says, “those who love it will eat its fruit.” I am sure that you realize that you only get fruit from a seed that has fully grown. You may not see the fruit overnight, but ultimately, you will reap whatever you have sown.

Speaking of life and death and the power of words, it is an interesting fact that we cannot even be born again without confessing words. If you are born again, then at some point you confessed Jesus as your Lord and Savior. You confessed with your mouth and believed in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead. You were most likely led in prayer based on Romans 10:8-10.

### **ROMANS 10:8-10**

**8 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):**

**9 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.**

**10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

Romans 10:10 also reveals to us a very important principle that outlines the only way that anyone can receive anything from God. For with the heart one believes (God's promise) with expectancy and with the mouth confession is made unto *salvation* (until the manifestation of the promise). It is interesting to note that the Greek word for "salvation" in this verse can also mean healing, deliverance and wholeness.

In Romans 10:8 we see that the Word must be two places, in our heart and in our mouth. We could say the same thing about faith. Faith must be in our heart and in our mouth. If we intend to receive anything from God we must first hear a promise from the Word of God. Once we have heard and received the promise conception takes place (the seed is planted). Then we must take our stand and be vigilante keeping our eyes on God's Word and continue fertilizing and watering the seed by confessing the promise. As we continue to do this the promise will begin to grow and mature, until we ultimately carry it to full term, just like a pregnant women carries her baby to term and then gives birth. I call this process the *cycle of faith*.

# ***The Cycle of Faith***

Now I want to talk about the concept of *seedtime and harvest*. I also call this concept the *cycle of faith*, which will be evident shortly. The cycle of faith or the principle of seedtime and harvest is the process by which we develop and mature the faith in our heart.

Faith is like a seed and in most cases faith grows over a period of time, unlike weeds that seem to grow overnight. However, before our faith will ever produce a harvest we have to first plant a *faith seed* for the need or desire. Jesus outlined and explained the principle of *seedtime and harvest* in the book of Mark.

## **Mark 4:23-29**

**23 "If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear."**

**24 Then He [Jesus] said to them, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given."**

**25 "For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."**

**26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,**

**27 "and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.**

**28 "For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.**

**29 "But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."**

Now we all understand how to plant natural seed but how do we plant *faith seed* and how do we harvest a faith crop? These are things we all need to understand. Let me show you how the cycle of faith works from *seedtime* to *harvest*.

As already stated we must first plant our faith seed but we must also decide what type of seed we want to plant. In other words, if we want to harvest corn then we must first plant corn seed. If we want to harvest watermelon then we have to plant watermelon seed. So where do we get faith seed and how do we plant it?

**ROMANS 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.**

Faith seed is planted into our spirit every time we hear words and open our heart to them. This explains why Jesus told us to take heed what we hear in Mark 4:24. Faith seed may come from hearing the words of another person or it may be a promise straight out of the Bible. Faith can even come from reading a book or newspaper.

Remember that words are spiritual seeds no matter the source; and the type of seeds we plant or allow to be planted in our heart will determine our harvest. Faith in God comes from receiving God's words into our heart. Faith in a spouse or a friend comes from receiving their words. Faith in the devil, better known as fear, comes from listening to his lies.

Every day words are constantly being planted into our heart. Which words grow and ultimately produce a harvest has everything to do with how much attention we give to watering and fertilizing them and our agreement with them. If we continually hear the same words repeated or we repeat or decree what we heard spoken to another person, it is like pouring *word water* on the *faith*

*seed* in our heart. At this point something miraculous begins to take place. The seed in our heart begins to sprout and grow.

This *cycle of faith* continues to work, developing our faith every time we pour more *word water* and *faith fertilizer* on our *faith seed*. So it is, when we continue to decree or hear the same words spoken over and over again, our faith grows and develops. It is very important to realize that whenever we speak out of our own mouth, at the very same time, we also hear the words. Hearing our own words spoken over and over again is the fastest way to accelerate the growth of our faith.

Our spoken words are an expression of our faith and an expression of our heart and that is why we believe our own words more than the words spoken by any other person. So when it comes to developing our faith, it is our own confession that will most likely either sink our ship or put us over the top.

