

# THE LAW OF FAITH

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## PREFACE

There is a little-known law that has profound implications on life on the earth, but most of the inhabitants on earth are ignorant of its power. We use this law daily, but those who acknowledge the existence of this law still cannot begin to fathom its power. Many scholars have conducted experiments with the aim to prove this law, without success, because this law is spiritual, and man has no control over it and how it works. This little-known law is the law of faith.

This law, just like the laws of gravity, thermodynamics and more, has been established to govern life on earth. Did all these laws we now learn from science spring up out of nothing or have these laws been established on earth for the benefit of man? Surely, someone greater than us humans must have put them in place to support life on earth. Who is that someone and how do we get to know Him?

Deeply buried in our hearts is the hope that we can live forever. Scientists are conducting countless experiments to determine if man can live forever, and the wealthy are sponsoring these experiments in the hope that science deliver their hope. However, the answer to their hope has always existed since the beginning of life on earth, but not many men have drilled into finding out the power of faith that leads to eternal life. Some, out of confusion, are trying to create their own law of faith, because of a lack of self-restraint.

Hopefully, at the end of this study, you will come to the conclusion that faith is the vital link between mankind and its Creator and you will also become fully aware that the law of faith is the missing dimension of life that leads to eternal life.

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## Chapter One

### INTRODUCTION

What is the purpose of life? Why are we alive today and where do we go after this? These are the questions we should be ready to answer, but most of us alive today have no idea why we are alive? However, that same majority will readily give you details of the latest entertainment, show business, sports and world news. This world is geared to promote everything that adds no value to our lives spiritually, but we cannot see past our very own noses. Some will say it is an opinion. Yes, it is an opinion, and we all have one, but it doesn't take away the truth. The truth will always prevail in the end.

We have all been given senses: to hear, see, taste, smell and feel, which facilitates our life here on earth. Many rely on these senses to such an extent that they shut out their ability to believe. Some will gladly profess not to believe in anything they cannot see. This character trait is extremely detrimental to the lives of those who make such professions because they are, in essence, closing the door to the spiritual aspects of life. The reality is the fact that these people are being deceived, because we have all been given a measure of the basic ability to believe; if not, life will be extremely difficult. We all exercise that belief in our daily lives which enable to perform certain tasks. Our confidence, which is the ability to be able to perform our talents, stems from the ability to believe, which is given to every living soul from birth. This ability to believe is the foundation of the spiritual part of our lives.

The composition of every human being is a spirit that gives life to the soul. Both the spirit and soul are housed in a physical body, the part we see. The spirit is the most important of the three because without the spirit, the body and soul will become lifeless.

#### **James 2:26** New King James Version (NKJV)

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

When we understand that it is the spirit that gives life, it should give us a better perspective of life, with the realisation of the fact that the spiritual aspects of life are more important than the physical. But we have been led to be dominated by the physical more than the spiritual. There is a law that could change the way of the world we live in today if only we could all understand and apply it to our lives. It is pivotal, that we all understand the law of

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cause and effect. The reality is, if we could find and then eliminate the cause of a problem, the effect of that problem would also disappear. But we are all bent on dealing with the effect of our problems instead of finding the cause. The issue here is simple. Most of our problems today are spiritual which started at the very beginning when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commandment. It could have been any one of us if God had created us in place of Adam. God gave Adam a commandment which states:

### **Genesis 2:15-17 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>15</sup> Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

As stated in the above passage of Scripture, Eve was not present when Adam was given the command. God told Adam not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil with the consequence of disobeying the command being death. On the day Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they died and physical death entered the world.

### **Genesis 3:1-7 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>1</sup> 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'?"*

*<sup>2</sup> And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup> but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "*

*<sup>4</sup> Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

*<sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.*

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On that day, man died spiritually. The Spirit of God left Adam and Eve the very instant they disobeyed God's commandment. That vital connection between God the Creator and man left man, and that gap was filled by the spirit of disobedience. The physical manifestation of Adam and Eve losing the Spirit of God was the fact that they became aware that they were naked. There is a passage of Scripture that gives us a comparison of what Adam and Eve must have looked like:

**Matthew 17:2 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>2</sup> and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.*

Adam was given custody of the earth, and the light that clothed him was his righteousness that came from the Spirit of God. When the Spirit of God departed, they realised they were naked because their eyes became open to the physical world. Secondly, shame and fear fell on them because they had lost the faith that came from the Spirit of God:

**Genesis 3:8-11 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"*

*<sup>10</sup> So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"*

Hiding from God was not only due to being aware they were naked, but also because they became carnally minded. The Lord inspired the apostle Paul to give us the meaning and reason of the carnal mind:

**Romans 8:6-7 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.*

Today, all those who are in the household of God go through trials. This is not a new practice, since it started from the very beginning when God created man on the earth. It is

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the way of life in this age. There is a profound, but yet simplistic, reason for that: it is for us to exercise our free will and to test our faith. Consider this passage of Scripture:

## **Job 1:6-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup>Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?"*

*So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."*

*<sup>8</sup>Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"*

*<sup>9</sup>So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? <sup>10</sup>Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. <sup>11</sup>But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"*

A similar scenario took place at the beginning with Adam, and the reward was to have custody over the earth. Satan outwitted Adam, and God gave him custody over the earth. We should remember that Adam was the son of God in charge of the earth. When Satan was given the opportunity to tempt the Lord Jesus Christ, who also is the Son of God, he failed spectacularly, hence, at the appointed time, God will give the Lord Jesus Christ custody over the earth.

## **Luke 4:3-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>3</sup>And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." <sup>4</sup>But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"*

*<sup>5</sup>Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. <sup>7</sup>Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." <sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get*

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*behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'* ”

<sup>9</sup>*Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup>For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,' <sup>11</sup>and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'* ”

<sup>12</sup>*And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.' ” <sup>13</sup>Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.*

The Lord was even handicapped by God, causing Him to fast for forty days, but He had the faith to believe God and withstood the temptations of Satan, which was not over in a matter of minutes, but over the duration of forty days. This was the first assignment God the Father gave the Lord Jesus Christ to complete on His first coming on earth. After completing His first assignment successfully, Satan had no power over the Lord subsequently; the Lord went on to begin the process of re-establishing what Adam had lost.

When Adam fell, Satan was quick to establish his spirit over the earth. Today, that spirit has dominion over the earth, and the fruit of that spirit is like a bright light on the top of a mountain which cannot be hidden:

### **Galatians 5:19-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>19</sup>*Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

One of the fruits of that spirit, which is prevalent throughout the whole world today, was quickly manifested when Cain murdered his brother, Abel. Ironically, God had told Cain he could rule over sin, but he disobeyed God's commandment.

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### **Genesis 4:1-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the LORD." <sup>2</sup>Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. <sup>3</sup>And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the LORD. <sup>4</sup>Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the LORD respected Abel and his offering, <sup>5</sup>but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

<sup>6</sup>So the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup>If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it."

<sup>8</sup>Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Satan, who has the power over death, thought it would be prudent to kill the Lord Jesus Christ and he would remain the custodian over the earth. His plan failed because the Lord was resurrected from the dead. Moreover, death had no power over Him because the Lord had not transgressed any of God's laws and commandments. The Lord was without sin. Transgression and death are a couple that cannot be separated.

The good news is, by His death, the Lord Jesus Christ has restored to all those who repent and believe in the gospel of the kingdom of God the path to everything that Adam lost to Satan at the beginning which includes eternal life. That vital link between man and his Creator has already been re-established.



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## Chapter Two

### MISCONCEPTIONS

The world is troubled by many things. There is always another distraction brewing in the background, with the aim to suck our freedom and peace away from us, but because most of us are ignorant of the origin of these schemes, we are drawn into them headlong. However, the Lord Jesus Christ has already told us that when we come to the knowledge of the truth, the truth shall set us free from all the troubles of this world.

Man, through his many inventions, has devised many ways to keep others away from the truth. When we look at the dictionary definition of the word faith, we conclude that faith is a broad topic, a word that has many meanings, but is it so? From the backdrop of these different meanings, many other inventions have arisen to keep man from the truth. These are all vain practices and empty words which add no value to our lives, but we are thrilled by them because we have been blinded from the truth. Ironically, we all know these are vain practices, but we just cannot help ourselves. But why? True faith is not:

### AN IDEOLOGY

We live in a constantly changing world, but these ideas and changes are nothing new, since they have always existed but in a different format. Ideology is something that people have taken to replace faith. When we look at the ideas of the world today, socialism, communism, colonialism, despotism, fascism, anarchism, Rastafarianism, and more, they have no foundation based on the truth. Will all these ideas continue forever? Will they not soon be taken and cast away as a profane thing?

What is the predicted end of all these ideas? Does it not end in wars, hardship, and keeping people in bondage? The sole reason behind these ideas is the promotion of different ways of keeping people in unbelief. Now, when someone rethinks one of these ideas and implements a few changes to the concept, people are blindly led to believe in everything they say, taking it to be faith. The belief that these ideas are part of faith is not right. Yes, there is the exercise of our belief system, which has been freely given to each one of us, but

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it is used in this instance to believe a lie. It is not true faith. Faith which is a law and a concept is far greater than man's ideas.

## RELIGION

Like many other concepts that exist in the world today, understanding the truth will set us free from what the god of this age has created through man. When we come to the knowledge that there is only one truth and we set our hearts to pursue that truth, it will keep us from the bondage of religion. The god of this present age has created religion to keep us from the knowledge of the truth. Consider this fact: if there is only one true and one ever living God, how come there are so many different religions? Would you call religion faith? Religion is not faith and has nothing to do with true faith.

Religion has been set in place to totally disregard what God has said and commanded us to do so that we can conveniently do what we please. Assuredly, God is not the author of religion because His word would not be truth if He was. There must be another, whose purpose is to keep us from the truth. Satan, the god of this present age, has created religion to deceive us from pursuing the truth.

## CHURCHES AND DENOMINATIONS

Churches and denominations all stem from the many religions we currently have in the world, similarly to the different forms of government that govern the nations on earth. The Lord, in His first coming, said He would build His church and the gates of hell would not prevail against it:

**Matthew 16:16-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*

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The Lord Jesus Christ did not say He would build His churches and denominations but a single church. That church exists today, and many are part of it. But where do the denominations and the many churches come from? We must understand the fact that there is a god who currently rules this age. He has his churches which are confused and cannot agree on simple doctrine and commandments. Most people attend these places simply because of their resistance to God's laws and commandments; they cannot be told what to do. When you observe these churches closely, you will realise they do not keep the laws and commandments of the true God who created the heavens and the earth. These churches and the various religions are called places of faith, and the people are called people of faith, which is far from the true meaning of faith.

