

Ever Increasing Faith – Lesson 3

2 Thessalonians 1:3

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.

- Let's talk about what causes our faith to grow and obstacles to our faith walk
- One thing is for certain, faith pleases God and He wants our faith to grow and increase

Hebrews 11:6, “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”

Question: Do you have any examples of faith victories you have had in the last little while?

Faith, Hope and Love

1 Corinthians 13:13

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

- The Trichotomy of the Christian Faith
- We had already talked about hope, being the goal, dream or the target for our faith
- We talked about faith, the action of speaking and believing God's Word in our heart
- Now let's talk a little about love – faith works by love

Galatians 5:6 AMP

“...but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love.”

- Love is the motive and the reason for our faith to work, it keeps it in bounds- God's will
- Love is the fulfillment of the law in Romans 13:10; keeps our motives pure- James 4:1-3
- One step out of love is one step into sin which short-circuits our faith- Mark 11:25
- When faith is anchored in hope and motivated by love, it will work powerfully!

1 Thessalonians 1:3

We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Question: What is the difference between believing with the heart and head knowledge?

- One of the greatest challenges to the western church is our education system
- Don't get me wrong knowledge is important and we should desire training

However the clear and present danger is if we approach the Bible merely academically as a source of information like we would other literature, math or science we will accumulate head knowledge which is not enough to operate in Bible believing faith.

1 Corinthians 8:1-3, "We know that we all possess knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. The man who thinks he knows something does not yet know as he ought to know. But the man who loves God is known by God."

- **Please Read:** John 20:24-29
- Millions of people in North America have a knowledge of Jesus but are not saved
- Many are religious and adhere to a cultural Christianity but are not born again
- So mere knowledge of the Bible is not enough
- Many are educated in their minds about God, but their hearts are far from Him

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.

In John 6:63, Jesus said, "*The words I have spoken unto you are spirit and they are life.*" God's Word that is conceived in your heart, then formed by the tongue, and spoken out of your own mouth, becomes a spiritual force releasing the ability of God within you. When God's creative Word is spoken from your heart in faith- all things are possible to those who believe!

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

- Be specific with the seed (promises) of God's Word you plant in your heart
- Confession of that Word in our heart is what releases faith to move mountains

Hebrews 10:23 AMP

So let us seize and hold fast and retain without wavering the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is reliable (sure) and faithful to His word.

Words break us or make us, save us or destroy us. Christianity is known as the great confession. We will never rise above our confession of God's Word in our life. Confession brings possession, it is the act of mixing God's Word with faith that brings results.

Question: What promise(s) in God's Word are you confessing on a regular basis?

We will never rise above our confessions of God's Word. The confession of our lips that has grown out of faith in our heart will absolutely beat the devil in every combat. If an individual does not believe in his heart the confession of his lips are making, then it will not work.

The words we speak set the land marks of our lives, we will never rise above the confession of God's Word. Words fix the direction and destiny that we will arrive to- Dt. 30:19; Joshua 24:15.

- Words locate us spiritually (what's in your heart)- Matthew 12:34-35; Proverbs 16:23
- Set the landmarks of your life (if you say you can't than you can't)- James 3:3-4
- Words we speak will affect our spirit- Proverbs 18:4-8

Beware of Fear

- Fear comes in many forms and is very subtle; anxiety and worry are forms of fear
- **Please Read:** 2 Corinthians 10:1-5

Thoughts that are in our head may have been placed there by people or the devil, but until we speak them out and take ownership of them, those seeds (words & thoughts) will die unborn.

- Giving into fear opens the door to the devil; it's sin we need to repent of it- Ro. 14:23
- Fear is the opposite of Faith, it's simply faith in the devil to do what he threatens us with
- Jesus never pandered to fear as ever acceptable, neither should we- Matthew 8:23-37
- People give excuses for being afraid, even legitimize it as being responsible- for children
- Remember what happened to Job, who through fear opened the door to the devil
- Job 3:25, *"What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me."*