The *cycle of faith* will continue to work until the words that we have been hearing and speaking ultimately grow and manifest. *First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear* (Mark 4:28), bringing forth the harvest of our lips, and directing

our life and actions like the rudder on a ship. Whether good or bad, life or death, sickness or health, prosperity or poverty, we will ultimately reap the harvest of what we have confessed with our mouths and believed in our hearts. God once said to me “Agree, decree and it shall be.”

Dictators all over the world understand the *cycle of faith*. They call it *propaganda*. They tell the people whatever they want them to hear, over and over, until many citizens begin to believe the lies they are told. We also see this today in the media when they propagate their own agenda in their reporting. Many of them put their own slant on the news instead of merely reporting the story. When people hear these slanted reports over and over again it begins to affect what they believe.

No matter the source, what we hear and meditate on continually will affect our lives. If you need to increase your faith for healing then find some Scriptures on healing and continually speak the Scriptures over your life. Another great thing you could do is get a hold of some good teaching tapes on healing and listen to them over and over again until harvest comes. The kind of harvest we have in life is based entirely on the quality and quantity

of seed that has been sown in our hearts and the amount of attention we give to it.

Granted, we cannot control everything that we hear, but we can control what we receive into our hearts and allow to take root. We also have full control over the amount of God's Word we choose to hear and sow as *faith seed* into the soil of our hearts.

On the other hand, if we neglect our *faith seed* or allow the cares of the world or the lusts of other things to choke it out (as we read in the parable of the sower) then we will have nothing but a faith crop failure. But if we tend our faith seed and are watchful, we will know when it is fully-grown because our harvest will manifest and produce the fruit of what was in the seed we planted. Remember that words are containers, which carry the force of faith, and they will produce faith fruit from the faith seed that has been planted and watered in our heart. Like physical birth, the baby is coming when it is ready, we need only prepare.

*Above all else*, we are going to have to be determined to stand while our seed is in the ground. We are going to have to carefully guard our faith crop because the devil will surely come

and tempt us to abort it by giving up. In order to be successful, spiritual faith farmers we need to be patient with our faith crop. We cannot make it grow any faster by worrying or wondering how it is doing or how long it may take until harvest.

Worrying and wondering will only stunt the growth of our faith crop making it take longer to mature. Worry is a type of fear, and fear will undermine our faith because it is like planting weeds into our crop. Fear always brings the devil onto the scene the same way that faith in God's Word always brings God onto the scene. The Scriptures teach us to stand until we receive the promised harvest. Whether we are standing for a healing, finances or anything else, we must be determined to see it through until harvest.

### **EPHESIANS 6:13-14**

**13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.**

**14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,**

Another thing worthy of note here is the idea of *word water* and *faith fertilizer* as previously

mentioned. This is really another way of saying *meditation* or we might say *meditating on God's Word*.

### **PSALMS 1:1-3**

**1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful;**

**2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD [faith seed], and in His law he meditates [faith fertilizes] day and night.**

**3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water [word water], that brings forth its fruit in its season [faith fruit - harvest], whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.**

Speaking of meditation, did you know that the word *music* comes from the root word *muse* which, means to meditate and ponder by muttering or speaking to yourself? We should all take heed as to the kind of music we listen to because music is really a form of meditation and most worldly music today is full of death words that stand in direct opposition to the Word of God. When we listen to music it is not the type of music that matters but what the words in the music are saying and the message the words are conveying that is

important. Always be vigilant about the words you let into your heart because they greatly affect your faith and ultimately can affect the reaping of your harvest and that is why we need to learn more about the power of words.

# ***The Power of Words***

By now I am sure you are beginning to realize that words are extremely powerful and that is why we need to learn to use them as God intended. After all, if God could create heaven and earth with His words, what do you think our words do? The words that we meditate on and speak will ultimately affect our own life and the lives of every other person with whom we speak. Words will affect all our relationships in a positive or negative way.

