

# Faith in God

---

- Hebrews 6:1, “... and faith in God.” The ABC’s of Faith

Before we dive headlong into the wonderful world of faith, let’s first look at the beautiful trinity of Faith, Hope and Love and how faith is complemented by hope and love.

## 1 Corinthians 13:13

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

- I believe these three are represented by gold, silver & costly stones in- **1 Cor. 3:12**
- Any endeavor in God requires all three operating together in unison

## 1 Thessalonians 1:3

We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith (1Tim. 1:4), your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

### Hope:

- Worldly hope is a flimsy form of wishing for something to come to pass
  - o It’s like I hope to win the lottery- it’s a form of luck or gambling
  - o Saying “well I sure hope God will answer my prayer” is not faith- **1 Jn. 5:14-15**
- Bible hope is based on God’s Word and is an eager expectation- **Ro. 4:18; 5:4-5**

## Philippians 1:20-21

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

- Hope is also inspired by the Holy Spirit through joy- **Ro. 12:12; 15:4, 13**
- Hope is so powerful, that when people lose it, they lose the will to live- **1 Th. 4:13**
- Our faith is based on the hope held out in the Gospel- **Tit. 1:2; 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:3, 13, 21**
- Col. 1:27, “... Christ in you, the hope of glory”
- Hope energizes us to live for God and endure hardships- **Ro. 15:4; 2 Cor. 3:12; 1 Jn. 3:3**
- Hope is always future tense- this is really important to understand- **Ro. 8:18-25**
- If it’s not now, than it’s not faith; hope is the blueprint, dream and the vision for faith

**Col 1:5**, “The faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven”

## Love:

- Gal 5:6, *"The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."*
  - o Faith works by love and love works by faith
- Love ensures that our motives are right & our intentions are pure- **Jas. 4:1-6; 1 Jn. 3:19**

**1 Tim. 1:5**, "The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

- Our faith works only when we walk in love- let's be quick to forgive and repent
  - o Prayer is based on loving God by loving others- **Mk. 11:25-26**
  - o Love for God is to obey His commands = walking in love- **1 Jn. 5:1-5**

**2 John 6**, "And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love."

- Love is the reason we exercise faith- **1 Jn. 3:16-18; 4:7-21**
- 1 Cor. 13:2, *"if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."*
- Faith does not put pressure on people to change, walk in love and turn it over to God
- 1 Cor. 13:8, *"Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]."*
- Like faith, love can grow and increase (**2 Th. 1:3**)- both are fruits of our recreated spirit

**Philippians 1:9**, "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight."

## 1 Thessalonians 3:12

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else.

## Now Faith Is

- **Please Read: Hebrews 11:1-3**      *Now Faith Is the substance of hope & evidence*

**Hebrews 11:1 AMP**, "NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]."

**Hebrews 1:3 AMP**, "Jesus is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power."

- It was through Faith that God created the universe- Mighty Word of power- **Heb. 1:1-3**
- Bible confession is simply agreeing with/speaking God's Word- **1 Tim. 6:12-13; Heb. 3:1**

- Faith in God is simply taking Him at His Word – anything less calls God a liar
- When people think of confession, it's about sin; so much more- **Jas. 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:9**
  - o Confessing who we are, what we have and what we can do through Jesus Christ
- **Please Read: Matthew 16:13-16** *Christianity is known as the Great Confession*
- **2 Cor. 5:7**, states that we “Walk by faith and not by sight” – faith is not a feeling
- **Ro. 14:23**, declares that everything that does not come from faith is sin

**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.”

So, what do we use our Faith for?

- By Faith we take hold of the promises of God- **Ro. 5:2; Gal. 3:22; 2 Pet. 1:1-11**
- By Faith we enter into the rest of God- **Mt. 11:28-30; Acts 3:19; Heb. 4:1-11**
- By Faith we do the work of God- **2 Cor. 1:24; 1 Th. 1:3; 1 Tim. 1:4**
- By Faith we overcome trials, tests and temptations- **2 Th. 1:4; Jas. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:5-9**

## 2 Thessalonians 1:11

By his power may he fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.

