

Faith and Healing

Notes by Franklin

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Faith and Healing

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I. Reasons for sickness:

1. **Natural Causes:** we live in a fallen world, harmful bacteria and viruses exist. The Lord gave us an immunity system to naturally resist them. Our immune system can be weakened and compromised allowing illness. The Lord has also given us antibiotics, vaccines, etc. out of His mercy and goodness. Common sense in cleanliness and hygiene helps.

Personally, when in a situation where I am exposed to an infectious disease or have little or no control over the cleanliness of the food or water, I put my faith in the Word of the LORD and declare: *"if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them"* (Mark 16:18) On the mission field we prayed, *"to any harmful organisms in this food or drink, I say DIE in the name of Jesus."* And for fourteen years we enjoyed health.

2. **Sin** opens a door, giving satan a legal right to attack us.
 Luke 13:10-13 *There was a woman who for eighteen years had had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. (12) When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness." (13) And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God.*
 - Clearly indicating that some afflictions can be caused by an evil spirit.
 - Note that Jesus did not 'cast out' the spirit, but declared she was free.

John 5:14 The Healing at Bethesda: *Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.*

- This man had been sick for 38 years.
- Emphasizing that bad things can happen because of sin.

Romans 1:24 *Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. . . . (27) committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.*

- Perhaps this could be referring to AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Proverb 3:7-8 *Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.*

3. Unhealthy Life Style

Galatians 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. (8) For the one who **sows to his own flesh** will from the **flesh reap corruption**, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.

- Very little exercise and unhealthy eating: too much fats, sugars, carbohydrates, etc. resulting in diabetes, blocked arteries, high blood pressure, heart problems, and more.
- Use of insecticides, toxic chemicals around the home, and the large amount used in food production that washes into rivers, wells and drinking supplies. These toxic chemicals can damage nerves, cells, our DNA, which can be passed on to children.

4. Unforgiveness, hatred, anger, resentment

Hebrews 12:15 See to it that no one **comes short of the grace of God**; that no **root of BITTERNESS springing up causes trouble**, and by it **many be defiled**;

Matthew 18:32-35 Then summoning him, his lord said to him, 'You wicked slave, **I forgave you** all that debt because you pleaded with me. (33) Should you not also have had mercy on your fellow slave, in the same way that I had mercy on you?' (34) And his lord, moved with anger, **handed him over to the torturers** until he should repay all that was owed him. (35) My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not **forgive** his brother from your heart

5. Disrespect for the Covenant Meal

1 Corinthians 11:27-32 Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. (28) But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (29) For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks **judgment** to himself **if** he does not judge the body rightly. (30) For this reason many among you are **weak** and **sick**, and a number **sleep**. (31) But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged. (32) But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.

II. The Healing Ministry of Jesus as recorded by Matthew:

Matthew 6:30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of **little faith!**

- We all are well clothed. We all have "little faith."
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Matthew 8:2-4 And a leper came to Him and bowed down before Him, and said, "Lord, **if You are willing, You can make me clean.**"

- Here is the Great Question: "if Jesus is willing?"
- And here is His answer:

(3) Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, "**I am willing; be cleansed.**" And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

That He 'is willing' is demonstrated throughout the Scriptures:

Exodus 12:13 The **blood** shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the **blood** I will pass over you, and **no plague will befall you to destroy you** when I strike the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:23 For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when He sees the **blood** on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over the door and **will not allow the destroyer to come in to your houses to smite you.**

Psalms 91:10-11 No **evil** shall befall you, nor shall any **plague** come near your dwelling; (11) For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

Matthew 9:35-38 Jesus was going through **all** the cities and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom, and **HEALING every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.** (36) Seeing the **multitudes**, He felt **compassion** for them, because they were **distressed** and beaten down like sheep without a shepherd. (37) Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but **the workers are few.** (38) "Therefore **beseech** the Lord of the harvest **to send out workers** into His harvest."