My wife recently conveyed a story to me about the significance of our words. As she told me, a man went to His pastor after hearing a teaching about the power of words. The man asked the pastor, “What must I do to reverse all of the negative and bad words that I have spoken over my life and over others?” The pastor told the man to go out and hire a 747 airplane and fill it up with feathers. Then he told the man to have the airplane fly to an altitude of 20,000 feet and release all the feathers. Then the pastor told the man to come see him when he had finished. The man followed the pastor’s instructions, then went back to see him. When the

man asked the pastor what to do next, the pastor said, “Now go out and pick up all the feathers you dropped.” The man told the pastor that would be impossible. The pastor looked back at him and said, “It is just as impossible to take back the words we speak.” Once spoken, words cannot be taken back.

How many people do you know that were repeatedly told as children that they were “stupid” or “useless” or, “You can never do anything right!” Hearing and meditating on words of death like these over and over again can cause people to believe that they are “stupid” or “no good” or “useless” and so on. Most people do not speak this way to strangers but instead tend to take more liberties with those with whom they are most familiar. We should not allow familiarity to breed dishonor but we all must learn to speak life to our families and friends by watering them with words of love, honor and encouragement every day. We also need to learn to speak well of ourselves and learn to like ourselves.

Most people do not understand that many times they are their own worst enemy. Instead of receiving the promises of God and planting His Word into their hearts, they have allowed the

promises and lies of the devil into their hearts. How many people do you hear say things like, “Everyone I know is sick, and I will probably be the next to get it.” Or “I never seem to get ahead financially.” Or “Nothing ever works for me.” If you have been speaking things like this you need to realize that you have been planting bad seed and you need to put a stop to it. Words like these are full of fear and stout against God word and stand in direct opposition to His revealed will for our lives. By all means have a crop failure. Ask God to help you watch over your words more closely until you can develop new habits of speaking words of life that agree with God’s will and testament.

Every word we speak is charting the course of our life. The question is, “Do you like the destination you have charted up to now?” If not, make a quality decision to change your course by adjusting the compass of your lips and ask God to help you stay on course. With God’s help you will arrive at your new destination soon enough. But remember faith grows like a seed over a period of time – not like a weed overnight. It may take a season before you see the harvest you desire because you may find that you also need to do some pruning and weeding first. It will take determination, discipline, time and consistency.

As I had previously stated, we all chart our course in life by the words of our mouth. Unfortunately, most of us end up in places where we do not want to be. Why? Because we tend to meditate and speak more about our problems and our circumstances than we do about the promises that God has made to us.

### **MALACHI 3:13-14**

**13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?**

**14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?**

Our words can render God's promises of no effect in our lives. If the words we speak are not in agreement with the promises of God, then instead of our words becoming *faith fertilizer* our words become *faith seed killer*. If we are not receiving the faith harvest we desire in our lives, it is most likely due to one of the following reasons.

Either we have not been patient with our faith seed, giving it the time it needs to grow. Or we

have allowed the devil or our circumstances to distract us by drawing us away from our stand and confession of God's Word.

Every time we take a stand on God's Word we can be sure that the devil is going to come to test our faith, tempting us to become distracted by our circumstances or possibly by the confession or evil report of others. Simply put the devil wants you to do an about face and change your mind.

Nevertheless, if we want to have our faith produce the fruit we desire then we cannot allow ourselves to focus on our problems, circumstances or anything else that will distract us from our stand on the authority of God's Word. We cannot allow our words to become full of doubt, worry or fear which will only poison our faith and work against God's promises, killing our faith seed and destroying our harvest.

### **EPHESIANS 6:13-17**

**13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God [which works by God's Word], that you may be able to withstand in the evil day [the day of an evil report or contrary circumstances], and having done all, to stand.**

**14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,**

**15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;**

**16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts [evil and contrary reports and all doubts] of the wicked one.**

**17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;**

Do you think God spends His time meditating on problems? Of course not, but what does He do?

## **ROMANS 4:17**

**17 (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed-- God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;**

God does not speak about things based on outward circumstances or appearances, rather, He speaks to things and calls the things which are not presently manifested as though they already existed. We see examples of this throughout the account of creation in Genesis.