Through Faith

**Ephesians 2:8-9**, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.”

- The promises in the Bible are all given by God's grace and received through our faith
- This is how we received salvation and this is how we receive anything from God

Three kinds of Faith

- *Natural Human Faith*: believing with the five senses (Thomas kind of faith)- **Jn. 20:24-29**
- *Bible Faith*: Christians believing God's Word in their heart – **2 Th. 3:2 ; 2 Pet 1:3**
- *Special Faith*: **1Cor.12:7-9**- God's faith operating through us to believe for the impossible

Faith vs Unbelief

- **Please Read: Numbers 13:17-14:12** *Israel serves as an example*
- **Heb. 3:19**, “So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.”
- Unbelief is a rebellious and stubborn refusal to believe- deliberate rejection of truth
- Doubt is to waver, double-minded and be tossed back and forth- **Eph. 4:14; Jas. 1:5-8**
- Unbelief is of the heart and being double minded is in the head- doubts and unsure
- Cure for unbelief is repentance and the cure for doubt is to renew the mind with Word

**Romans 4:16**, “Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring.”

## The Word of Faith

The “Word of Faith” message is not a charismatic fad that is here today and gone tomorrow, nor is it a label for a Christian denomination or representative of some religious group.

- **Please Read: Deuteronomy 30:11-16; Romans 10:5-17**
- The two guiding principles: 1<sup>st</sup> Word in our mouth and 2<sup>nd</sup> Word in our heart
- Word of Faith’s goal is to get the Word into our heart, and not just our head
- Believing with our heart verses believing out of our head is a critical point
- Mental assent is a counterfeit to real faith; merely head knowledge or premature faith
  - o It intellectually agrees with the Bible as merely information and is very passive
  - o Examples: **Acts 19:11-17** (7 sons of Sceva); **John 20:24-29** (Doubting Thomas)
- While the Word is getting into our heart, it is also renewing our mind- thinking
- Our minds need to be renewed with the Word as it opens the door to our spirit

### Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed(*metamorfo*) by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- A simple definition of faith is: To act on what we believe in our heart
- According to **Ro. 12:3**, as Christians we all start out with the same measure of faith
- Our faith can grow 2 Th. 1:3, “...because your faith is growing more and more”

**2 Corinthians 10:15**, “Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand.”

- Our faith grows by hearing the Word and putting it into practice- **Ro. 10:17; Lk. 6:47**
- We ingest, consume and eat God’s Word by speaking it- **Jer. 15:16; Pr. 4:20-23**
- Meditate means to “Speak out loud”; with the tongue we plant the Word in our heart
  - o **Jos. 1:8; Ps. 1:1-3; 119:148; Isa. 59:21; 55:10; Ps. 19:14; 141:3**
- What we meditate and think on is what we are going to believe and thus receive
- Ps 119:11, “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

Our actions expressed in obedience to God’s Word will produce the blessings of God in our life- that is a spiritual law, we are going to reap what we sow. So if there is an area in our life where we are struggling to obey God, find the Scriptures that cover that area and begin meditating on them. Over the course of time, our mouth will change our behavior- **Jas. 3:2**

## Power of Words

The first stage of confessing God's Word is doing little more than causing faith to come. This is not a formula. This is a way of life. The only way we can measure our faith is to measure the amount of Word that is in our heart. The Kingdom of God within us grows as our faith grows. Our faith grows only as we meditate on the Word of God- not about Bible memorization.

**Pr. 18:21** "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those that love it will eat its fruit."

Confession is affirming (agreeing with God) something that we believe, it's testifying to something that we know and it's witnessing to a truth that we've embraced. We are to confess what Jesus has done for us in redemption, who we are in Him and what God wants to do through us.