- The problem seems to be, NOT ENOUGH WORKERS with anything more than 'little faith.'
- We need to fervently ask and cry out for MORE FAITH as the father in the next verse:

Mark 9:23-24 And Jesus said to him, "If You can, all things are possible to him who believes." (24) Immediately the boy's father cried out and said, "**I do believe; help my unbelief.**"

- Far too often I am like this boy's father.
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Matthew 8:8-10 the centurion said, "Lord, I am not worthy for You to come under my roof, but **just say the word**, and my servant will be healed. (9) For I also am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, . . . (10) Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who were following, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such **great faith** with anyone in Israel . . . (13) And Jesus said to the centurion, "Go; **it shall be done** for you **as you have believed.**" And the servant was healed that very moment.

- The centurion first went to Jesus - we should also - and asked Jesus to speak THE WORD. However, Jesus is not on this earth today to speak THE WORD.
- WE ARE His Ambassadors (2Cor.5:20) to SPEAK HIS WORD here on earth. The LORD has given to us the AUTHORITY to speak His Word.

Matt 28:18-19 All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore He has the authority, told us to go, we go in His name

Mark 16:17-18 These **signs** will accompany those who have **believed**: in My name (by His authority) **they will** cast out demons, **they will** speak with new tongues; (18) they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**"

Matthew 16:19 I will give **YOU** the **keys of the kingdom** of heaven; and whatever **YOU bind** on earth **shall have been bound in heaven**, and whatever **YOU loose** on earth **shall have been loosed in heaven**.

- Notice the order, it begins in heaven but we have the 'keys' to bring it to this earth.
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Matthew 8:26 He said to them, "Why are you afraid, you men of **little faith**?" Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the sea, and it became perfectly calm.

- When the 'storms of life' threaten, **speaking the Word** in Faith can bring peace, safety and 'length of days' (Ps.34:12).

- Ephesians 6:16-17 in addition to all, taking up the **shield of faith** with which you **will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows** of the evil one. (17) And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**, which is the **WORD OF GOD**. (And How does the Word of God come to us?) (18) **Through*** all **prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit**, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,
[*dia (greek); a preposition denoting the channel of an act]
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Matthew 9:2 And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. **Seeing THEIR faith**, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven." (5) "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, and walk'? (6) "But **so that you may know** that the Son of Man has **authority on earth to forgive sins**" — then He said to the paralytic, "Get up, pick up your bed and go home." (7) And he got up and went home.

- It can be the FAITH of faithful friends who will not take 'No' for an answer, but will do whatever it takes to bring the afflicted to Jesus.
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Matthew 9:20-22 And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; (21) for she was saying to herself, "**If I only touch His garment, I will get well.**" (22) But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; **your faith has made you well.**" At once the woman was made well.

- Pushing through all obstacles, never giving up, has its rewards.
 - "**If . . .**" When our faith perseveres and touches HIM, the connection is made and the Power of HIS Glory, HIS Wholeness, flows into us.
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Matthew 9:27-30 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" (Jesus gave no answer, but they kept blindly following) (28) When He entered the house, (a closed door did not stop their pursuit) the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "**Do you believe that I am able to do this?**" They said to Him, "**Yes, Lord.**" (29) Then He touched their eyes, saying, "**It shall be done to you according to your faith.**" (30) And their eyes were opened.

Matthew 7:7-8 **Keep on asking**, and **you will** be given what you ask for. **Keep on seeking**, and **you will** find. **Keep on knocking**, and the door **will** be opened. (8) For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks. NLT

When PETER walked on the water, to us he demonstrated "great faith" however Jesus said he had "little faith."