**GENESIS 1:1-3**

**1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**

**2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

**3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.**

Can you imagine if God would have looked at the darkness and said, “Wow, it sure is dark out there!” Where do you think we would be today? The truth is that God did not even acknowledge the darkness. He spoke the desired end result. We need to learn to do the same thing with our faith and words. We need to learn to be the prophet of our own life, calling the things that are not as though they already existed.

I personally came out of a background of drug abuse many years ago. I remember when I finally decided that I wanted to get my life right with the Lord. At that time I was a miserable backslider, doing drugs, sleeping in the back of my truck at the city park. But one night, I was at a friend's house doing drugs with him, and I remember telling him, “I am going to quit doing drugs and go

back to serving the Lord.” Then I said, “Pass me the bong.” I kept saying this for about two or three weeks, until I finally acted on what I had been saying and actually stopped. Thanks be to God! The point I want to make is this: I was speaking the thing I desired to have happen instead of talking about the circumstances and problems in which I found myself. And ultimately the words that I spoke did change the direction of my life.

Another good example along these lines would be if you have ever tried (or known someone who tried) to quit smoking. No one will ever quit smoking as long as they continue to say, “I can never quit.” Instead they need to say, “I don’t like to smoke anymore.” Although they may not believe it or feel like it at first, it is not speaking a lie. Rather, it is a confession of their faith, an adjustment to their course in life. The more they say it the more they will believe it – until they believe it enough to act on it. Then they will have the manifestation of their faith.

If you have an addiction to anything: food, sweets, cigarettes, coffee, drugs, alcohol, and so on, I challenge you to use your faith and words to quit.

# ***Actions Speak Louder than Words***

We have learned that one expression of our faith is the words that we speak but now I want to talk about the most important aspect of our faith. Without speaking, as well as, acting on what we believe our faith is dead and will produce nothing. Speaking or confessing alone is not enough. It is only one side of the coin.

## **JAMES 2:20-26**

**20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?**

**21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?**

**22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?**

**23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." And he was called the friend of God.**

**24 You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.**

**25 Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way?**

**26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

I think many have the idea that faith is some lofty notion that only a few patriarchs and Christian leaders ever attain. But I would like to share with you my own simple definition of faith. Here is how I define faith: *Faith is acting on what you believe.* It is that simple!

As Christians we believe the Word of God so our faith manifests as we confess and act on the Word of God. But we must be careful not to allow ourselves to act on any preconceived notions, feelings, emotions or circumstances. All too often people try to over-spiritualize the things of God. If there is one thing I have learned over the years of walking with the Lord, it is that God is very practical and so is faith. In fact, God is so practical most of us stumble over the way He does things.

Simply put: God wants us to have faith in the authority of His Words and agree with them. God wants us to become fully persuaded of the truth and validity of His Word and then be willing to act

on His Word without reservation, not having to first see evidence.

Remember the story about Thomas, one of Jesus' twelve disciples.

### **JOHN 20:25-28**

**25 The other disciples therefore said to him [Thomas], "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."**

**26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"**

**27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."**

**28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"**

Jesus said to Thomas in verse 27, "Do not be unbelieving but believing." In the King James Version this verse reads, "*And be not faithless, but believing.*" Jesus called Thomas's need to have

evidence in order to believe the words of the other disciples *faithless*.

There are actually three types of faith spoken of in the New Testament. The first type of faith is “no faith” or “faithless.” This type of faith questions the truth and validity of God’s Word and questions God’s love and care for us. This type of faith also opens up the door to fear, which is the devil’s playground.

### **LUKE 8:22-25**

**22 Now it happened, on a certain day, that He got into a boat with His disciples. And He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." And they launched out.**

**23 But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.**

**24 And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm.**

**25 But He said to them, "Where is your faith?" And they were afraid, and marveled, saying to one another, "Who can this be? For**

**He commands even the winds and water, and they obey Him!"**

Jesus had spoken a Word to His disciples "*Let us cross over to the other side of the lake.*" Then circumstances arose that challenged the authority of His Word. But the disciples did not stand on the authority of His Word but became fearful when they focused on their circumstances. In the same way many question God and His love when their circumstances don't seem to be going the way they think they should or when things don't change overnight.

Now the second type of faith mentioned is "little faith." Although this type of faith does believe God, it tends to worry and focus on the problem more than on God's word.