- Words are containers, substance of spirit and life- **Jn. 6:63; Heb. 4:12**
- All of God's Power is in His Word according to **Hebrews 1:3 AMP**
  - Upholding & maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His **mighty word of power**
- Key to understanding & operating in the principles of faith- understand power of words
- Christianity is known as the great confession- **1 Tim. 6:12; Heb. 3:1; 4:14; 10:23**
- 3 kinds confession: Jesus' Lordship- **Ro.10:9**; Believer's sins- **1Jn.1:9**; Promises- **2Pet. 1:2**
- The confession of the believer does a few things
  - 1<sup>st</sup> it locates us spiritually: in faith, fear or doubt- **Mt. 12:33-37** (out of overflow)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> it fixes the landmarks of our life (what we receive)- **Num. 13:26-33; Jas. 3:3-12**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> what we speak affects our spirit- **Pr. 18:4, 8**

We will not receive beyond what we say. If we say we can't, then we can't- we get nothing. But if we say we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, then we can. The reason the majority of Christians are weak even though they are earnest, is that they have never dared to make a confession of who they are in Jesus. How do we do this? First, we must realize how God looks at us, and confess it! Then boldly confess what the Word declares we are in Christ Jesus. As we do this, our faith will abound. The reason faith is held in bondage is that we have never dared to confess what God says we are. Faith, then, grows with our confession of God's Word. There is no faith without confession! Confession is classified as an action, or act of releasing, putting into force our faith- it's faith's way of expressing itself. Our faith will rise no higher than our confession of God's Word.

- God never does anything without saying it first- **Num. 23:19; Ps. 33:11; Isa. 46:11**
- Luke 8:11, *"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God."*

When God's creative Word is spoken, it becomes an active spiritual force that works night and day to bring about the fulfillment of that spoken Word of God- **Isa. 55:10-11; Mk. 4:26-29**

## **Luke 17:20-21**

Once, having been asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, "The kingdom of God does not come with your careful observation, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is within you."

Faith works in our spirit. The kingdom of God is in our spirit, that is the ground in which the seed of God's Word is sown. The spirit of man is the production center for God's Kingdom. Find the promises in God's Word that covers the need, and begin sowing them in your heart.

In God's economy, our needs are not met by a magic wand method of, "Puff" here is our new car, or "Puff" we are now strong in our love walk. God always takes what we have sown and multiplies it- Widow at Zarephath 1 Kings 17:7-16; Widow in debt 2 Kings 4:1-7.

- Remember all the times Jesus multiplied what was given to Him- **Lk. 9:10-17**
- So God meets all our needs by multiplying the seed we sow- **Mk. 4:13-29; Jn. 12:24**
  - We sow God's Word when we speak God's Word- **1 Cor. 3:6**
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Law of Genesis is that everything produces after its own kind- **Gen. 1:11-12, 29**
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> law of Genesis is about timing- the law of seed time and harvest- **Gen. 8:20-22**
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> law of Genesis is God's provision- increase & multiplication- **Mk.4:20; 2Cor.9:10**
- All things that pertain to life and godliness; His promises- **2 Pet. 1:1-4; 2 Cor. 1:18-22**
- Seed faith principles; the power of words, the creative force of the tongue
  - **Gen. 1:11-12, 29; 8:22; Ps. 33:6,9; Pr. 18:21; Mk. 4:26; Jn. 6:63; 1 Pet. 1:23**
- Our Faith grows as we speak it and act on it- **Mt. 7:21-27; Lk. 8:21; Jas. 1:22-25; 2:14-26**
- Faith begins where the will of God is known - **1 Jn. 5:14-15**
- God's word is God's will and the Bible is God speaking to us- final authority- **1 Th. 2:13**

## **2 Corinthians 10:15**

"Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand."