Matthew 14:31 Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, "You of **little faith, why did you doubt?**

- Jesus is saying, our faith is "little" when it is mixed with "doubt."
1. Peter's heart and prayer is the will and desire of the Lord for all of us. *"Lord, I want to be with you, where you are."* Jesus will always answer that prayer with, "**Come**."
 2. Peter did the impossible, he walked on water, **by 'great' faith**.
 3. Seeing the storm he took his eyes off of Jesus with **fear** and **doubt**. We must **fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith** Heb.12:2
 4. As he began to sink under the waves, he again looked to Jesus and prayed: *"Lord save me!"* Another prayer that is in line with His will.
 - In this we see the success and failure of "little faith."
 - We need a faith that is bigger than the storms of life that would drag us down to defeat.
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Your Faith can grow by:

(1) prayer and fasting: Isaiah 58:6 **Is this not the fast which I choose, vs.8 And your recovery** (literally health) **will speedily spring forth.**

(2) feeding your spirit by reading, studying, meditating, memorizing, the Word of God: **faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ**
Romans 10:17

Matthew 15:27-28 **But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." (28) Then Jesus said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; IT SHALL BE DONE FOR YOU AS YOU WISH." And her daughter was healed at once.**

- Faith will not take "no" for an answer.
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Matthew 16:8 **But Jesus, aware of this, said, "You men of little faith, why do you discuss among yourselves that you have no bread?"**

- Faith is not limited by what we do not have
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Matthew 17:20 And He said to them, "Because of the **littleness of your faith**; for truly I say to you, **if you have faith the size of a mustard seed**, YOU WILL SAY to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and **nothing will be impossible to you**.

- He is saying – it does not take a large amount of faith.

Matthew 21:21-22 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Truly I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt**, you will not only **do** what was done to the fig tree, but even if **you say** to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' **it will happen**. (22) AND ALL THINGS YOU **ASK IN PRAYER, BELIEVING**, YOU WILL RECEIVE.

III. Dr. Luke's Observations:

Luke 4:40-41 While the sun was setting, **all** those who had any who were **sick** with various diseases brought them to Him; and **laying His hands on** each one of them, **He was healing them**. (41) Demons also were coming out of many, shouting

Luke 6:17-19 a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, (18) who had **come to hear Him and to be healed** of their diseases; and those who were troubled with **unclean spirits** were being **cured**. (19) And all the people were trying to touch Him, for **power** was coming from Him and **healing them all**.

- Preaching (and/or teaching) and healing are often together.
- The healing does show forth His authority making His teaching creditable.
- Unclean spirits are often associated with health problems.

Luke 9:1-2 And He called the twelve together, **and gave THEM power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases**. (2) And **He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing**. (6) Departing, they began going throughout the villages, **preaching the gospel and healing everywhere**.

- Power and authority were given to His disciples to also carry on the same ministry – proclaiming the kingdom and healing.

Luke 9:10-11 When the apostles returned, they gave an account to Him of all that they had done. Taking them with Him, He withdrew by Himself to a city called Bethsaida. (11) But the crowds were aware of this and followed Him; and welcoming them, He began **speaking** to them about the **kingdom of God** and **curing those who had need of healing**.

- Same pattern – teaching on the kingdom and healing. Demonstrating that in the Kingdom there is no sickness.
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Acts 5:13-16 At the hands of **the apostles** many **signs and wonders** were taking place among the people . . . (14) And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, (15) to such an extent that they even **carried the sick out into the streets** and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. (16) Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were **sick** or afflicted with **unclean spirits**, and they were **all being healed**.

- After the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit signs and wonders confirmed that these men (followers of Jesus Christ) and their message, was from the Lord God Almighty.

Peters Ministry:

Acts 3:2-10 A man who had been lame from his mother's womb was being carried along, . . . (4) **Peter**, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, "Look at us!" (5) And he began to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. (6) But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: **In the name of Jesus Christ** the Nazarene — **walk!**" (7) And **seizing him** by the right hand, he **raised him up**; and **immediately** his feet and his ankles were strengthened. (8) With a leap he stood upright and **began to walk**; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. (9) And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

- It was not the faith of the lame man.
- Peter, obviously had no hesitation as to the outcome. A demonstration of "faith without works is dead."

Acts 9:36-42 Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); . . . (37) And it happened at that time that **she fell sick and died**; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room. (38) Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that **Peter** was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, "Do not delay in coming to us." (39) So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping . . . (40) But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and **prayed**, and turning to the body, he said, "**Tabitha, arise.**" And she **opened her eyes**, and when she saw Peter, she **sat up**. (41) And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. (42) **It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.**

- Signs and wonders confirm to bring many to faith / belief.