## POSITIVE THINKING

To think positively gives us a better outlook on life, but it is not faith. Understanding that time and chance happen to everyone puts things into perspective when we go through the difficult periods of life which come to everyone. The knowledge of the fact that no condition is permanent, unless we make it so, will ease the pain of these troubled times. Positive thinking will give us the confidence to be able to overcome certain difficulties. But for those who are in the household of God and understand the fact that:

### **Psalm 37:23-24 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>23</sup> The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delights in his way. <sup>24</sup> Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholds him with His hand.*

This truth eliminates positive thinking as faith because it depends on the individual and it has nothing to do with God. Yes, even those of the household of God, the body of Christ, must think positively because it creates our surrounding in the world. We cannot change the whole world but being positive affects the life we live in the world. This comes from the fact that, as we trust in the Lord:

### **Psalm 37:3-4 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>3</sup> Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. <sup>4</sup> Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

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When we delight ourselves in the Lord, the Lord will reward us by giving us the desires of our hearts. It will be up to us to then put it into action. If we are not positive with our application of life, we will certainly not fulfil the desires of our hearts. As you can see, faith is not simply positive thinking.

## NAME AND CLAIM

There is a large group of professing believers whose belief is based on naming something and then claiming it. Their rate of success cannot be measured and the majority of what these believers seem to be asking for are all material things. The Lord has said:

**Matthew 6:31-34** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>31</sup> "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

If the Lord our God knows our needs and He has promised to add to us, that is, to give us our needs when we seek first the kingdom of God, and most importantly God's righteousness, should we be involved in naming and claiming? Is this not deception and not faith? If God is not the one empowering this naming and claiming doctrine, then someone else must be doing it. The Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles preach the gospel of the kingdom of God. Any other gospel is not of God and certainly not faith.

## TANGIBLE FEELING

Is faith a feeling? Can we see or feel faith? When we wake up in the mornings, most often before we even get out of bed, we can sometimes tell what sort of mood we are in depending on how well we slept. If we are feeling confident and in a good mood, is it related to faith? We frequently hear people being called a man or woman of faith based on a religion or church affiliation because of the way they conduct themselves in the presence

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of people. Is this true faith? The reality is that all these are not remotely related to true faith. Faith is far deeper than what we can ever imagine without understanding. Consider the fact that the apostle Peter walked on water:

**Matthew 14:27-31** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."*

*<sup>28</sup> And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*

*<sup>29</sup> So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

Before the disciples saw the Lord, all of them were afraid and in a sombre mood because they thought they were all going to perish. If faith were a feeling, Peter would never have asked the Lord to call him out of the boat to walk on water. He could see something more powerful that was beyond the imagination of all those who were with him in the boat. When he started to sink and cried out to the Lord, the Lord questioned his faith, not his feeling. Peter did walk on water in the presence of the Lord, and he could do that by faith because when he was saved from sinking, the Lord said that the apostle Peter was of little faith. So, what is faith?

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## Chapter Three

### WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is what differentiates life from death. That is an audacious statement but here is proof. If we associate our meaning of the word faith based on what has been said in the dictionary, certainly, our understanding of the concept of faith will be very shallow and, as a result, we will deprive ourselves of the awesome rewards of the truth and life. The dictionary definition of faith associates the word faith with trust, belief, confidence, hope, church, religion, denomination, sect and many more. But it falls short of the true meaning of the word faith as defined by God in the Holy Scriptures. Every major doctrine and concept that God has given us has been defined in the Holy Scriptures. Since faith is a major concept and doctrine, we should be certain that there is a definition of faith in the Holy Scriptures.

It is imperative that we understand without any doubt that true faith can only be expressed towards God. Anything short of this is not faith. Faith is the highest of all concepts. Faith is a law.

Faith is the only key that can gain access to the promises of God. If you have been told otherwise, then you have been deceived. Faith is that vital link between God and man. So then, what is faith? Consider this passage of Scripture:

#### **Hebrews 11:1 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>1</sup>Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

The most important concept on earth, on which life hinges is defined by fifteen words. To understand the concept of faith we must come to the knowledge of the fact that faith involves five key components:

- Faith involves substance which is our belief.
- Faith involves things which are the promises of God.
- Faith involves hope which is what we do not have in our possession.
- Faith involves evidence which is the power beyond our control.
- Faith involves things not seen which are spiritual.

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From the understanding that faith can only be expressed towards God, we must also know that faith is also a gift from God. Every soul that has ever lived on earth was given a measure of the gift of faith at birth.

Faith comes in two distinct parts. We have an input in the first part of faith and the second part is completely beyond our control. This therefore means that faith in other words is the assured confidence, that deep conviction, the belief that God is capable of carrying out His promises regardless of the fact that it is beyond our little imagination. This is the part of faith that involves our input. It is in this part, that we exercise the measure of the gift of faith that has been given to every one of us.

The second part of faith is the evidence that is the power that is at work in us. This part of faith is affected by what happens in the first part. This part of faith is spiritual. It is God who works out this part of faith because it involves what He has promised; that is why faith can only be directed towards God. This depends on the Spirit that works in us. If we have the Spirit of God, then our faith will not waver. From the previous passage of Scripture, we read that Peter believed that if the Lord called him out of the boat, then he should be able to walk on water. In asking the Lord to call him out, Peter was engaging the power that is working in the Lord.

### **Matthew 14:27-31** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."*

*<sup>28</sup> And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."*

*<sup>29</sup> So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

As Peter was walking on water, he started relying on his own ability; he knew it was impossible to walk on water, and doubt set in. As a result, he began to sink. Peter believed, but when he began to doubt, he disengaged himself from the power of the Lord which he had no control over. As you can see, the evidence, which is the second facet of faith, is from God, but we can affect that power spiritually.

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There is an awesome passage of Scripture which involves great faith and portrays the working of the first and second facets of faith perfectly: the woman who had an issue of blood:

**Mark 5:25-34** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>25</sup> Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, <sup>26</sup> and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. <sup>28</sup> For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."*

*<sup>29</sup> Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. <sup>30</sup> And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"*

*<sup>31</sup> But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' "*

*<sup>32</sup> And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. <sup>33</sup> But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."*

This woman, like the apostle Peter, believed there was power in the Lord to heal her. Unlike Peter, she did not ask the Lord to heal her but was convicted of the power that was working in the Lord. This gave her the belief that by just touching the Lord's clothes, she would be healed. It would not have happened if she had doubted and taken no action on what she believed. When she touched the Lord's clothes, power went out from the Lord and healed her. As you can see, the first facet of faith, the belief, was present in the woman. The second facet, which she had no control over, was in the Lord and because she was fully persuaded that she would be healed, it happened instantly. This example should be our desire.

During that period, the Lord, who had the full measure of the Spirit of God, was present here on earth. But now, since the return of the Lord to heaven, all those who have truly repented of their sins and are walking in obedience to the laws and commandments of God have been given a measure of the Spirit that is at work in the Lord Jesus Christ. A fruit of



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that Spirit is faith, the faith to do God's will and to access God's promises. We can now do as much as the Lord Jesus Christ depending on the Spirit that is at work in us:

### **Ephesians 3:20-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, <sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

As you can clearly see, the concept of faith involves two parts. The first part of faith depends on what we believe, which is the substance of the things we hope for. This belief can only be directed towards a promise God has made. If we understand that with God all things are possible, it gives us an idea of what faith is. The second part of faith, which is the evidence, is the power that is at work in us.

As mentioned earlier, faith is a spiritual entity. We have no physical input which means no one can boast. It depends on the will of God regarding the promises He has made. It is the Lord who actions our faith and it all depends on His timing because He knows the bigger picture. The only input we have is to follow instructions and do what we have been told and what we believe should be done. The woman with the issue of blood believed and went on to touch the Lord's clothes and her belief was made perfect.

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## Chapter Four

### HOW TO ACQUIRE TRUE FAITH

There are many contrasting teachings on how we can acquire and then grow our faith. Without the knowledge of the truth according to what the Lord has said in the Holy Scriptures, we will not realise the meaning of true faith and how to acquire the faith that is pleasing to God. As we saw in the previous chapter, faith has two facets:

#### OUR BELIEF

God is just and merciful. God created man on earth with both a spiritual and physical dimension. The spiritual dimension is more important because it gives life to the physical dimension. As we understand, God is a Spirit who has chosen not to be visible to us during this age. When God created man on earth, He also gave man the ability to believe. Everyone has been given a measure of this ability for good reasons. One of the many reasons why God has given man this ability is to use it to believe in Him, since we cannot see but we all know in a way that He exists but some choose not to acknowledge Him as God.

#### **Romans 1:18-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

There is no excuse because God's invisible attributes are clearly seen by all, but most people on earth today have chosen not to believe in the God who created them. It is God who puts the spirit that gives life in every one of us individually.

The second reason why God has given us the ability to believe is to support life on earth. Without the ability to believe we would not have confidence to perform our talents. Creativity comes from the belief that something is possible, and we have the confidence to

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perform it. We all use our ability to believe daily. When we express this belief towards God, it becomes what we now know to be the first part of faith. When the Lord Jesus Christ walked the earth in His first coming, He complimented the faith of those who had been healed from various diseases.

## **Luke 17:15-19 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>15</sup>And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup>and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.*

*<sup>17</sup>So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? <sup>18</sup>Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup>And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."*

This is the part of faith: the ability to believe that has been given to each one of us alive today and everyone who has ever lived. This ability to believe becomes faith when it is directed towards God. By acknowledging what God had done, this man was healed.

## **THE POWER IN THE LORD**

The second and most important part of faith is the power that comes from the Spirit of God. Throughout the Holy Scriptures, we realise that none of the prophets who performed mighty miracles could do these miracles without a special dispensation of the Spirit of God. The Lord Jesus Christ was given a full measure of the Spirit of God to be able to perform the duties God the Father had set before Him, even before the foundations of the earth were set in place. When we diligently consider the words of the Lord Jesus Christ when He said:

## **John 14:9-10 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*

The faith of the Lord Jesus Christ came from the fact that He believed in the power of God the Father that dwelled in Him in Spirit. It was God the Father who was doing all the works

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the Lord Jesus Christ did. The Lord told the apostles before He ascended to heaven to remain in Jerusalem until they were empowered by the Spirit of God:

### **Acts 1:4-5** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>4</sup>And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup>for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

The faith which is a fruit of the Spirit of God is the second part of faith that is pleasing to God, as it has been said:

### **Hebrews 11:6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup>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.*

As you can see, from the above passage of Scripture, we must believe first and then, if we please God by diligently seeking to do His ways and be obedient to His voice, he will reward us with the gift of His Spirit that bears the fruits of faith. All those who have been justified must live by this faith.

