

Faith and the Gospel (Part 4)

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Scripture References

Romans 12:3	Luke 17:5-10
Matthew 14:22-31	Hebrews 6:15
Mark 9:24	James 1:2, 3
Hebrews 10:35, 36	Romans 4:19

Summary

*When we hit the inevitable turbulence on our Christian walk, it is essential that we trust in what Jesus has told us in His Word. Our belief in Him is our lifeline; faith sees through the storms in our lives to the victory on the other side. God's grace has already provided everything we need independent of our efforts and prior to our need. Our faith allows us to lay hold of it. He gave all of us the same measure of faith; the key to seeing results is not asking for more of it but utilizing what we already have without doubting. Satan knows how powerful faith is, which is why he tries to introduce doubt to stop our faith from working. **Our** job is to consistently work our faith with patience and endurance until we physically see the harvest we are believing for. Being steadfast in moving forward regardless of what happens, and never letting anything shut down our faith, is how we mature spiritually.*

A. Peter utilized the measure of faith to walk on water. We have been given the same faith.

1. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith (Romans 12:3).
 - a. Sober thinking is thinking in line with God's Word; intoxicated thinking is thinking outside of its boundaries.
 - b. It is significant that this Scripture refers to "the" measure of faith and not "a" measure of faith. God has given all of us the same measure of faith; what is important is consistently using it.
2. And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? (Matthew 14:22-31).

- a. Peter represented all of mankind. By faith, he was doing something that the world says cannot be done. The proper perspective in this is not that Peter walked on water, but who he was going to; *Jesus* was his focus.
 - b. When He caught Peter, Jesus was not referring to “little faith” as a small amount of faith, but a short burst of faith that did not last.
 - c. Doubt short-circuits faith; this is what happened with the man who brought his possessed son to Jesus for healing.
 - d. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief (Mark 9:24).
- 3. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise (Hebrews 10:35, 36).
 - a. Confidence is the missing ingredient in faith; if we do not have confidence in something, it will not work. Peter lost confidence in his ability to walk on water.
 - b. Patience is simply faith applied over a long period of time.

B. Faith is the servant that does our bidding; we must not call it in until we see manifestation.

- 1. And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do (Luke 17:5-10).
 - a. We must be patient and endure. We must continue to work our faith and refuse to take it off the job until we see what we have been believing for; faith is our servant.
 - b. The “increase my faith” mindset operates under the assumption that Jesus is not enough, and that we need more of something we already have.
 - c. Faith has the duty to accomplish what we sent it out to do, regardless of how long it takes or what the situation looks like.
- 2. Faith that patiently endures is faith that lasts for a long time. Abraham is a good example of someone who worked his faith and did not take it off the field.
 - a. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise (Hebrews 6:15)
- 3. My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience (James 1:2, 3).
 - a. We can all expect to encounter various temptations, trials, and tribulations. We must not try to avoid them; they mature us spiritually.
 - b. When we send our faith on an assignment, it *will* be tried.
- 4. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb (Romans 4:19).
 - a. Our faith is big and strong as long as it is in use; it is small and weak when it is *not* in use. The right way to measure faith is whether or not it is active; we must never let it take a vacation.

- b. When it comes to our faith, we cannot have “microwave expectations.” We must be willing to employ it for the long haul, like a marathon.

Category: faith

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