Philip's Ministry

Acts 8:4-8 Therefore, those who had been scattered went about **preaching the word**. (5) **Philip** went down to the city of Samaria and began **proclaiming Christ** to them. (6) The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as **they heard and saw the signs** which he was performing. (7) For in the case of **many** who had **unclean spirits**, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and **many** who had been **paralyzed** and **lame were healed**. (8) So there was much rejoicing in that city.

- Signs confirming the preaching of the gospel in new territory.

Paul's Experiences

Acts 28:7-10 the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days. (8) And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with **recurrent fever** and **dysentery**; and **Paul** went in to see him and after he had **prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him**. (9) After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had **diseases** were coming to him and getting **cured**. (10) They also honored us with many marks of respect; and when we were setting sail, they supplied us with all we needed.

- Again, signs confirming the men and their message.

Acts 19:11-13 God was performing **extraordinary miracles** by the hands of **Paul**, (12) so that **handkerchiefs** or aprons were even carried from his body to the **sick**, and the **diseases left them and the evil spirits went out**.

Philippians 2:25-27 Epaphroditus, For indeed he **was sick** to the point of death, but God had mercy on him,

- Again, some sickness continues to the point of death

2 Timothy 4:20 Trophimus **I left sick** at Miletus.

- I would certainly think Paul prayed for Trophimus more than once.

1 Timothy 5:23 No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of **your stomach** and your **frequent ailments**.

- It seems Timothy's ailments continued beyond prayer.

Not everyone was healed from their ailments and sicknesses.

IV. The Scriptures Define Faith as:

*Now faith is the **assurance** of things hoped for, the **conviction** of things not seen.* Hebrews 11:1 NASU

*Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen.* NKJV

The Greek word for assurance or substance is: hupostasis (hupo – under; stasis – to stand, abide, continue)

Thayer's Greek Lexicon - something put under, a substructure, a foundation

- has actual existence; a substance
- the substantial quality, nature of, steadfastness of mind, a firmness, courage, a resolution, confidence, firm trust, assurance

The Greek word has the sense of **action** in it and not just a thing or substance. **Faith if it has no works, is dead.** (James 2:17)

J. N. Darby has translated the verse this way:

"Faith is the substantiating of things hoped for."

sub·stance That which has mass and occupies space; matter. It can be seen and touched. A material of a particular kind or constitution.

sub·stan·tial Of, relating to, or having substance; material. True or real; not imaginary.

sub·stan·ti·ate To support with proof or evidence; verify:

a. To give material form to; embody. **b.** To make firm or solid.
To give substance to; make real or actual.

So Faith gives *substance to* and *makes real or actual* (to give material form to) things hoped for.

In other words: Faith brings into being that which is hoped for.

Romans 4:17-22 God, who gives life to the dead and **calls into being that which does not exist**. (18) **In hope against hope he believed**, so that he might become a father of many nations **according to that which HAD BEEN SPOKEN**, "so shall your descendants be." (19) **Without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body**, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; (20) **yet, with respect to the promise of God, HE DID NOT WAVER IN UNBELIEF BUT GREW STRONG IN FAITH**, giving glory to God, (21) and **being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform**.

2 Corinthians 4:18 "*We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are **temporal**, but the things which are not seen are **eternal**.*"

Faith brings into reality "*the things which are not seen*" and makes them to be seen, to become real to me in my experience.

Faith substantiates to me the things of Christ.

For Example: Romans 6:6 "*Our old man was crucified with Him.*"

- Faith makes this truth real to me in my experience.
- **Faith does not create. It can only obtain** what the LORD has purchased or provided for us.

- A title deed is forgery unless the actual land exists.
- If I do not believe it, it is still true. It is still a fact. But it is not made actual in my life or experience.

If I should win a large sum of money and my name is announced on the television that it is true, that it is a fact and all I have to do is come and receive it. Yet I do not believe it, then even though it is a fact, it never becomes mine in experience.