### **Romans 1:16-17** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

We must be fully persuaded that God is a Spirit and He seeks those who must worship Him in spirit and truth:

### **John 4:21-24** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup>God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

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To be empowered to worship God the Father in spirit and truth, God the Father has made available His Spirit to us, since the Lord Jesus Christ has fully paid the price for what Adam lost in the Garden of Eden and for our sins. Now, our concern is to acquire the Spirit of God.

## HOW TO GET THE SPIRIT OF GOD

The Lord our God has prescribed a path for us to follow in order to acquire the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is a gift from God and no man on earth can pass on this gift on to another person without the permission of God. Forget about the common practice of laying on of hands, especially in our generation of people. That is not the path the Lord has sanctioned through His apostles. The Spirit of God is given to us as a gift after we have met certain conditions. We must first be justified in the sight of God the Father. The process of justification starts with repentance. In the book of Proverbs, the Lord had said if we turn at His rebuke, He will give us His Spirit and make His word known to us:

### **Proverbs 1:20-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup> Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. <sup>21</sup> She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words: <sup>22</sup> "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorers delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. <sup>23</sup> Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.*

The rebuke of the Lord is the call to repentance. The Lord started His ministry with the call to repentance:

### **Mark 1:14-15** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

We must repent first before we can believe the gospel of the kingdom of God. That is the path set by the Lord. The apostle Peter was given the understanding to expound on what the Lord meant when he said:

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## **Acts 2:38-39** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

This is the only path of qualification permissible for us to receive the gift of the Spirit of God. Without repentance, we can never receive the gift of the Spirit of God because repentance is the only foundation. But what does it mean to repent?

The answer is simple but is eluding most of the world. We have all broken the laws and commandments of God which is the definition of sin. To repent, therefore, is to go before God privately and acknowledge the fact that we have not been obedient to His laws and commandments, with the willingness to start keeping His laws and commandments and ask God to forgive us for breaking His laws and commandments. Moreover, we must forgive all those who have transgressed against us. God, who sees the sincerity of our hearts, will then render us justified by washing away all our past sins with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. Thereafter, He will give us the gift of His Spirit to empower us to be obedient to His laws and commandments.

## **Acts 5:29-32** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>29</sup> But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. <sup>31</sup> Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

This is the starting point of the process. Thereafter, we must be baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, who has made it possible by the sacrifice of His life. There is another process involved that is equally as important but overlooked by many professing believers:

## **Acts 3:19-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>19</sup> Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, <sup>20</sup> and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, <sup>21</sup> whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration*

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*of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.*

The Lord had earlier emphasised the importance of the conversion process when He said:

**Matthew 18:2-5** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>2</sup>Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, <sup>3</sup>and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me.*

Without being converted as little children, we will not enter the kingdom of God. This is the beginning of the second process called sanctification. Before the Lord was crucified, He prayed to God the Father to sanctify us by the truth:

**John 17:17** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>17</sup>Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.*

The word of God is the only truth. It runs from Genesis chapter one to the last chapter of the book of Revelation. It is imperative that we study the word of God according to this passage of Scripture:

**Acts 17:10-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>10</sup>Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. <sup>11</sup>These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

If we do not study the Holy Scriptures, we can never come to the knowledge of the truth. Studying in combination with prayer and fasting after repentance is the only way forward to be able to worship God the Father in spirit and truth. By so doing, we grow in the Spirit of God and we start to bear the fruits of the Spirit, which include, amongst other things, faith:

**Galatians 5:22-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

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As you can see, faith that is pleasing to God comes from the gift of the Spirit of God that dwells in the believer. The Lord will also give an extra measure of faith to all those who He has selected for special duties to carry out His will:

### **1 Corinthians 12:7-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>7</sup>But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: <sup>8</sup>for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. <sup>11</sup>But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

There is an appointed time when all the gifts of the Spirit of God will be manifested openly again, as it was during the days of the early Church of God as documented in the days of the Acts of the Apostles.



# THE LAW OF FAITH

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## Chapter Five

### FAITH AND WORKS

The true meaning of faith and works is eluding many professing believers. The purpose of this chapter is to establish the critical importance of faith and works, as stated in the Holy Scriptures. But before we can proceed, it is important to clarify the misconception about justification, which is by faith. Consider this passage of Scripture:

#### **Galatians 2:15-16** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>15</sup> We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, <sup>16</sup> knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.*

The above passage of Scripture clearly states that no one is justified by the works of the law. In other words, no amount of commandment-keeping or good works will render you just before God. The Lord wants us to be fully aware of the importance of this fact, He inspired the apostle Paul to document it again:

#### **Romans 3:28-30** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>28</sup> Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law. <sup>29</sup> Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.*

Regardless of who you are, justification is by faith; that is, we must repent. For the Jews, it is by faith and for the Gentiles through faith. The apostle Paul counted everything that he had achieved in his life rubbish, in order to gain the righteousness that is in the Lord Jesus Christ through faith:

#### **Philippians 3:8-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>8</sup> Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; <sup>10</sup> that*

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*I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, <sup>11</sup> if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

The faith mentioned in the previous passages of Scripture is the first facet of faith that has been given to every soul that has ever lived, which is the ability to believe. We have discussed three passages of Scripture which clearly state that justification is by faith and not by keeping the laws and commandments of God. There is a set day and time, a cut-off point, when we are justified by God. This point in time comes when we acknowledge the fact that we are transgressing God's commandments, which we now understand is sin. When we repent, which is going to God the Father in prayer to confess our sins to Him with the mindset to stop transgressing His laws and commandments, He will render us just in His sight and all our past sins will be washed away by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for our sins. That is what justification by or through faith means.

When we have been rendered just in the sight of God the Father, do we continue to break His laws and commandments which led us to repentance? God forbids! Will it not be advisable to turn from the sinful way of life and start living according to the laws and commandments of God? The apostle Paul was inspired to write:

**Romans 3:30-31 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>30</sup> since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.*

If sin is transgressing the laws and commandments of God the Father, we cannot continue to practise a life of sin when God has rendered us just in His sight. We should be compelled to establish the laws and commandments of God, making them the way of our lives as we grow in the knowledge of the truth. This is what is known as the works of faith, the establishment of what we believe as a way of life. Why did the teachers of the law, the Scribes, Pharisees and lawyers of the days when the Lord Jesus Christ walked the earth, not repent?

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## **Luke 5:29-31** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>29</sup> Then Levi gave Him a great feast in his own house. And there were a great number of tax collectors and others who sat down with them. <sup>30</sup> And their scribes and the Pharisees complained against His disciples, saying, "Why do You eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"*

*<sup>31</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick."*

These people believed they had not sinned because they kept the traditions of their fathers while making void the laws and commandments of God. We are in a similar situation today. We keep the traditions of our fathers and teachers while rejecting the laws and commandments of God. Additionally, if we do not repent because we believe we have not sinned, (since we now faithfully keep the laws and commandments), then we cannot be justified in the sight of God, since our past sins have never been blotted out. There is no one alive today who can say they have not sinned. When we understand the meaning of this passage of Scripture:

## **Matthew 6:33-34** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.*

The righteousness of God the Father is obedience to His laws and commandments. The application of the laws and commandments of God into one's life is the works of faith. Remember the fact that we had to repent because we had been transgressing the laws and commandments of God. If we continue in sin, does that not make us hypocrites? The apostle James was inspired to write:

## **James 2:14-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? <sup>15</sup> If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, <sup>16</sup> and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? <sup>17</sup> Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

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*<sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.*

It is our works of faith that will save us because faith without works is dead.

**James 2:20-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup> But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? <sup>21</sup> Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? <sup>22</sup> Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?*

We have all been given an equal measure of the ability to believe, but it must be channelled towards God for it to become faith. It is from the position of doing the works of righteousness after repentance that drives our faith and brings it alive. Just as the body without the spirit is dead, so too faith without words is dead:

**James 2:24-26** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>24</sup> You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. <sup>25</sup> Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? <sup>26</sup> For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.*

Consider repentance as an example: The Lord Jesus Christ has already given the call that all men everywhere should repent. If we hear the call and believe it is the right thing to do but do not repent, that is faith without works which is dead. Alternatively, if we heed the words of the Lord and follow His instructions and repent, that is the faith and works which will lead to salvation. It is for that reason that the Lord has said:

**Luke 6:46-49** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>46</sup> "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? <sup>47</sup> Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup> He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. <sup>49</sup> But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."*

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We must become doers of the word of God, not just hearers only, making our faith perfect:

## **James 1:19-25** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>19</sup>So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; <sup>20</sup>for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God.*

*<sup>21</sup>Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

*<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup>For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;*

*<sup>24</sup>for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.*

*<sup>25</sup>But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.*

The perfect law of liberty is the Ten Commandments. Those who believe that the laws and commandments of God have been made void will have to reconsider their position because this is mentioned after the Lord has returned to heaven following His crucifixion. The laws and commandments of God are still alive today, and for us to enter into everlasting life, we have to keep the laws and commandments of God, physically doing them. Consider this passage of Scripture that portrays the works of faith perfectly:

## **Hebrews 11:17-19** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>17</sup>By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, <sup>18</sup>of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," <sup>19</sup>concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

The mindset of Abraham is the level we should all aspire to attain. Isaac was the son the Lord had given Abraham and Sarah miraculously because Sarah had already passed the childbearing age and Abraham himself was about a hundred years old. When the Lord commanded Abraham to sacrifice his only son, his line of thought was about the might and faithfulness of God, that God was able to raise Isaac up from the dead because with God all things are possible. That was what Abraham believed, and his work of faith was to carry out the Lord's instruction. As you can see, Abraham's faith was made perfect by his works. Faith must be accompanied by works; if not, faith is dead.

# THE LAW OF FAITH

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## Chapter Six

### THE POWER OF FAITH

Our little minds cannot fathom the incredible power of faith because of the vanities we have set before ourselves. The power of faith is infinite, endless, just as the Lord our God is infinitely perfect. When we come to the knowledge of the fact that faith comes from hearing and/or studying the word of God, and thereafter come across a passage of Scriptures like:

**Hebrews 11:3** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.*

It should give us a deeper sense of the phenomenal power that underpins faith. The Lord exercised the power of faith in the creation of the world to show us what faith entails. If what we see today was framed by the word of God from the things which are not visible, it gives us a different perspective of the power of God and the faith which has now been made available to us. It is of paramount importance to remember that faith is only directed towards God, and the faith that is pleasing to God comes from the Spirit of God.