### **MATTHEW 6:30-34**

**30 "Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?**

**31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'**

**32 "For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.**

**33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

**34 "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**

The third type of faith is the kind we should all endeavor to have, “strong faith” or “great faith.” Strong faith recognizes the authority of God’s Word and accepts His Word as ultimate truth and final authority. Strong faith does not worry or focus on the circumstances, nor does it require physical evidence in order to believe. Strong faith doesn’t have to have all the answers, it simply trusts and believes God’s Word and then acts on it.

### **MATTHEW 8:5-10**

**5 Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,**

**6 saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."**

**7 And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."**

**8 The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.**

**9 "For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."**

**10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!**

This centurion understood that words carry authority. He did not need to see any evidence in order to believe. He believed that the Words of Jesus had authority to heal the sick.

When we come to a place in our Christian walk where we are able to believe that God's Word is ultimate truth and the final authority, our days of weak faith will be over. But we have to be willing to step out of the boat and take God at his Word. We have to come to a place where we truly decide to believe and act on what God said even if everything else seems to contradict it. We need to come to a place where we can enter into the rest of

God's Word the same way we would sit back and rest in a comfortable chair, knowing that it will hold us up.

We can all get to a place where our faith can rest in the truth and authority of God's Word. The Children of Israel never entered into the rest of God because of their unbelief. When God delivered them from Egypt by the hand of Moses, they did not take God at His Word. God told Moses to send spies into the land that God promised to give them. However, the spies brought back an evil report saying they could not take the land because it was full of giants. They considered the circumstances and what they saw instead of what God had promised. Thus, Children of Israel never entered into the Promise Land except Joshua and Caleb because they believed and agreed with God that they could take the Promise Land despite what they saw. They counted God's word faithful and greater than the circumstances they saw.

It is only by acting on and believing what God has said that we can enter into the rest of God and receive what He has promised us in His Word. I'm not saying that as Christians we will arrive at this place of rest overnight. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God and is strengthened by understanding

and knowing God's love for us but it is still our choice to believe and act on it. If we allow God's Word to become planted in our hearts, continue to meditate on it until we become fully persuaded it is only a matter of time until harvest.

I can certainly understand how the first time we ever approach God, His Word may seem much like the word of a stranger. But that should not stop us from being willing to take Him at His Word. In fact, many times we take the word of complete strangers without hesitation. After all how many times have you asked a complete stranger for directions?

As we walk with the Lord we learn by experience that His Word, love and character are virtuous, honorable and trustworthy. So do not allow your inexperience to stop you from giving God the same credibility you would give anyone else, even a complete stranger. And do not let any experience you or someone else may have had corrupt your thinking where God's Word is concerned. Take a close look at the following Scripture:

### **HEBREWS 6:17-18**

**17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the**

**immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath,**

**18 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.**

Hebrews 6:18 clearly states to us that it is impossible for God to lie. I do not know about you, but I think that is something to shout about. We can have great faith, confidence and credibility in God's Word. We know that a stranger may lie to us, our boss at work, or even our best friend may even lie to us. In fact, our own mother or father may break their word to us. But Almighty God, on the other hand, will **NEVER** lie or break His Word! However, the only way we will experience for ourselves that God's Word is true and faithful is to first give God opportunity to show us personally. But keep in mind that in most cases God will require us to take the first step by acting on His Word.

In the same way that it is impossible for God to lie, it is impossible for us to honor God without believing His Word enough to act on it. Anyone can say they believe, but unless we are willing to take it a step further and act on God's Word, then

we demonstrate by our actions that we really do not believe His Word. I am sure that we all have heard the saying, “Actions speak louder than our words.” Remember Hebrews 11:6.

## **HEBREWS 11:6**

**6 But without faith it is impossible to please [honor] Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

There are two main reasons why it is impossible to honor God without faith. First, if we do not believe His Word, then by default we are calling Him a liar. Secondly, God takes pleasure and honor in rewarding and prospering all those who serve Him.