If we do not believe the facts of the Cross they will remain as real as ever, but they are valueless to us. It does not need faith to make these things real in themselves, but faith can 'substantiate' them and make them real in our experience.

John 17:17 "*Sanctify them in the truth; **Your word is truth.***"

Psalm 103:2-5 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; (3) **Who pardons all your iniquities**, who **heals all your diseases**; (4) Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; (5) Who satisfies your years with **good things**, so that your **youth is renewed** like the eagle.

Matthew 8:16-17 When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He **cast out the spirits** with a word, and **healed all** who were ill. (17) THIS WAS TO FULFILL WHAT WAS SPOKEN THROUGH ISAIAH THE PROPHET: "**he himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases.**"

1 Peter 2:24 and **He Himself bore our sins** in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for **by His wounds you were healed.**

Faith is total commitment of yourself to the Word of the Lord.

Genesis 12:1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Go forth from your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. (4) **So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him**

The **WORD**, the **PROMISES**, are your TITLE DEED to eternal life and abundant life. Just as a title deed is evidence of ownership, so **your faith, with its works**, MAKES THE BLESSINGS OF THE TITLE DEED YOURS.

Abraham had the promise of the LORD's Word concerning his son Isaac.

Genesis 15:4-6 **one who will come forth from your own body**, he shall be your heir. (5) And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, " So shall your descendants be." (6) Then **he believed** in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness. (also 17:1-7)

The test of Abraham's faith:

Genesis 22:2 *He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.*

Genesis 22:8 Abraham said, "**God will provide** for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

Hebrews 11:19 He considered that **God is able to raise people even from the dead**, from which he also received him back as a type.

Faith is trusting and obeying the LORD to do and bring about what is right when our **mind** and all else within us can only see impossibilities.

Faith is knowing that: *God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

Romans 8:28

Hebrews 11:6 *And **without faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that (1) **He is** and that (2) He is a **rewarder** of those who seek Him"*

1. "HE IS" who He said He was and has done all that is written
2. He does "reward" faith that keeps seeking Him as this pleases Him.

Faith goes beyond reason.

- It believes without understanding why (Genesis 22:2).
- It sings in prison (Acts 16:25).
- It glories in tribulations (Romans 5:3).
- It chooses to suffer (Hebrews 11:25)

God has allotted to each a measure of faith. Romans 12:3-4

And from this measure, our faith can grow and be increased as we learn to **listen**: So faith comes from hearing, and **hearing** by the **word** of Christ.

Romans 10:17

- The works that Jesus did came by hearing and seeing His Father.

John 5:19-20 Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself**, unless it is something **He sees** the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things **the Son also does** in like manner.

- Pray for, and train our eyes to see what HE is doing.

John 5:30 I can do nothing on My own initiative. **As I hear**, I judge; and My judgment is just, because **I do not seek My own will**, but **the will of Him who sent Me**.

- Learn to continually LISTEN to that still, small voice deep inside.
- Lay our agenda aside. Find HIS will in each situation.

John 8:28-29 **I do nothing on My own initiative**, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me.

- Be a learner, a disciple, read the Word, pray in the Spirit.

John 8:38 **I speak** the things which **I have seen** with My Father

- Seeing comes before speaking. Close our mouth until we see.

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? **The words that I say** to you **I do not speak on My own initiative**, but the Father **ABIDING in Me** does His works.

- John 15:4-5 **Abide in Me**, and **I in you**. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless **you abide in Me**. I am the vine, you are the branches; **he who abides in Me and I in him**, he **bears much fruit**, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

John 14:12-14 Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who believes** in Me, the **works that I do, he will do also**; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. (13) **Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do**, so that the **Father may be glorified** in the Son. (14) If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

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John 14:13 *Whatever you ask* - This promise referred particularly to the apostles in their work of spreading the gospel; it is, however, true of all Christians, if what they ask is in faith, and according to the will of God.

