

Understanding Faith

Why Do You Need To Understand Faith?

1. To make any kind of spiritual and material progress
Faith is a spiritual law of the kingdom that helps you function in the spiritual realm. (**Romans 3:27**)

Without understanding and applying the the law of faith correctly, you cannot make any progress in the realm of the spirit, and consequently in your present physical environment and circumstances. Your physical world is governed by the spiritual one, believe it or not.

2. To please God
Without faith, you cannot please God in this new year no matter what resolutions you make (**Hebrews 11:6**). They need to be approached by faith. It doesn't say without prayer or without good works or without holiness, but without faith.

The Definition of Faith - Romans 4:13-22

- v. 17 – God gives life to the dead – dead womb, dead business, dead body, dead bank account.
 - God is a miracle God – He gives life to the dead
 - God is also a faith God – He calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Definition – Faith is calling into material existence things that are real in the spiritual realm (and that you possess, have a right to them), but don't exist yet in the natural realm.

- God didn't change Abram's name into Abraham so that Abraham would become the father of many nations, but He changed His name to correspond with what God already made him to be.
- Faith is not calling things that are as though they are not. Faith is not calling things that do exist as though they don't exist. Ex: this sickness doesn't exist.

Truths about Faith – Romans 4:13-22

- v. 18, 19 – He believed in the hope of the promise of God that he will become the father of many nations, against the hope of the outward situation (his own body good as dead and the barrenness of Sarah's womb) – ex: human's way of saying "in this situation you can only hope for that and that"

Truth 1 – Weak faith considers the opposing circumstances, while strong faith doesn't consider them.

- The negative circumstances exist, they are there real and tangible, but you don't consider them. You refuse to be weak in faith.

Truth 2 – Faith is for the present life.

- Faith in the Bible is always in relation to the things of this world, our present circumstances and not dreaming about the future world. In the future world, you will no longer have giants to fight by faith, and you will not need faith anymore. Faith is relevant here on earth where we make exploits for our God and put the devil to shame.
- **Things seen are always things of this earth**, and the unseen things are not dreams about the future life, but things from God that you already have and are supposed to replace the negative seen ones.

- What were the seen things in Abraham's case? His body and Sarah's barrenness. What were the unseen things? The promise of God which was a sure thing.

Truth 3 – Faith is for overcoming.

- Faith is almost always connected to overcoming and not passively being stepped on by the negative circumstances of life. In our era, whenever something bad happens to us, it was either a hidden will of God that we don't know of or He must want us to grow in patience or He wants to teach us something that we don't know of. Everything is mysterious. It's interesting that in the Old Testament, always whenever the people of God experienced defeat, it meant God wasn't with them. If God was with them, they always overcame.
- Besides persecution for the name of Jesus and situations that afflict us but infringe the free will of other people, the rest we are supposed to overcome by faith. Any work of darkness that the devil tries to put on us (sickness, poverty, debt, depression, anxiety, fear, addictions, sinful deeds), we can and we are suppose to overcome them, not be trampled upon by them. (**1 John 5:4**).
- Many times fear attacks your mind and keeps you there usually:
 - Because you don't know or you are not sure if God's will for you to overcome in that particular situation
 - Because you don't feel spiritual and holy enough
 - Because you simply believe more that you see than what you know to be true.

Truth 4 – All fear is actually faith in the negative circumstances more than in the word of God.

- **Continuous growth in faith** - Your faith will always keep growing into something: either the circumstances of this world or the word of God.
- Watch what happens when you're faced with a problem:
 - If you are overcome and trampled upon by it, God doesn't get any glory from you or other people and your faith/confidence in the negative grows = fear.
 - If you overcome it by faith in the word of God, God gets all the glory both from you and other people around you, and your faith grow.
- Ex: The 3 young men, Daniel, David and Goliath, my child/your children and their challenges.
 - Which are things seen vs unseen
 - Did they overcome or were stepped on?
 - Did God get the glory?
 - What happened with their/your faith?
- v. 20 – Weak faith wavers and staggers between 2 opinions. Elijah is asking the Baal worshippers: how long will you be halting between 2 opinions (**1 Kings 18:21**). Today you believe, tomorrow you don't, and so on.

Truth 5 – Weak faith wavers and staggers between the unseen promise of God and the visible reality, but strong faith gives glory to God and testifies with the mouth what God has already done.

- And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony (**Revelation 12:11**).
- v. 21 – Abraham was fully assured, fully persuaded, fully convinced.
- How do you become fully persuaded? By feeding your faith with the word of God (**Romans 10:17**)