## **PSALMS 35:27**

**27 Let them shout for joy and be glad, who favor my righteous cause; and let them say continually, "Let the LORD be magnified, who has pleasure in the prosperity of His servant."**

Even though God takes pleasure, honoring, rewarding and prospering those who serve Him, there is absolutely no way for us to receive any of the promises of God apart from faith in God's Word. If we do not believe God's Word then we

will not be able to receive His promises, power or provision. How would we even know what His promises are or what has been made available to us apart from His Word? Everything we receive from God must come through believing and acting on the promises revealed to us in the scriptures.

Our faith is the only thing that will ever connect us to the promises of God. Our faith gives us access to God's grace and victory over the devil. That's right, I said the devil! If we believe in God's Word then we had better believe there is an evil spirit called the devil and he has many fallen angels called demons that work overtime with him.

As much as God loves and wants to bless us, the devil hates and wants to kill us. But the devil knows that our faith in God's Word is the one thing he can never overcome. That is why the devil works so hard to distract us and keep us from using our faith. The devil knows that our faith in God's Word of truth has the power to set us free. But if we walk in fear and doubt then we open a wide door of opportunity for the devil to come in, gain control of our lives and keep us in bondage.

## **1 JOHN 5:4**

**4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.**

The number one way the devil attacks our faith is to cast doubt on what we believe, specifically, the truth and authority of God's Word. Notice that I said, "He attacks our faith." The devil really does not care about us so much but he is scared silly by our faith in God's Word. In fact, when you speak and confess God's Word the devil cannot tell if it is you or God speaking through you. We can see a good example of the devil casting doubt, when he came to Eve in the Garden of Eden, working through the serpent.

## **GENESIS 3:1**

**1 Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"**

This tactic of the devil to cast doubt on the truth and authority of God's Word is not new, nor is it a problem, as long as we know ourselves what God has said. God may speak to us by a promise in His

Word or the Holy Spirit may speak a promise or Word directly to us personally. As long as we stay grounded in God's Word and do not allow ourselves to be distracted by circumstances or feelings, then the devil will have nothing to use against us.

The devil does not walk by faith, rather he is only able to go by what he sees. The devil knows that he cannot overcome us when we walk by faith in God's Word. So he works overtime to undermine the truth and authority of God's Word in our lives.

### **EPHESIANS 6:16**

**16    above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.**

The devil tempts us continually to doubt the truth and authority of God's Word. He tries to get us to focus our attention on our feelings and the things we perceive by our physical senses, or on our circumstances, or on his lies. He doesn't care what you focus on so long as it is not the Word of God. If we allow this to happen, knowingly or by ignorance, then it is only a matter of time until we fall, cave in, and dig up our faith seed.

We cannot afford to talk about and focus on our circumstances and still expect God's Word to deliver us. So stay grounded on the truth and authority of God's Word and do not allow any circumstance, feeling, or even any well-meaning person to distract your faith. Glance at your problems but keep a steady faith-filled focus on the promises found in the Word of God.

## **2 CORINTHIANS 5:7**

**7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

As strange and awkward as it may seem at times we have to get used to walking by faith because faith is the way of God. Faith is not something we pull out once in a while to help us get out of a pickle or a jam. How many people do you know that every time they get into trouble they run to God, and as soon as they are delivered from their troubles, they go right back to doing the same things that got them into trouble in the first place? Remember that faith in God's Word needs to become a way of life, not merely some kind of quick fix.

## **ROMANS 1:17**

**17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written,**

**"The just [honorable] shall live [as a lifestyle] by faith."**

We will walk in greater degrees of victory and glory as we make God and His Word the first and final authority in our lives. We need to learn to speak God's Word over our lives like a prophet, words of life and not death. Calling things, which are not currently manifest as though they were already manifested. Continue to stand on God's promises by meditating on His Word. Speak and Confess God's promises out loud over your life everyday and learn not to cast away your faith in the middle of trials, and especially, when it does not seem as though anything is happening to your faith seed. A farmer does not dig up his seeds to see if they are growing. Rather, the farmer knows they are growing and he knows they will produce their fruit in due season if properly tended.