- Pr. 21:23, *"He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity."*
- Words will either work for us or against us, they don't show favoritism- laws

Those that say they can, and those that say they can't are both right. Words are the most powerful thing in the universe. The words we speak will either put us over or hold us in bondage. Unfortunately, when it comes to prayer, many of us pray the problem instead of the answer. We bind God's hands from working on our behalf because of our unbelief. Praying and speaking the problem only makes it bigger, and releases the devil to enforce it more in our lives. We need to train ourselves to agree with, and only speak God's Word out of our mouths.

## Spirit of Faith

God's Word that is conceived in our heart, then formed by the tongue, and spoken out of our own mouth, becomes a spiritual force releasing the ability of God within us. The spoken Word of God is creative power. The kingdom of God responds to faith filled words. The power to do it was in the spoken Word. One translation of the Bible (The concordant literal NT) puts Luke 1:37 this way, *"It will not be impossible with God to fulfill his every declaration."*

**2 Corinthians 4:13**, "It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak."

- The Spirit of Faith picks up where the Word of Faith leaves off
- Word of Faith gets the Word in our spirit; Spirit of Faith speaks Word from our heart
- The Word of Faith is confession unto faith; Spirit of Faith is a confession of faith- release
- Jesus operated continually in the Spirit of Faith- everything He said came to pass
- The Spirit of Faith is what moves the mountains of circumstances out of our lives

**Luke 17:3-6**, "If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, 'I repent,' forgive him.' The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' He replied, 'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you.'"

**Mark 11:22-24**, "Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.'"

The mountain has no choice when we operate in the Spirit of Faith! We are calling it the way we want it; not the way it appears. The mountain of problem must obey, it has no other choice. Notice in the ministry of Jesus, that He talked to trees, to the wind, sea, dead people, and demons- they all obeyed Him. Jesus always operated in the Spirit of Faith; that is why everything He said came to pass. He did not have to meditate on the Scriptures through the Word of Faith principles in order to get the Word in His heart like we do. That is why many Christians get confused when nothing happens. When speaking to the mountain, they have overlooked the precondition to faith; believe in their heart, what they say will come to pass.

- Mark 9:23. "'If you can?'" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."
- Mark 16:17, "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my Name..."

In summary, we first operate in the “Word of Faith” principles in order to get the Word down into our heart through speaking the Word. At some point, that Word gets into our heart, and is transformed into the “Spirit of Faith.” This spoken Word from our heart is what brings the promises of God into manifestation in our life and moves the mountains of circumstances.

### **Romans 10:8**

### **The Word of Faith is a Confession Unto Faith**

But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming.

### **2 Corinthians 4:13**

### **The Spirit of Faith is a Confession Of Faith**

It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.

#### **Word Of Faith:**

- Faith Begins Where The Will Of God Is Known. Finding the Word of Promise.
- Meditation of God’s Word to Produce Faith (Seed) In The Heart of Man.
- The Process of Renewing the Mind, And Removing Doubts & Fears.
- The Seed of God’s Word Has Been Planted And Is Ready For Germination.

#### **Spirit Of Faith:**

God’s Will Is Already Ascertained Through The Revelation of God’s Word in the Heart.

Confession of Faith from the Heart Is Now Directed To The Mountain Of Circumstances to move it out of the way.

Watering and Caring for the Seed That Is Already In Process To Produce A Harvest.

The Seed Has Been Germinated, Grown And Has Now Produced A Harvest, 30, 60, 100 Fold.

- Be mindful of not overloading your faith; a reason why it does not work sometimes
- Need to learn patience, a lot things don’t happen overnight- **Heb. 6:12**
- Many Messianic prophecies were spoke hundred and thousands of years in advance
- **Please Read: Romans 4:16-21**      *Spirit of Faith = Being Fully Persuaded!*

Remember, we will not attain water walking faith overnight. Just because we are tired of taking that medicine that keeps us alive, is no reason to just say, “Well bless God today I’m going to start living by faith.” We will more than likely die by faith if we have not developed it, and have received a full manifestation of healing in our body first. Just keep taking that medicine, and believe God at the same time, until it is no longer necessary to take it anymore.