Most of us have severely limited the power of faith. By selecting what we choose to believe and living according to the commandments and precepts of men, we have all limited the Holy One of Israel, the Lord our God. We have been warned on numerous occasions not to limit the Lord of Hosts, the Lord our God. God made mankind perfect from the beginning until Adam disobeyed God's commandment and lost the perfect faith God had given mankind when he lost the Spirit of God. However, that Spirit has now been made available to all those who have chosen to repent and walk in obedience to the laws and commandments of God by the sacrifice of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We cannot question the faith of God, which is infinite. All we can do is contemplate the fact that the Lord our God made man from the dust of the earth and breathed life into him, turning a lifeless structure into a living soul that can think, speak, see, hear, create, eat, run, reproduce; the list is endless:

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## **Genesis 2:4-7** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>4</sup>This is the history of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, <sup>5</sup>before any plant of the field was in the earth and before any herb of the field had grown. For the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground; <sup>6</sup>but a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

We should be aware of the fact that all of us alive today came from Adam and Eve, since our genealogy can be traced back to the first ruler of the earth. Consider the fact that God did not make every organ in man separately, (the brain, the eyes, the heart, the ear, the kidneys), and then put them in the structure of the man that He had made of earth. God formed a structure of a man with earth and then breathed life into it, turning it into flesh. The Lord Jesus Christ gave us an inside of how man was created. Consider this passage of Scripture:

## **John 9:1-7** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."*

*<sup>6</sup>When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. <sup>7</sup>And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.*

If the billions of people that inhabit the earth today stem from Adam and Eve, we cannot help but be in awe of the Lord our God who created man from earth and intelligently planted the whole population of the earth in one family. Noah was a descendant of Adam, and after the flood it was his family that repopulated the earth.

The knowledge, might, understanding, and wisdom that created the world and set it to hang freely in space came down from heaven to teach us the incredible power of true faith. In the

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Old Testament, we see the power of faith working through the men who carried out mighty exploits to accomplish the will of God. If these men did not believe, they would never have been able to carry out those works:

### **Joshua 10:12-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>12</sup> Then Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel:*

*“Sun, stand still over Gibeon; and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” <sup>13</sup> So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon their enemies.*

*Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. <sup>14</sup> And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the LORD heeded the voice of a man; for the LORD fought for Israel.*

By faith, Joshua commanded the sun and the moon to stand still until Israel had avenged themselves over their enemies. Elijah the prophet caused the rain to stop and there was no dew on earth over a period of three and a half years:

### **1 Kings 17:1** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup> And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.”*

This was confirmed in the epistle from the apostle James, when he was inspired to write about the effectiveness of praying in faith:

### **James 5:17-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

The above passages of Scripture illustrate the exceptional power of faith by mighty men doing God’s will. When the Lord walked the earth, He showed us just how important and powerful faith really is. The Lord fed five thousand men, besides women and children, with two small fish and five loaves of bread:



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## **Matthew 14:16-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>16</sup> But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."*

*<sup>17</sup> And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."*

*<sup>18</sup> He said, "Bring them here to Me." <sup>19</sup> Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. <sup>20</sup> So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. <sup>21</sup> Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.*

In an hour, the Lord healed the sick, gave sight to the blind, and cast out demons in demonstration of the power of faith:

## **Luke 7:20-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup> When the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?' " <sup>21</sup> And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight.*

*<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. <sup>23</sup> And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."*

But the Lord Jesus Christ was not limited to healing the sick and casting out demons. The Lord was given the perfect faith of God to be able to complete the tasks God the Father had set before Him. The very first task was to defeat Satan in the greatest battle ever to be fought without a single punch being exchanged in anger. Moreover, the Lord was handicapped by God the Father, compelling Him to fast for forty days and nights. If the Lord had lost that battle, there would have been no hope of salvation because there was no other waiting in the wings. The measure of faith the Lord had was the same measure God the Father had given Adam at the beginning. The Lord's demonstration of faith in God the Father was immaculate in obedience to His laws and commandments:

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### **Luke 4:1-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."

<sup>4</sup>But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'" <sup>5</sup>Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. <sup>7</sup>Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours." <sup>8</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, "Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" "

<sup>9</sup>Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. <sup>10</sup>For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you,' <sup>11</sup>and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup>And Jesus answered and said to him, "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" <sup>13</sup>Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

When Adam lost his battle to Satan, death entered the world. However, since the Lord did not disobey any of God's commandments, death has been conquered. But now we are all waiting for the end, the time of the restoration of all things when death will be destroyed forever.

The apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ followed His footsteps by performing great miracles through the power of faith. A man who was born lame was able to walk when Peter and John prayed for him:

### **Acts 3:1-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup>And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; <sup>3</sup>who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. <sup>4</sup>And

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*fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup> So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup> Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." <sup>7</sup> And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. <sup>8</sup> So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.*

The power of faith was not limited to the apostles only. We all know of the woman who had an issue of blood, who was able to tap into the faith that was in the Lord Jesus Christ to be healed. She believed and took the necessary action to gain her healing:

### **Luke 8:43-48** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>43</sup> Now a woman, having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, <sup>44</sup> came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. <sup>45</sup> And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' "*

*<sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me." <sup>47</sup> Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. <sup>48</sup> And He said to her, "Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace."*

This is a great example of the meaning of faith and works. She believed she would be healed if she touched the Lord's garments, and her faith was rewarded by her healing. The centurion who asked the Lord to heal his dying servant was commended by the Lord for having great faith because he understood the chain of authority and believed the Lord need not come into his house, but His words were enough to heal his dying servant:

### **Matthew 8:5-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>5</sup> Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, <sup>6</sup> saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." <sup>7</sup> And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."*

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<sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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."

<sup>10</sup>When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! <sup>11</sup>And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup>But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>13</sup>Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

As you can clearly see, it was the faith of the woman with the issue of blood and that of the centurion that released the power of God. We have now seen how great men of God use the power of faith, to do God's will and how ordinary people tapped into the power of faith to release healing from God. Faith is the key which releases the promises of God. Moreover, when we grow in faith even our thoughts will be established:

### **Proverbs 16:3 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup>Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.

But this depends on the Spirit that is at work in you. If you have the Spirit of God and you walk in obedience to His laws and commandments, your thoughts will be established:

### **Ephesians 3:20-21 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>20</sup>Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, <sup>21</sup>to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

As you are now aware, faith is not only limited to healing or claiming the promises of God. Faith is the vital link (the bond) between God and man that employs the power of God to act on our behalf. But if we do not first believe what God has said and obey His commandments which are the works of righteousness, how can we claim God's promises? We must be fully persuaded of the truth to be able to walk in the faith that is pleasing to God. The Lord has said:

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## **Mark 1:14-15** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."*

This is the prescribed path to gain access to the power of faith. When we repent and start to understand what God has said, the power of faith is released into our lives. The Lord has also said:

## **Matthew 17:20** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."*

If we have faith as small as a mustard seed, we should be capable of moving a mountain from one place to another. The Lord made this statement to demonstrate the power of faith. Faith is not for vain glory but for doing the will of God. If the occasion should arise that a mountain should be told to move to another place to accomplish the will of God, then it will be done. We have already been shown how the power of faith was used to split the Red Sea into two:

## **Exodus 14:21-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup> So the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry ground, and the waters were a wall to them on their right hand and on their left.*

The ultimate power of faith for mankind is the power God has promised to give those who believe, the power to become sons of God:

## **John 1:12-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

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Only the faith that is pleasing to God is capable of giving us the right to become children of God, and that faith comes from the Spirit of God. Some say they are born again now. How can that be true? Can they enter heaven? Can they appear and disappear as the Lord did after His resurrection? Can they see heaven?

To be born again is when all those who have qualified will be resurrected at the last trumpet (the seventh trumpet in the book of Revelation). This is when men will be born again by the Spirit of God to be the Sons of God, Spirit beings. Only they will those who have qualified will be able to see and enter the Kingdom of God.

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## Chapter Seven

### THE WAR OF FAITH

The understanding that we are in an endless war that last a lifetime is critical is critical to all true believers. For some alive today, this war will end with the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have two formidable enemies who are relentless, constantly trying to cause us to fall and fail. The battlefield of this war is in our very own minds. There is no discharge in that war, neither is there any trading of punches. This is a spiritual war, and you will be astonished when you come to realise your very own heart is your worst enemy. Yes, our hearts and minds are our own worst enemies. Consider this passage of Scripture:

#### **Jeremiah 17:9-10** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>9</sup>“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? <sup>10</sup>I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.*

Most people today, including many professing believers, will not believe that their hearts and minds are deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Some believe they are good people. The question is, according to whose standard of good? If God who created man on earth says the heart is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things, then that is what it is. There must be a good reason why, but our lack of understanding keeps us from the truth. We all believe what we are doing is right in our own eyes:

#### **Proverbs 14:12** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>12</sup>There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.*

If what we are doing will lead to death, it means we are not doing what is right in the first place because there is another path that leads to life. We have been given the opportunity to choose, but our hearts are geared to lead us to the path of death. But why are our hearts geared to lead us astray? This is where the second and more powerful enemy we are at war with comes in. When Satan enticed Adam and Eve to disobey God’s commandment, God gave him reign over the earth, and one of his many duties has always been to entice us to disobey God’s commandments. We have all been subjects to the wiles of the Devil.

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## **Revelation 12:9** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>9</sup>So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.*

If you are being led to believe that you have not been deceived, then your darkness is deeper than you could ever imagine. God, who knows all things and created all things including Satan the devil, for a good reason has said we have all been deceived by Satan. That is the simple truth. Satan controls the earth and God is allowing it to happen for His purpose, but at the appointed time the Lord Jesus Christ will return to restore all things and establish the kingdom of God here on earth.