Remember to continue to stand with patience and meditate on God's promises. In time, the promises we are standing on will get so big in our heart that we cannot contain them anymore and they will overflow out of our mouth quite naturally. We need to get to a place where the promise we are standing on is no longer only a mental exercise of confession (although it may be at first). But the

promise we are standing on needs to become part of our heart, flowing out of us naturally with power, without thinking about it mentally. Before we know it we will be talking about it without even realizing it.

Nevertheless, keep in mind that before we will be able to receive and possess the promises of God in the natural realm, we must receive the promises of God in our heart and we must see ourselves already possessing them by faith. And the way we do it is by speaking into existence the promises that do not yet exist, in the natural realm, as though they already did.

Realize that faith is like a spiritual circuit that the power of God travels over. And like electricity the power of God is released and transferred through the wires of faith. On the contrary, unbelief has the power to break our connection and insulate us from receiving God's power and help. That is why the devil works overtime to get us to turn off the power switch and abort our stand of faith. But, in the end, he cannot make us do anything once we have made up our mind because believing, like doubting, is a choice.

**John 20:25**

**25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."**

It is quite obvious from the scripture above that Thomas made a choice not to believe the testimony of the other disciples after the Lord had first appeared to them.

Never think for a minute that you do not have what it takes to believe God. Faith and believing are simply a choice. Similarly, doubt and worry are also a choice. That is why walking by faith starts with a quality decision to believe God's Word above all else. Faith will not work in an atmosphere of indecision.

Indecision, also known as, wavering, doubting, or being double minded will always corrupt our faith.

**James 1:6-8**

**6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.**

**7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;**

**8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

So make the choice to believe that God's Word is the final authority where your faith is concerned. Take a faith stand and do not change your mind. Believe and act on God's Word despite any circumstances, emotions, feelings or any doubtful thoughts that may arise in your mind and run contrary to God's Word and His promises. You can make a choice to believe with your heart and still have thoughts of doubt that may pop into your mind. But do not let doubtful thoughts change your mind, rather cast them down.

**2 Corinthians 10:5**

**5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;**

**Hebrews 10:35-36**

**35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence [faith], which has great reward.**

**36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:**

Walking by faith takes courage and will always take you out of your comfort zone. And even though walking by faith may seem backward or strange at times, do it anyway. In time it will become a way of life.

**1 SAMUEL 2:30**

**30 ...for those who honor Me I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.**

**1 JOHN 5:4**

**4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.**

Faith in God's Word will always produce the results God promised. Understand that no one ever took a stand on God's Word, made a choice to believe God and failed to receive. If there is ever a failure to receive from God it can always be traced back to a failure on our part to appropriate God's Word and the principles that govern faith.

Ultimately, we should all want to be successful in our Christian walk and have faith that honors our Father in heaven. And as we put these principles into practice we will be well on our way to harvesting God's promises and experiencing victorious living in Christ.

But remember that walking by faith will almost always contradict present circumstances. Real faith always looks beyond the present circumstances and focuses on the promises of God. When you make the choice to honor God and the truth and authority of His Word above and beyond anything else, then you open the door for God to honor your faith. That is faith that honors God.



# Would you like to know Jesus?

Read this page carefully and then pray.

## **ROMANS 10:9-11**

**9 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.**

**10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

**11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." (NKJ)**

Understand that salvation is not just reciting a prayer but salvation is opening your heart to Jesus and making Him Lord of your life.

Now pray: Jesus forgive me for my sins. I turn from my sins and I receive you, Jesus, as my Lord and Savior. I ask you to come into my heart and take control of my life. I believe you took my place and died for me on the cross and I believe that God raised you from the dead. I thank you for saving me and revealing yourself to me in a personal and intimate way. In Jesus name, amen.

We encourage you to contact this ministry. We want to help you get started in the right direction in your walk with the Lord.



## About the Author

William A. Lee has been a Christian since 1985 and he has earned a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies. He completed courses in biblical studies at Crenshaw Christian Center's Ministry Training Institute and the International School of Ministry. He has taught on the life-changing power of God's Word with revelation knowledge and insight to help bring believers up to higher levels of maturity and victory in Christ.

William is a man with a message. Many years ago the Lord led him into an extensive study on the subject of honor and integrity. This study ultimately culminated in the writing of nine books on the subject to date, in addition to many other books on various biblical topics.

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