James 1:6 *But he must ask in faith without any doubting,*

1 John 5:14 *This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*

In my name - This is equivalent to saying on my account, or for my sake. If a man who has money in a bank authorizes us to draw it, we are said to do it in his name. If a son authorizes us to apply to his father for aid because we are his friends, we do it in the name of the son, and the favor will be bestowed on us from the regard which the parent has to his son, and through him to all his friends. So we are permitted to apply to God in the name of his Son Jesus Christ, because God is in him well pleased (Matt 3:17), and because we are the friends of his Son he answers our requests. Though we are undeserving, yet he loves us on account of his Son, and because he sees in us his image. No privilege is greater than that of approaching God in the name of his Son; no blessings of salvation can be conferred on any who do not come in his name.

That will I do - Being exalted, he will possess all power in heaven and earth (Matt 28:18), and he therefore could fulfill all their desires.

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V. The Importance of Faith.

The **shield of faith** is a vital part of the Christian's armor. You are to put on the "*whole armor of God*" (Ephesians 6:16) because the Christian life is a warfare, a spiritual conflict. As Paul names the different parts of the Christian's armor, he comes to the shield and emphasizes its importance by saying, "*Above all, taking the shield of faith*" for with the shield of faith, nothing can hurt you; you are more than conquerors through Him (Romans 8:37).

The Importance of Faith is seen in that:

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| 1. You cannot be save without faith. | John 3:36 |
| 2. You cannot live victoriously. | 1 John 5:4 |
| 3. You cannot please God. | Hebrews 11:6 |
| 4. You cannot pray. | James 1:6 |
| 5. You cannot have peace with God. | Romans 5:1 |
| 6. You cannot have joy. | 1 Peter 1:8 |
| 7. You are justified by faith. | Galatians 2:16 |
| 8. You are to live by faith. | Galatians 2:20 |
| 9. You are made righteous by faith. | Romans 10:1-4 |
| 10. Christ dwells in your heart by faith. | Ephesians 3:17 |
| 11. The Holy Spirit is received by faith. | Galatians 3:2 |
| 12. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. | Romans 14:23 |

Faith is important because it honors God, and God honors faith.

VI. Lessons from Lazarus' Sickness

John 11:3-5 So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."

- As true believers should, and do with illness, they called Jesus.
- Their appeal is a good way for us to call also as Jesus loves us all.

(4) But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."

- "This sickness is not to end in death" **indicates that some illnesses do end in death.** Hebrews 9:27 *inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once*
- Our **living** and **our dying**, and all that we do, should bring glory to our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 14:8 **if we live**, we live for the Lord, or **if we die**, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and **to die is gain.**

(23) But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire **to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better.**

John 11:6 When He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

- Often our prayers, our cries are not answered immediately. But the LORD has heard, He knows, and He has a good reason, a purpose for delay.

John 11:21-24 Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. (22) "Even now **I know** that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

- Martha's faith was strong

(23) Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." (24) Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

- Martha's faith was strong, her theology was sound, and still her prayers for the healing of her brother, to this point, were of no avail.
- Martha declared basic faith in a great truth, but that is not enough to accomplish great deeds today.
- Her strong faith was limited. She believed that Jesus had the power to raise her brother from the sick bed, but not from the dead.
- LIMITED FAITH is controlled by CIRCUMSTANCES and motivated by fear of failure.

(25) Jesus said to her, "I AM the RESURRECTION and THE LIFE
HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME WILL LIVE EVEN IF HE DIES,

- Jesus has all power over life and death. (Hebrews 2:14)
Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, (18) and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and **I have the keys of death** and of Hades. Revelation 1:17-19
- Faith that BELIEVES in JESUS is sufficient, and all that is necessary, to live forever – even if he dies!

(26) and EVERYONE who lives and BELIEVES IN ME **WILL NEVER DIE.**

- This is an Awesome and Wonderful Truth. The body may cease to function, but THE PERSON LIVES!

Do you believe this? (27) She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

- Martha evaded or did not answer the question but stated her basic faith in her creed.
- It is not enough to believe in a creed only; faith must go beyond a creed, to the living, all powerful Lord Jesus Christ.

(39) Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days."

- Perhaps the "stone" could also refer to our closed mind, our doubt, that stands in the way of Faith.