We are born into a world that is ruled by a spirit called Satan, who has established his characteristics that have influence over every person that comes into the world. Our parents were the first to start writing his influence on our hearts and their parents on their hearts. When we become of age and disdain the truth, as it is presented to us, our hearts become wicked and deceitful above all things. We can only produce the fruits of what we manufacture in our hearts and minds, (the heart in this context is the spirit and the soul is the mind):

## **Mark 7:18-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>18</sup>So He said to them, "Are you thus without understanding also? Do you not perceive that whatever enters a man from outside cannot defile him, <sup>19</sup>because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?" <sup>20</sup>And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. <sup>21</sup>For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, <sup>22</sup>thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within and defile a man."*

When we are called by God the Father and we come to the knowledge of the truth that throughout our lives we have been transgressing His laws and commandments, if we choose to go through the process of justification and are continually being sanctified by the Spirit of God, the fruits of our hearts and minds should change drastically to the fruits of the Spirit of God:



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## **Galatians 5:21-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

It is at this stage that the war begins earnestly in the minds of all those who have set their hearts to be obedient to the laws and commandments of God. The apostle Paul was compelled to expound on what the Lord had said earlier about the same character traits that are found in an unrepentant soul. The war is between the fruits of the flesh (the unrepentant mind) and that of the Spirit:

## **Galatians 5:17-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>17</sup> For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.*

*<sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup>idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.*

The apostle Paul was inspired to give us a compelling account of a deeper understanding of the spiritual battle that is brewing in our minds:

## **Romans 7:14-25** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. <sup>15</sup> For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. <sup>16</sup> If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. <sup>17</sup> But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. <sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. <sup>19</sup> For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. <sup>20</sup> Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

*<sup>21</sup> I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. <sup>22</sup> For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. <sup>23</sup> But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is*

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*in my members. <sup>24</sup> O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?  
<sup>25</sup> I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.*

This account has not been given to us on the pretext that we cannot overcome the sinful mind. It was given to lead us to the fact that we are at war and we must engage to fight the battle of faith. Hence, the apostle Paul was inspired to give us the weapons of our warfare:

### **2 Corinthians 10:4-6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, <sup>6</sup> and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

This passage of Scripture might seem simplistic, but the rewards of bringing every thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God into captivity to the obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ are profound. This is the victory over all our trials. But there is another facet that empowers our ability to be able to bring into captivity our thoughts to the obedience of the Lord Jesus Christ:

### **Ephesians 6:10-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup> praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

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Growing in knowledge and the application of the truth, in combination with understanding what God has already said, is critical in fighting this battle against our two formidable enemies. Faith is the shield that protects us from the fiery darts of the wicked one that come in three prominent forms:

## **FEAR**

The natural physical instincts to combat fearful situations are to run away from the danger or to freeze. Most of us today will run from a dangerous situation, but there is a small number of people who will freeze because they are overwhelmed by the situation and their ability to think clearly quickly shuts down. Some of the courageous will stand and fight. We cannot see fear, but we know it is very active in our lives. Fear is a spiritual entity which is in place to help us escape dangerous situations, but there is another facet of fear which is profound when employed properly. Fear, when employed in the right context, empowers our faith. When we are afraid, it triggers an action to manage the situation depending on the danger. But the god of the world has used fear to dominate faith.

Fear, when used in the wrong context, promotes many undesirable spiritual entities which are detrimental to our lives. Fear leads to worry and stress if not managed properly. If we are afraid of a situation, it can develop into a worry which can become stressful the more time we spend considering the problem. When we are afraid of a situation, it hinders our ability to find a solution to the problem, hence, keeping us in bondage to that situation. But the Lord our God has not given us the spirit of fear:

### **2 Timothy 1:6-7 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>6</sup>Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. <sup>7</sup>For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

All those who have been converted into the household of God, the body of Christ, have been given the spirit of love, and of power, and of a sound mind. In other words, the deceitful mind that was active in them has been subdued but not completely taken from them. If it had been taken from them, there would be no reason for spiritual warfare.

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Remember the war is not only against a ferocious enemy but it is also against our own hearts. We must endure until the end when we will be changed in an instant, when the Lord returns at the end of age to gather His saints, those who have qualified for the marriage feast of the Lamb in heaven.

Consider this passage of Scripture from the gospel of Mark:

**Mark 4:35-41** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>35</sup> On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"*

*<sup>39</sup> Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" <sup>41</sup> And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"*

The disciples knew that the Lord was the Son of God because of the miracles He had performed in their sight. They also knew that in His presence, nothing could harm them, but the fear of what they could see brewing subdued their faith and they began to panic. As mentioned earlier, faith can only be directed towards God. In the above scenario, we can see that the Son of God was in the boat with them but, because of fear, their faith completely disappeared.

## DOUBT

Doubt is the most common component that affects the faith of the majority of those in the body of Christ. As we know, faith has two facets: our belief, and the power that comes from the spirit of God, which is the part we cannot affect. With doubt, the first facet of faith is present, but our belief starts wavering when we begin putting it down to our ability to bring

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to pass what we are hoping for. When we believe but rely on ourselves, faith will fail because it is God who fulfils our hope. We do not have the power to fulfil God's promises.

The Lord has said if we believe and do not doubt, we can tell a mountain to remove itself and be planted in the sea and it will happen.

### **Mark 11:23-24** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>23</sup> 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 be done, he will have whatever he says. <sup>24</sup> Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

And what is required to perform this miracle is faith as small as a mustard seed.

### **Luke 17:6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup> 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."*

What is the meaning behind the previous two passages of Scripture? The Lord is saying that it is not down to the amount of faith that we have, it depends on our belief without wavering. If we are fully persuaded that what we are asking for will be done, without wavering, then it will come to pass as we believe.

Peter was persuaded that if the Lord called him out of the boat, he would be able to walk on water, and he did until he quickly forgot that walking on water, regardless of how boisterous the sea was, was not down to his ability:

### **Matthew 14:28-31** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>28</sup> And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." <sup>29</sup> So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. <sup>30</sup> But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" <sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

When Peter looked at his surroundings and could see the sea boisterous, fear set in, and as a result of the fear, he started doubting the Lord's ability to keep him afloat on the water. In

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the end his faith completely disappeared. The Lord cited doubt and little faith as the reasons why he began to sink. At the very beginning when God created man on the earth, it was because Adam doubted the words of the Lord that caused him to fall.

### **Genesis 3:1-7 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>1</sup>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'?" <sup>2</sup>And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; <sup>3</sup>but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "*

*<sup>4</sup>Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup>For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

*<sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.*

We are all suffering the effects of their doubt that caused them to disobey God's commandment. It could have been any of us in their place. We must be fully persuaded about what God has said and just believe. We cannot lean on our own understanding which is geared to lead us astray.

### **UNBELIEF**

When we consider the world as it is today, the astonishing reality we find is the fact that most of the inhabitants of the world are living in unbelief, since they do not believe in the God who created the heavens and the earth. Since faith is only directed towards God, it therefore means these people have no faith. These people have created their own beliefs, vain practices which will consequently lead to death. When the Lord walked the earth, most of the Jews did not believe in Him although they had heard and read the prophecies about His coming:

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### **John 10:32-38** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>32</sup> Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" <sup>33</sup> The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."*

*<sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" ' ? <sup>35</sup> If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken), <sup>36</sup> do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming.' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? <sup>37</sup> If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; <sup>38</sup> but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."*

This people saw the mighty works of God but chose not to believe. They knew no one could do what the Lord was doing without God being with them. This was not limited to the Jews. The Lord was not received in His own country where He grew up:

### **Mark 6:1-6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup> Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. <sup>2</sup> And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! <sup>3</sup> Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him.*

*<sup>4</sup> But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." <sup>5</sup> Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. <sup>6</sup> And He marvelled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.*

Because of the unbelief and the distinct lack of faith amongst these people, even the mighty God could not do any great works in these places. There is a stark warning directed at us today about unbelief:

### **Hebrews 3:11-19** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>11</sup> So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' " <sup>12</sup> Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; <sup>13</sup> but exhort one*

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another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, <sup>15</sup> while it is said:

*"Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." <sup>16</sup> For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? <sup>17</sup> Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.*

They did not enter God's rest because of unbelief, and the root cause of unbelief is sin. But when we repent and set our hearts and minds to change and to start believing the gospel of the kingdom of God, we are given the faith to believe the truth.

There is still unbelief that works against the faith of all true believers that have been converted in the household of God:

### **Matthew 17:18-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>18</sup> And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. <sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"*

*<sup>20</sup> So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. <sup>21</sup> However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."*

Although we believe and obey the laws and commandments of God, there is an unbelief that is deeply rooted in us which prevents us from accomplishing the will of God perfectly. This type of unbelief can only be eliminated through prayers and fasting. This is the unbelief that was working in Thomas who did not believe the Lord was alive:

### **John 20:25-29** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>25</sup> 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."*



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*<sup>26</sup> 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!" <sup>27</sup> 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." <sup>28</sup> And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."*

There is a blessing promised to those who have not seen but yet believed.

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## Chapter Eight

### TYPES OF FAITH

As you grow in the knowledge of the truth and study the awesome concept of faith, you will be astonished at the fact that most of the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, when He walked the earth, were based on the law of faith, and He classified faith in different categories. The first of these categories is no faith:

#### **Mark 4:35-41** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>35</sup> On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." <sup>36</sup> Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. <sup>37</sup> And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. <sup>38</sup> But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"*

*<sup>39</sup> Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" <sup>41</sup> And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"*

The second category is shown by the fact that the Lord said His disciples were of little faith:

#### **Matthew 16:5-12** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>5</sup> Now when His disciples had come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread. <sup>6</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees." <sup>7</sup> And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have taken no bread."*

*<sup>8</sup> But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, "O you of little faith, why do you reason among yourselves because you have brought no bread? <sup>9</sup> Do you not yet understand, or remember the five loaves of the five thousand and how many baskets you took up? <sup>10</sup> Nor the seven loaves of the four thousand and how many large baskets you took up? <sup>11</sup> How is it you do not understand that I did not speak to you concerning bread?—but to beware of the leaven of*

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*the Pharisees and Sadducees.”<sup>12</sup> Then they understood that He did not tell them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees.*

The third category of faith, shown by those who the Lord encountered when He walked the earth, is the faith to claim God’s promises:

### **Luke 17:12-19** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>12</sup> Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. <sup>13</sup> And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup> So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.*

*<sup>15</sup> And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup> and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup> And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”*

This Samaritan had the faith to be healed. The final category of faith that the Lord wants us to acknowledge is great faith. This particular exhibition of faith caused the Lord to marvel:

### **Matthew 8:8-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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.”*

*<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! <sup>11</sup> And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.*

Understanding the chain of authority is a key of having great faith. The centurion knew about the chain of command and understood that the words of the Lord were enough to

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heal his servant. On top of these categories are several different types of faith which we all exercise at different stages of our lives. The first is:

## HUMAN FAITH

We live in a physical world, but there exists another dimension which we can freely access since we have been given the key, however most of us are ignorant of the existence of this dimension. We have been given the ability to believe, which governs our lives here on earth. When we express it is towards God, it automatically becomes faith. Faith is one of the two keys needed to access the spiritual world, the kingdom of God. But many have chosen to follow vanity. The apostle Paul was inspired to write:

### **Romans 1:20-25** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup>For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup>because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Professing to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.*

*<sup>24</sup>Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup>who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.*

The sad fact is that these people have chosen not to believe in the one true God who gave them life. For that reason, God has also given them over to a reprobate mind. The manifestation of the fruits of a reprobate mind cannot be mistaken:

### **Romans 1:26-32** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>26</sup>For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup>Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.*

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<sup>28</sup>And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; <sup>29</sup>being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, <sup>30</sup>backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; <sup>32</sup>who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

This also includes those who support these practices. However, it is with human faith, the measure we have all been given to believe, that empowers us to answer God's call to repentance. We must also be aware of the fact that at the point when we were called by God, we only had our human faith:

### **Ephesians 2:1-10** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, <sup>3</sup>among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

<sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), <sup>6</sup>and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup>not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Only after repentance are, we given the gift of the Spirit of God, which is the same for everyone. As mentioned earlier, faith is when we express our given ability to believe towards God. The woman who had the issue of blood did not have the Spirit of God since

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the Holy Spirit had not been given to humans at that stage, as the Lord had not been glorified:

## **Matthew 9:20-22** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup>And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. <sup>21</sup>For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well." <sup>22</sup>But Jesus turned around, and when He saw her He said, "Be of good cheer, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that hour.*

This woman believed she would be healed if only she could touch the Lord's garments. She put her faith into action and accessed the promises God had. But there is a problem with human faith, as the apostle James was inspired to write:

## **James 1:6-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

Human faith waivers and is not pleasing to God. The faith that is pleasing to God comes from the Spirit of God.

## **INTELLECTUAL FAITH**

Intellect is the curse that is plaguing our generation of people. For some, because they hold a qualification and they are rich, they believe they are a cut above the rest and those who are not educated to their level are seen in their eyes as inferior. Most of these people do not believe in God but trust in their intelligence and riches. This is God's view of these people:

## **Psalms 14:1-3** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. <sup>2</sup>The LORD looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. <sup>3</sup>They have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one.*

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However, since most of us consider ourselves to be intelligent and the talk of God is for those who have been brainwashed and weak, we forget one important fact: we have no control over our lives, although we have been given custody of who we become in life. We cannot retain the spirit on the day of death, neither was it our decision on when we came into the world:

### **Psalm 49:5-9** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>5</sup>Why should I fear in the days of evil, when the iniquity at my heels surrounds me? <sup>6</sup>Those who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches, <sup>7</sup>none of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him— <sup>8</sup>For the redemption of their souls is costly, and it shall cease forever— <sup>9</sup>That he should continue to live eternally, and not see the Pit.*

It is critical that we all understand the fact that none of us can pay the price for our sins. That price has already been fully paid for us by the Son of God, who was sacrificed for our sins. All we must do now is obey the commandments of God, since it is His laws that we have broken, and live by the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord validated what He had said through His servant David when He said:

### **Mark 10:23-25** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>23</sup>Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" <sup>24</sup>And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup>It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."*

Just as the Scribes and Pharisees who trusted in their own righteousness during the days when the Lord Jesus Christ walked the earth, today, we have many who trust in themselves and show no honour towards God who created them. Ironically, they openly confessed that they believed in God and were obedient to the laws and commandments of God:

### **Matthew 23:24-33** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>24</sup>Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! <sup>25</sup>"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full*

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*of extortion and self-indulgence. <sup>26</sup> Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.*

*<sup>27</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. <sup>28</sup> Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. <sup>29</sup> “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, <sup>30</sup> and say, ‘If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ <sup>31</sup> “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. <sup>32</sup> Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ guilt <sup>33</sup>Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?*

Most of our rulers and religious leaders are of the same, lacking self-restraint as the Scribes and Pharisees, who could not be corrected. We have all been instructed not to lean on our own understanding:

### **Proverbs 3:5-8 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>5</sup> Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. <sup>7</sup> Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil. <sup>8</sup> It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.*

We know nothing about life except what we have been taught by our parents and teachers. But there is one profound fact that has eluded almost all of us: the truth. Intellectual faith, which is trusting in ourselves and disregarding what God has instructed us to do, is not pleasing to God, simply because we do not know the way we should walk.

### **CHILDLIKE FAITH**

Childlike faith is the faith that is most pleasing to God. We should all aspire to gain childlike faith after we have been justified and are being sanctified by the Spirit of God. If we have not the Spirit of God, it means we are not one of His, which therefore means we have not been converted into the kingdom of God. A well-nurtured child who has been taught the



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right values and principles of life will have the faith many of us should covet. Here is the reason why:

### **Psalm 131:1-3** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, nor with things too profound for me. <sup>2</sup>Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, like a weaned child with his mother; like a weaned child is my soul within me. <sup>3</sup>O Israel, hope in the LORD from this time forth and forever.*

Childlike faith is the faith the Lord requires all those who have been converted into the body of Christ to possess. This is the reason why the Lord said:

### **Mark 10:13-16** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>13</sup>Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. <sup>14</sup>But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." <sup>16</sup>And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.*

When we come to the knowledge of the fact that we have transgressed God's laws and commandments, and we go before God in private and confess our sins (since sin is the transgression of God's laws and commandments), as we go through the process of sanctification, we have to renew our minds and present ourselves to God so He can begin the process of changing our character:

### **Romans 12:1-3** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

*<sup>3</sup>For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*

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This, in essence, comes down to this Proverb:

## **Proverbs 2:1-9** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you, <sup>2</sup>so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; <sup>3</sup>Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, <sup>4</sup>If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; <sup>5</sup>Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. <sup>6</sup>For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; <sup>7</sup>He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; <sup>8</sup>He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints. <sup>9</sup>Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.*

A well weaned child will hear instructions and do them, and when they are corrected, they will seek to do better. We must understand that the Lord will correct our mistakes, and we have been advised not to refuse correction:

## **Hebrews 12:5-9** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>5</sup>And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup>For whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives."*

*<sup>7</sup>If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup>But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. <sup>9</sup>Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?*

Childlike faith will open us up to the corrections of the Lord. When we come across a doctrine, law or commandment of God, by faith we apply them to our lives as we gain understanding, asking no questions or wrestling with what God has said. The qualities of a well-brought-up child are remarkable. What can we learn from little children?

- ❖ They are fearless
- ❖ They do not doubt
- ❖ They are willing

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- ❖ They are teachable
- ❖ They are open-minded
- ❖ They will obey instructions
- ❖ They are patient
- ❖ They are trusting
- ❖ They are faithful
- ❖ They will accept correction
- ❖ They are respectful
- ❖ They are playful. Our God has the greatest sense of humour
- ❖ They are inquisitive

A properly disciplined child will exhibit all these qualities. This is what our Lord Jesus meant when He said we should receive the kingdom of God with childlike faith, as little children.:

We must:

- ❖ Be fearless and without doubt.
- ❖ Be willing to listen to God and ask God questions.
- ❖ Be willing to follow God's instructions and commandments.
- ❖ Have the willingness to serve God, trusting God with all our hearts.
- ❖ Be teachable and open minded to biblical doctrines.
- ❖ Be willing to obey the laws and commandments of the kingdom of God.
- ❖ Be patient always, waiting on God.
- ❖ Search for and study the truth. To be inquisitive to prove all things are so.
- ❖ Put the kingdom of God first.
- ❖ Become doers of the word, living by faith not by sight.

If these qualities abound in us, surely, we will be an asset to the kingdom of God, and we will certainly be in line to perform the great works the Lord has promised His servants at the end of age. We must come to the point where we are fully persuaded that with God all things are possible.

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## Chapter Nine

### THE FAITH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

It is imperative for us to understand that God's ways and thoughts are as far as the heaven is from the earth from our ways and thoughts. We cannot see beyond our own noses, let alone be able to see and comprehend the plans of the great and mighty God. We must understand that the same God, who called for light on the first day of the restoration of the earth came and dwelled as a man amongst us:

#### **Genesis 1:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>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.*

*<sup>3</sup>Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.*

The Lord, being in the form of God, chose to come and live on the earth He had created for very good reasons:

#### **Philippians 2:5-11 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

To become a man, the Lord our God had to give up all His power as God, humbled Himself before God the Father and was obedient to the point of death for some very good reasons, one of which is to give us the opportunity to join the family of God as sons:

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## **John 1:6-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. <sup>8</sup>He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup>That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.*

*<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup>He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup>But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

The opportunity to become sons/daughters of God is the greatest reward any of us can hope for. That hope can be fulfilled if we choose to obey the laws and commandments of God and live by faith. The Lord did not do anything different. He was obedient to the commandments of God the Father and lived by faith. The life of the Lord Jesus Christ is the example we should all follow, but, as usual, many have invented their own path.

As it was with Adam at the beginning of this age, God the Father gave the Lord a full measure of His Spirit to be able to withstand the wiles of the Devil. Where Adam failed, the Lord stood firm and, as a result, He has qualified to replace Satan as the ruler of this world to the glory of God the Father:

## **Luke 4:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. <sup>3</sup>And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread."*

*<sup>4</sup>But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"*

Three temptations have been recorded for us, but it is certain there were more, and not just over a short period of time but over the duration of forty days and nights. There was a constant barrage of scepticisms, twisting the word of God that could have caused the Lord

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to fall. This is the greatest battle that has ever taken place, not forgetting the fact that the Lord was handicapped by God the Father to fast over that period. Adam failed the same trial, but the Lord's faith was not moved but stood fast because He trusted in God the Father. The Lord had on the full armour of God which He later inspired the apostle Paul to document for us:

### **Ephesians 6:10-17** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>10</sup> Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

*<sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; <sup>16</sup> above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. <sup>17</sup> And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

We can be in no doubt whatsoever that the Lord could not have withstood Satan but by the Spirit of God. Man is weak, but with the Spirit of God all things become possible. The Lord could do nothing by Himself but by the Spirit of God. It was in the same Spirit that He declared:

### **Luke 4:16-19** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>16</sup> So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup> And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:*

*<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

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The Lord made this declaration by faith. The Lord was a man operating under the authority of the Spirit of God. Everything the Lord did was done by faith. As He believed, so He did. By faith, the Lord turned water into wine:

### **John 2:7-10** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. <sup>8</sup>And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the master of the feast." And they took it. <sup>9</sup>When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. <sup>10</sup>And he said to him, "Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the guests have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!"*

Wine produced by the Lord is the best vintage, surpassing everything that is produced on earth. We must understand that the Lord was fully persuaded about what He believed. Remember He came into the world as a child and had to be taught everything like us. By faith, the Lord fed five thousand men, not including the women and children, with two small fish and five loaves of bread:

### **John 6:8-12** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>8</sup>One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. <sup>11</sup>And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost."*

By faith, the Lord called Lazarus from the grave after he had been dead four days:

### **John 11:39-44** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."*

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<sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. <sup>42</sup> And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." <sup>43</sup> Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" <sup>44</sup> And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

By faith, the Lord walked on the sea to go to the rescue of His disciples:

### **John 6:15-21** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>15</sup> Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone. <sup>16</sup> Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup> got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. <sup>18</sup> Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup> So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. <sup>20</sup> But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." <sup>21</sup> Then they willingly received Him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land where they were going.

