

## The Power of Faith

### What is Faith?

- ❖ Faith – pistis: 1) conviction of the truth of anything, belief; in the NT of a conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, generally with the included idea of trust and holy fervour born of faith and joined with it; 2) fidelity, faithfulness, 2a) the character of one who can be relied on – *Thayer's Greek Definitions*
- ❖ Faith: 1. complete trust or confidence in someone or something. 2. strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion, based on spiritual apprehension rather than proof. – *Oxford Languages Dictionary*

### What is faith to you?

#### Let's look at some principles on Faith

- ❖ We need a faith that is and not a faith that merely was (Now faith) – John 3:16; Rom. 10:9; Heb. 11; Heb. 4:2
- ❖ Faith is real
  - Saving faith – Eph. 2:8
  - Measure of faith – Rom. 12:3; 2 Cor. 11:24-29; Heb 11 (by faith)
- ❖ Faith is the assurance, the confirmation, the proof –
  - It enables my walk through the valleys of life – Psa. 23:4; 2 Tim. 4:18
  - It allows me to draw closer to God in spite of me – Heb. 10:22
  - It eliminates anxiety – Phil 4:6-7; Pa. 73:26
  - It enables me to have peace with God – Rom. 5:1
  - It provides me with eternal security – John 10:28; Rom. 8:38-39
  - It enables me to be confident in God – Heb. 10:35-37
- ❖ Faith ensures what we are hoping for – Rom. 12:2; Jer. 29:11; 1 Pet. 1:3; Psa. 39:7; Heb. 6:18-20 (MSG)
- ❖ Faith validates the unseen –
  - We walk by faith – 2 Cor. 5:7
  - We speak by faith – Pro. 18:21; Mark 11:23
  - We pray by faith – Mat. 21:22
  - We obtain it by hearing, not seeing – Rom. 10:17

#### Our Example of Faith for tonight – Genesis 12:1

Also see Acts 7:2-4; Jos. 24:2; Gen. 11:27-32

## Sustaining Faith

### What does the word sustain mean?

- ❖ Sustain – kûl A primitive root; properly to keep in; hence to measure; figuratively to maintain (in various senses): - (be able to, can) abide, bear, comprehend, contain, feed, forbearing, guide, hold (-ing in), nourish (-er), be present, make provision, receive, sustain, provide sustenance (victuals).

— Strong's Hebrew and Greek Definitions

- ❖ Sustain: 1. strengthen or support physically or mentally. 2. undergo or suffer (something unpleasant, especially an injury).. — Oxford Languages Dictionary

### Faith only sustains if I believe God to be my source

- ❖ Abraham knew this and operated as such –
- ❖ We must give it all to God – Psa. 31 (also read MSG)
  - Surrendering by faith is not a sign of weakness but the ultimate sign of strength and dependence on the Will of God – Mark 14:35-36
  - Sometimes we are just in God's way – 2 Chr. 20:15-17
    - Stop meddling and start praying – Mat. 5:38-48
    - Stop trying to get even and start blessing – Pro. 25:21-23; 2 Kings 6:1-23

### Fear causes us to look for a quick fix or way out instead of allowing God to sustain us in our "it"

- ❖ Let patience have its perfect work – James 1:1-4 (MSG)
- ❖ Paul and Silas – Acts 16:16-40 (vs. 37) – Make sure you don't leave your witness and testimony as you leave the trial.
- ❖ Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego –
- ❖ Daniel did not allow the decree to change his devotion – Dan. 6:10
- ❖ Job was willing to wait until his appointed time – Job 14:14

### We practice and grow our faith by maintaining instead of quitting

- ❖ Don't stop worshipping God – you continue to worship – Psa. 34:1; 1 Thes. 5:18; Heb. 13:15; Psa. 103
- ❖ Don't stop praying – you add to your prayers – 1 Thes. 5:17; Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2
  - Add confessions – Eph. 1:18; Rom. 8:26-27; Mat. 21:22; 1 John 5:14; Heb. 4:16; Psa. 121:1; Psa. 4:8
- ❖ Be fervent about your service and prayers – Rom. 12:11; Eph. 1:16-18; James 5:16
- ❖ Don't cast away your confidence – Heb. 10:35-39 (MSG)
- ❖ Don't stop serving – Heb. 6:1-12 (MSG); 1 Cor. 15:57-58