Vs. 40 Jesus said to her, "*Did I not say to you, if you believe, you will see the glory of God?*"

- We often hear that "seeing is believing" but this is not so for the person of faith. **You believe and then see.**
- Faith comes before sight.

(41) So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. (42) I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me."

- 1 John 5: 14 This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we **ask anything ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, He hears us.** (15) And **IF we know that He hears us** in whatever we ask, **we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.**

(43) When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." (44) The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

- The Spoken Word of Faith, Substantiates, or Brings into being the Will of the LORD on this earth. *God, who gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.* Romans 4:17-18
- Do Not be satisfied with LIMITED, BASIC FAITH only, when you can have UNLIMITED FAITH that pleases God and reveals His GLORY.

VII. The Hall of Faith

Hebrews 11 - You should often read this chapter and meditate upon it that your faith may become strong in the Lord, for here we get a view of the history of Israel and the church, as it is written by faith, in the great accomplishments of the saints.

- Vs. 4 They worshipped by faith as Abel.
- Vs. 5 They walked by faith as Enoch.
- Vs. 7 They worked by faith as Noah.
- Vs. 8-19 They lived by faith as Abraham
- Vs. 20-22 They spoke blessings for the future by faith as Isaac, Jacob
- Vs. 23-28 They governed by faith as Moses.
- Vs. 29 They walked through the sea by faith as Israel.
- Vs. 30 They fought by faith as Joshua.
- Vs. 31 Those of other nations obtained salvation by faith - Rahab.
- Vs. 32-33 They conquered kingdoms by faith as did Gideon.
- Vs. 33 They closed the mouths of lions by faith as did Daniel.
- Vs. 34 They walked through the fire by faith as the three Hebrews
- Vs. 35-38 They **suffered** by faith as Paul. They **died** by faith as did Stephen.

Hebrews 11:38-40 *men of whom the world was not worthy, wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all these, having **gained approval through their faith, DID NOT RECEIVE WHAT WAS PROMISED**, because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.*

It is only by FAITH in the Almighty Lord Jesus Christ that you can have peace in the midst of the storm, and be victorious over all the evil forces that would try to destroy you.

Hebrews 12:1-3 *Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us,*

- The faith of the saints of old, inspire and encourage us as they watch from above. Therefore:

let us also **lay aside** every **encumbrance** and the **sin** which so easily entangles us,

- The weight of doubts, untruths, and sin, all open a door and give the enemy a legal right to harass us. Put them off, put them away.

and let us **run** with **endurance** the **race** that is set before us,

- Seasons and stages in life can be hard and long but Faith never gives up.

(2) **fixing our eyes on Jesus**, the author and perfecter of faith,

- Jesus **is** and **will** perfect your faith.
- Do not look at the problem, the mountain, but look away unto Jesus as an obedient, well trained dog never takes his eyes off of his master so as to instantly obey his masters directions in the obstacle course.

who for the **joy** set before Him **endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

- For the JOY of the rewards and blessings to come, endure your TRIALS, even if rejected and ridiculed for your faith, for the day will come when you will be seated with HIM.

(3) For **consider Him** who has **endured** such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that **you will not grow weary and lose heart**.

- When you are ready to say, "its too much" consider the cross . . .
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VIII. The Trials of Faith

As the LORD said to Peter during his trial, He says to all of us:

Luke 22:32 I have prayed for you, that **your faith may not fail**

- Peter thought his faith was strong and unwavering. Luke 22:33 Peter said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!"
- But when the **trial** came Peter denied the LORD three times just as Jesus said: Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me. Luke 22:34
- It was only after the **trial** that Peter had the **faith** to go both to prison and to death for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Knowing that he was near the end of his ministry, Paul summarized his 30-plus years:

2 Tim 4:6-7 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. (7) **I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith**

- 'Fighting the good fight' and 'keeping the FAITH' definitely go together.

The Apostle Paul's admonition to his young disciple:

1 Tim 6:12 **Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.**

- The enemy of our soul will do everything possible to dilute and **weaken** our **faith**. He whispers to our mind and creates doubt and unbelief. It is definitely a FIGHT to keep and to grow our faith. We **MUST** take Paul's admonition to Timothy to ourselves personally, and **FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH**.