In the book of Matthew, Peter asked the Lord to call him out of the boat. In the above account, we are given even more detail of what happened after the Lord got in the boat with His disciples. In the twinkling of an eye, the boat was at their destination. This is the confirmation of the fact that faith as small as a mustard seed can move a mountain from its position and plant it in the sea.

Faith, which is a fruit of the Spirit of God which was in the Lord Jesus Christ, was given to us humans on the day of Pentecost, after the Lord had returned to heaven:

### **Acts 2:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of



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*fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

The faith of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is one of the fruits of the Spirit, was evident in Peter and John when they healed the man who was lame from birth:

### **Acts 3:1-10** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. <sup>2</sup>And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; <sup>3</sup>who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms. <sup>4</sup>And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." <sup>5</sup>So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. <sup>6</sup>Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." <sup>7</sup>And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. <sup>8</sup>So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. <sup>9</sup>And all the people saw him walking and praising God. <sup>10</sup>Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.*

Peter then explained to the multitude how the man standing before them could walk:

### **Acts 3:13-16** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>13</sup>The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. <sup>14</sup>But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, <sup>15</sup>and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. <sup>16</sup>And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

There is a promise of greater works for us, since we are the generation to usher in the end of this age. To be part of that team, we must possess the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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### **Matthew 10:5-20** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup> But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. <sup>7</sup> And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. <sup>9</sup> Provide neither gold nor silver nor copper in your money belts, <sup>10</sup> nor bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor staffs; for a worker is worthy of his food.

<sup>11</sup> "Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. <sup>12</sup> And when you go into a household, greet it. <sup>13</sup> If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. <sup>15</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

<sup>16</sup> "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. <sup>17</sup> But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. <sup>18</sup> You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. <sup>19</sup> But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; <sup>20</sup> for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

This is a prophecy that will be fulfilled at the end of this age. We have seen previews of what happened with the disciples, but this time the return of the Lord to gather His Saints will overtake those who the Lord will send out.

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## Chapter Ten

### HOW TO GROW YOUR FAITH

God created humans to live on the earth as physical beings. What gives us life is the spirit that comes from God. Procreation results in babies, but the spirit that gives life to these babies comes from God, which therefore means God has a direct involvement in each one of us alive today, even the babies that are aborted from their mother's womb. As we have seen, the vital connection between humans and God is faith, but not many in the world see it that way. Those who truly believe in God can see it clearly. We must grow in faith to be able to walk with our God and Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as the early church of God did, worshiping in spirit and truth. They had the true knowledge of the gospel of the kingdom of God and the Lord was their witness, working great signs and wonders. Just how far are we from the truth?

In reality, faith can be compared to starting college, and as you pass the exams at the end of each term and year, you progress to the next class. Consider this passage of Scripture:

#### **Romans 1:16-17** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>16</sup>For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. <sup>17</sup>For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

All those who have been justified must live by the faith that comes from the Spirit of God. There is a righteousness that is of the flesh, which is not of God. After repentance, when we have received the gift of the Spirit of God, God will then reveal in us His righteousness through His Spirit. We must then grow from the faith which is of the flesh to the faith that is a fruit of the Spirit. But if we do not have the Spirit of God, we are not Christ's:

#### **Romans 8:5-9** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup>So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

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*<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

And most importantly, we must grow spiritually to the point where we are being led by the Spirit of God:

**Romans 8:12-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>12</sup> Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. In other words, only those who are led by the Spirit of God will have a part in the first resurrection. The foundation to get to this level of faith begins with the fear of the Lord which leads us to depart from evil:

**Job 28:28** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>28</sup> And to man He said, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.'*

In the above passage of Scripture, we can see that wisdom is to fear God and understanding is to depart from evil ways. If we do not fear God and hold Him in reverence for who He is, we will not obey His instructions.

**Psalms 34:11-14** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>11</sup> Come, you children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. <sup>12</sup> Who is the man who desires life, and loves many days, that he may see good? <sup>13</sup> Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit. <sup>14</sup> Depart from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.*

In this passage of Scripture, the Lord Jesus Christ is instructing all those who desire eternal life and seek good days now, during their lifetime in this age. But this is just part of a larger commandment. When we take the steps to repent, which is to turn at the Lord's reproof, the Lord has promised to give us His Spirit:

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## **Proverbs 1:20-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup> Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares. <sup>21</sup> She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city she speaks her words: <sup>22</sup> "How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge. <sup>23</sup> Turn at my rebuke; surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you.*

Those who hold the belief that the Holy Scriptures were written by man and there is no substance in Scripture should seriously reconsider their position. King David and King Solomon, who were the scribes the Lord used to document His word for us, cannot give us their spirit because they are human like us and are dead. But if we follow the instruction to turn at the Lord's rebuke, the Lord has promised He will give us His Spirit to empower us to obey His commandments. This is the grace of God. On the day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter was inspired to expound on this promise:

## **Acts 2:38-39** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

When we have acquired the Spirit of God, we must forgive all those who have trespassed against us, without which we can never grow in faith:

## **Luke 17:1-4** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup> Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come! <sup>2</sup> It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. <sup>3</sup> Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup> And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."*

The disciples knew that what the Lord was instructing them to do was a difficult task because at that stage they were not empowered by the Spirit of God. They asked the Lord

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to increase their faith. They knew faith meant something more than what we are being led to believe in our churches today; that is why they asked the Lord to increase their faith:

### **Luke 17:5** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>5</sup> And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."*

The answer the Lord gave them and us today is interesting. The Lord said for us to increase our faith, we should do what we have been commanded:

### **Luke 17:10** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>10</sup> So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.' "*

We must renew our minds to have the mindset of the Lord Jesus Christ. When the Lord walked the earth as a man, He was obedient to God the Father until death:

### **Philippians 2:5-8** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.*

The foundation on which we can grow our faith is to fear the Lord our God above all things and to be obedient to His commandments. When fear is directed towards God in honour of His majesty, since with God all things are possible, faith becomes exceedingly powerful. Consider this passage of Scripture:

### **Daniel 3:15-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>15</sup> Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"*

*<sup>16</sup> Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. <sup>17</sup> If that is the case, our God whom we serve*

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*is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. <sup>18</sup>But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”*

King Nebuchadnezzar was trying to instil fear into these three servants of God to cause them to disobey God's commandments. They knew their God and believed that God would deliver them from the hands of the king. They did not even entertain the idea of what Nebuchadnezzar was subjecting them to. Their obedience to God's commandments (great faith in God) was rewarded by an equally awesome deliverance from the power of fire:

### **Daniel 3:26-27 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>26</sup>Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace and spoke, saying, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here.” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. <sup>27</sup>And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counsellors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.*

Fear directed towards God, in reverence of who God is, is healthy and spiritual. It is the foundation of faith. Peter and the rest of the apostles of the early church feared God by faith. They valued the fear of God more than their lives:

### **Acts 4:18-22 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>18</sup>So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup>But Peter and John answered and said to them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. <sup>20</sup>For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” <sup>21</sup>So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. <sup>22</sup>For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.*

If we are of the understanding that God is for us, why should we fear anything? Has not God the power to protect us? But we have to be wise because it can easily lead to tempting God.

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## **Hebrews 13:5-6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>5</sup>Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"*

And the Lord reiterated the command not to fear the things of this world when He said:

## **Luke 12:32** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>32</sup>"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."*

The kingdom of God is the reward for those who choose to fear God and disregard the counsel of men, which is against God. There is a stark warning about fear which acts against our faith in the book of Revelation:

## **Revelation 2:10-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>10</sup>Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

*<sup>11</sup>"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." '*

If we do not fear what is and will come against us but are faithful to God until the end, then we will not be part of the second resurrection.

## **STUDY THE TRUTH**

We have a tendency to be lazy and leave the bulk of the work to others and enjoy their labour, forgetting the fact we live in a fallen and corrupt world. It is our duty, individually, to diligently seek the truth. No one will take our place before the Lord on the day of judgement because everyone will have their turn to stand before the judgement seat of the Lord. The apostle Paul was inspired to recount what he encountered in Berea:

## **Acts 17:10-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>10</sup>Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. <sup>11</sup>These were more fair-minded than*



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*those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.*

When we follow the Bereans as our example, we will be able to see if what we are being taught is the truth. The Lord warned us of wolves in sheep clothing but many of us have not listened to His words:

### **Matthew 7:15-20** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>15</sup> "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup> You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn bushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

If we do not know what the Lord has said and our teachers are leading us astray, we will never grow in faith because we lack understanding of the truth. We must show ourselves approved by God by rightly dividing the word of truth:

### **2 Timothy 2:14-16** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> Remind them of these things, charging them before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.*

We must seek to be approved by God and not man because it is God who gives knowledge to those who have understanding. And as we now know, understanding stems from wisdom:

### **Daniel 2:20-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. <sup>21</sup> And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. <sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with Him. <sup>23</sup> "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might,*

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*and have now made known to me what we asked of You, for You have made known to us the king's demand."*

As we diligently seek the truth, the Lord will open our understanding. If we do not set aside the time to study the truth, the Spirit of God will not be able to guide and reveal the truth to us:

**John 14:26** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>26</sup> But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

And the Lord revealed more about the duties of the Spirit of God when He said:

**John 16:12-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>12</sup> "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.*

For us to grow in faith comes down to this passage of Scripture, which the Lord gave us through His servant Moses:

**Luke 4:4** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>4</sup> But Jesus answered him, saying, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"*

The Lord used this passage of Scripture to defeat Satan during His hour of temptation. If we do not know and understand the truth, which is the word of God, our faith will not grow but fail during our hour of trial.