## **Moving by Faith**

### **What is a mountain?**

#### **The Mustard Seed**

- ❖ It's not the size of the seed but the potential of the seed
  - It's ability to grow
  - It doesn't require the best situation to grow in
    - Can grow in small, tight places
    - Can grow in difficult terrain
  - It is not the smallest seed but the smallest of what is typically planted in the area

#### **Releasing yourself to believe God**

- ❖ I don't have to understand how and have the answer – Pro. 3:5; 2 Cor. 3:4-5; Pro. 16:9
- ❖ Let go of the anxiety
- ❖ Realize that God is not limited – Luke 1:37
- ❖ Letting go is not a sign of weakness but a sign of faith in God – Gen. 22
  - You must understand that Isaac was Abraham's seed of promise – Gen. 21:12
- ❖ We must learn to cast our cares upon Him – 1 Pet. 5:6-7

#### **Moving by faith requires work on our part**

- ❖ Faith without works is dead – James 2:14-26
- ❖ This work is often done away from the limelight – Mat. 6:5-6;
- ❖ We have to trust God's process in spite of the circumstances – Psa. 126:1-6

#### **A faith that doesn't move you is a faith that won't move anything**

- ❖ When we are moved, we are able to make faith moves – Neh. 1:1-2:9
- ❖ You have to say something to the mountain – Mat. 17:20
  - You have to speak with expectation – Phil. 1:20
  - You have to speak acceptable words – Psa. 19:13-14 (MSG)
  - Tell the mountain where to go – Mat. 17:20; Mark 11:23 (cast into the sea)
- ❖ You have to move with expectation – Mat. 17:21
  - This is not a one time move but a lifestyle move.
    - Note: The disciples didn't have time to pray and fast on the spot...

## **The Praise of Faith**

### **We should always respond to our circumstances from a position of faith**

- ❖ Faith that God can meet us in it – Psa. 138:6-8
- ❖ Faith that God can bring us through it – Psa. 46
- ❖ Faith that God is God in spite of it – Psa. 90:1-2; Psa. 91

### **Faith is currency in the Kingdom of God**

- ❖ Necessary to please Him – Heb. 11:6
- ❖ Necessary when making requests of God – James. 1:6-7

### **God enables us to overcome by sustaining, preserving, and empowering us**

- ❖ Sustains us in His Word –
- ❖ Preserves us by His Power – Psa. 37:28
  - Protects us – Psa. 32:7
  - Shelters us – Psa. 121:5
  - Keeps us – Hos. 14 (key vs. 8)
  - Empowers us by enabling us – Mat. 4:1; Luke 4:1

### **We must learn to appreciate the enabling Power of God**

- ❖ Enabled with an answer – Luke 12:8-12; Mat. 28:19-20; 1 Tim. 6:12; 1 Pet. 3:15
- ❖ Enabled to move and act – Eph. 2:10; James 2:17-18
- ❖ Enabled to respond to God's goodness – Psa. 103:1-5
  - Soul: nephesh: soul, self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion (Brown-Driver-Briggs' Hebrew Definitions)

### **God never expects from you what He has not enabled you to give Him**

- ❖ He has given you the ability to praise Him – Psa. 150:6
  - From where you are – Psa. 150:1
  - He has given you a reason – Psa. 150:2
  - With what you have access to – Psa. 150:3-5
  - With what you possess – Psa. 150:6

### **It's up to you and I to exercise our faith by giving God the praise of Faith**

- ❖ It confounds the enemy – 2 Chr. 20:14-22
- ❖ It is a way we draw closer to God – Psa. 22:3; Psa. 100-4-5; Heb. 13:15; 1 Pet. 2:9
- ❖ It draws the lost to Christ – Acts 16:25-34
- ❖ It's in His Will for us – 1 Thes. 5:18