### FASTING

Our bodies have been designed to go without food and water for long periods of time. Fasting should be part of our lives as believers. The Lord did not say if you fast but when you fast:

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## **Matthew 6:16-18** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>16</sup> “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. <sup>17</sup> But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.*

The Lord Himself fasted for forty days and forty nights:

## **Matthew 4:1-2** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry.*

Paul and the other apostles of the early church all fasted from time to time:

## **Acts 13:1-3** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>1</sup>Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup>As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” <sup>3</sup>Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.*

They fasted to seek direction from the Lord. When we fast, we set ourselves apart from our daily routines to seek and draw near to the Lord. As we draw near to the Lord, He in return will draw near to us and give us the desires of our hearts.

## **Psalms 37:4-6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>4</sup>Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. <sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. <sup>6</sup>He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.*

The fifty-eighth chapter of the book of the prophet Isaiah gives us a good idea of the type of fasting that is a delight to our Lord and God. All the great men and women of the Old Testament fasted at some point during their ministry to seek the Lord earnestly. Esther fasted, and the Lord answered her petition by giving her favour in the sight of the king.

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Moreover, when we humble ourselves before our God by fasting, it breaks the strongholds of the flesh and unbelief, hence, increasing our faith. That is why the Lord said:

### **Mark 9:26-29** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>26</sup> Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.*

*<sup>28</sup> And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" <sup>29</sup> So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."*

The issue here was not the demon but the unbelief that existed in the disciples, working against their faith. The Lord said only prayers and fasting break the power of this unbelief, not the power of the demon.

There is a fast which is of paramount importance to all those who believe in the only living true God that the Lord has ordained, but many professing believers are ignorant of this fast, the fast on the Day of Atonement:

### **Leviticus 23:26-32** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>26</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>27</sup> "Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. <sup>28</sup> And you shall do no work on that same day, for it is the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God. <sup>29</sup> For any person who is not afflicted in soul on that same day shall be cut off from his people. <sup>30</sup> And any person who does any work on that same day, that person I will destroy from among his people. <sup>31</sup> You shall do no manner of work; it shall be a statute forever throughout your generations in all your dwellings. <sup>32</sup> It shall be to you a sabbath of solemn rest, and you shall afflict your souls; on the ninth day of the month at evening, from evening to evening, you shall celebrate your sabbath."*

The consequence of not fasting on the Day of Atonement is grave. You will be cut off from the House of God. Rest assured it applies to us today. If the Lord Jesus Christ was our Passover Lamb, then it means we must afflict our soul on the Day of Atonement.

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## PRAYER

To grow in faith, it is imperative that we pray. The effective and fervent prayers of a righteous man benefit much. When we make a petition to our Father in heaven and He answers our request, our faith will grow, but we must ask according to His will for our prayers to be answered. The Lord showed us an example of how we should communicate with our Father in heaven by praying endlessly to God:

### **Luke 6:12-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>12</sup>Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. <sup>13</sup>And when it was day, He called His disciples to Himself; and from them He chose twelve whom He also named apostles:*

The Lord prayed all night so He could choose those who God the Father had given Him to be His disciples. Prayer was an integral part of the Lord's life. He prayed and called Lazarus who had been in the grave for four days. But then we have also been given examples of which prayers God the Father will not answer. Consider the petition the Lord Jesus Christ made to His Father, but He did not answer Him:

### **Luke 22:39-46** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>39</sup>Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him. <sup>40</sup>When He came to the place, He said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>41</sup>And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup>saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." <sup>43</sup>Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him. <sup>44</sup>And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. <sup>45</sup>When He rose up from prayer, and had come to His disciples, He found them sleeping from sorrow. <sup>46</sup>Then He said to them, "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray, lest you enter into temptation."*

As we know, the Lord said the same prayer on three separate occasions, but God the Father did not answer His petition because what the Lord had to go through was God's will. When we put that into perspective, we will realise that there are certain trials we must go through in order to grow in faith. Daniel sought the Lord in prayers and fasting, and the angel Gabriel was sent to give us the timeline of all prophecies:

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## **Daniel 9:20-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>20</sup> Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, <sup>21</sup> yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. <sup>22</sup> And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. <sup>23</sup> At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:*

Answered prayers grow our faith, but we must pray in the correct manner. The Lord gave us a model we should follow, not to recite it word for word. The Lord said:

## **Matthew 6:9-13** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>9</sup> In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup> And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

But we must meet certain conditions for our prayers to be answered. One of which is:

## **Proverbs 28:9** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>9</sup> One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.*

If we do not keep the laws and commandments of God, our prayers are an abomination to the Lord. Keeping God's laws and commandments is critical for answered prayers. Moreover, there is another facet to answered prayer. This facet is critical for our overall salvation:

## **Matthew 6:14-15** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>14</sup> "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

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If we do not forgive those who have trespassed against us, neither will our Father in heaven forgive us. This is the principle that underpins our salvation. Regardless of what others have done against us, we have to forgive them. There are other conditions for an effective prayer, such as, we should not pray in public, and not to constantly repeat our words, while keeping our prayers short and to the point. It is not the amount of words that qualifies a prayer. Prayers should be from the heart and in truth. Consider Elijah the prophet who was a man subject to passions just like us, but he prayed earnestly and there was no rain on earth for a period of three and a half years:

## **James 5:16-18 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>16</sup> Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. <sup>18</sup> And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.*

When we delight ourselves in the Lord by doing His commandments and we are in constant communication with the Lord in prayer, surely, we shall grow in faith.

## **TRIALS**

Our God and Father uses trials to test our faith and to exhibit His servants in the face of the adversary. If our faith is not tested, we will never move from our wavering human faith to the faith that comes as a fruit of growing the Spirit of God which dwells in the believer and will be tested too.

## **James 1:2-8 New King James Version (NKJV)**

*<sup>2</sup> My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> 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*

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wind.<sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

The apostle Peter was inspired to tell us that these trials are to prove the genuineness of our faith:

### **1 Peter 1:3-9** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>6</sup>In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,<sup>7</sup> that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,<sup>8</sup> whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,<sup>9</sup> receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

Job, the servant of God, was tried when God allowed Satan to destroy his body, family and livelihood. But Job trusted in the Lord and did not turn away from the Lord:

### **James 5:9-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!<sup>10</sup> My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.<sup>11</sup> Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

It is through the trials of our faith that patience and perseverance are developed:

### **Job 2:1-6** New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup>Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.<sup>2</sup> And the LORD said to



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Satan, "From where do you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

<sup>3</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

<sup>4</sup> So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. <sup>5</sup> But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" <sup>6</sup> And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

What Job went through will put life into perspective for most of us today. The question we should ask ourselves is: Is there anything we are involved in, that takes precedence over our belief in God? God allowed the destruction of Job's life for a reason, which we should all seriously consider today. When the Lord asked, Abraham immediately offered up Isaac, his only son. That was a trial of his faith. The Lord has given us the whole counsel of growing in faith:

### **2 Peter 2:1-11 New King James Version (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, <sup>3</sup> as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, <sup>4</sup> by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup> to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup> to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these things is short sighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never

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*stumble; <sup>11</sup>for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

As you can see, it begins with faith, human faith, and then progresses to the faith that comes from the Spirit of God, virtue. There is a distinct path of growth recommended to us, and if we walk in the path, we will not stumble. Most importantly, we must be led by the Spirit of God:

### **Romans 8:12-15** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba Father.”*

If we are led by the Spirit of God, most assuredly, the fruits of the Spirit of God will be evident in our lives, of which faith is one of them:

### **Galatians 5:22-23** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>22</sup>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.*

Moreover, if we have been chosen for a particular office at the end of age, the Lord will give us an extra measure of faith to complete our office:

### **1 Corinthians 12:4-10** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>4</sup>There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup>There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup>And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. <sup>7</sup>But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: <sup>8</sup>for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, <sup>9</sup>to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, <sup>10</sup>to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

Faith is more than just a belief. True faith is the bond that develops between a true justified believer and the Lord our God.

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## Chapter Eleven

### CONCLUSION

There is a passage of Scripture that sums up the meaning of faith and the whole concept of God. When we understand the intention behind this passage of Scripture, it should give us a better perspective of life as a whole; who we are and who the God we serve is:

#### **Isaiah 55:8-9** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>8</sup> “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. <sup>9</sup> “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*

Because we have been given the ability to think, does not mean we can compare to our God. His ways and thoughts are by far superior to our ways and thoughts. We all hold on more to the ways of man than to those of God, but there is a turning point. It is at this point that we begin to understand the ways of God much better. It comes at repentance:

#### **Acts 2:38-39** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”*

Only after justification, when all of our past sins have been blotted out by the Lord our God and He has put His Spirit in our heart, then can we grow from our human faith to the faith that comes from the Spirit of God. If we do not go through this process, our belief is vain. There are two passages of Scripture that stipulate this fact. The first passage to consider is:

#### **John 4:21-24** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

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God the Father is a Spirit and He is seeking those who must worship Him in spirit and truth. Without the Spirit of God, we cannot worship God in spirit and truth because all the requirements to worship in spirit comes from the Spirit of God. Moreover, there is a second passage of Scripture, which is a sentence with just a few words, but carries much spiritual truth:

### **Hebrews 10:38** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>38</sup> Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."*

All those who have been justified in the sight of God must live by the faith that comes from the Spirit of God. If anyone who has been justified and was given the Spirit of God should draw back, the Lord will have no pleasure with that person. On the other hand, without the faith that comes from the Spirit of God it is impossible to please God:

### **Hebrews 11:6** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>6</sup> 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.*

As you can now see, the Spirit of God and faith are intrinsic. There is no faith without the Spirit of God because the faith that is pleasing to God comes from the Spirit of God. This fact cannot be stressed enough, but some who profess to believe in God will still not understand. It is of paramount importance to have the Spirit of God. If we do not have the Spirit of God, then we are carnal, not forgetting the fact that the carnal mind is enmity to God and is not subject to His laws and commandments:

### **Romans 8:7-11** New King James Version (NKJV)

*<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

*<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. <sup>10</sup> And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

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This passage of Scripture stipulates the fact that if we do not have the Spirit of God, we are not His. In other words, if we have not followed the path the Lord has set, to repent of our sins and to start walking according to the laws and commandments of God the Father and live by the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, it therefore means we are not a member of the household of God, which is also the body of Christ.

Here is the sum. Faith is the substance, which is our belief empowered by the Spirit of God, and faith is also the evidence which is the power that comes from the Spirit of God. When we become fully persuaded in the truth, our mindsets will change, and all things will become possible according to God's will. Abraham was fully persuaded that God was capable to raise Isaac up from the dead, that is why he offered his only son without any hesitation. Yes, Abraham had the Spirit of God shadowing him. The word of God is truth.