Paul had endured considerable trials in his 'fight of faith.'

- Paul had seen the LORD do great and mighty things: cities shaken, men raised from the dead, many saved out of darkness and the young church established.
- But Paul had also experienced some terrible times:
 - Stoned and left for dead Acts 14:19-20 Where was the Lord?
 - Persecution by individuals: 1 Tim.1:18-20; 2 Tim.4:14
 - A list of some of his trials of faith: 2 Cor.11:23-33

<- It Is A FIGHT of FAITH ->

Job's Great Trials of His Faith

Job 1:6-12 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. . . . (8) The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is **no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.**" (9) Then Satan answered the LORD, . . . (10) "Have You not made a **hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased** in the land.

- Psalm 1:1-3

(11) "But put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has; **he will surely curse** You to Your face."

- satan or any demon could not touch Job without the LORD's permission.
- 1 John 5:18 We know that no one who is born of God sins; but He who was born of God keeps him, and **the evil one does not touch him.**

(12) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, **all that he has** is in your power, only **do not put forth your hand on him.**" So Satan departed from the presence of the LORD.

- satan can only do what the LORD allows to one of HIS children.
- **The LORD allowed a GREAT TRIAL OF JOB'S FAITH.**

Job 1:13-22

Now on the day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

- Job lost all of his livestock and servants vs.14-17
- Job's children and their friends were killed vs.18-19
 - It is not clear, but I believe the only way satan could attack Job's children is if by sin they gave the enemy a legal right. This is a good conclusion because: Job 1:5 Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

Upon hearing all of this horrible news: vs.20 Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head, and he fell to the ground and **worshiped.** (21) He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. **The LORD gave** and the **LORD has taken away.** Blessed be the name of the LORD." (22) **Through all this Job did not sin nor did he blame God.**

- Job passed the TRIAL OF HIS FAITH in an example nary way for all of us to be encouraged by.
- **However, the TRIAL was not over:**

Job 2:2-10 The LORD said to Satan, . . . "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. **And he still holds fast his integrity**, although you incited Me against him **to ruin him without cause.**" (4) Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. (5) " However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." (6) So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life."

(7) Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and **smote Job with sore boils** from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

- Again showing that some afflictions are from The Enemy whether allowed by us or by the LORD.

(9) Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" (10) But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. **Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?**" In all this **Job did not sin with his lips.**

The Question is Often Asked, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" Job was certainly a good man.

- We do not always know or understand **WHY**.
- We do not always know or understand **HOW** it will end.
- But we do know **WHO**, is in control of all things. And **WHO** our Father is. And **WHO** loves us so Greatly that *while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8)

Hebrews 11:13 All these **died in faith, without receiving the promises**, (It was not the Lord's will. Could it be that in some of those who are not healed as we ask, the Lord has a higher plan?) **but having seen them and having welcomed them** from a distance, and having **confessed** that they were **strangers and exiles on the earth.** (they still had great faith)
 (14) For those who say such things **make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.** (16) But as it is, **they desire a better country**, that is, **a heavenly one.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for HE HAS PREPARED A CITY FOR THEM.

As Paul said: For to me, to live is Christ and **to die is gain**. But **if** I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and **I do not know** which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to **depart and be with Christ**, for that is **very much better**. Phil 1:21-23

Perhaps As: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego replied to the king, (it will give us understanding) "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it be so, **our God** whom we serve **is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire**; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. **But even IF HE DOES NOT**, let it be known to you, O king, that **we are not** going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up. Daniel 3:16-18

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the **fiery ordeal** among you, **which comes upon you** for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; (13) but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, **keep on rejoicing**, SO THAT also at the revelation of His glory **you may rejoice with exultation**.

James 1:12 **Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial**; for once he has been approved, **he will receive the crown of life** which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.

Even our LORD JESUS suffered a GREAT TRIAL OF HIS FAITH
 Luke 22:41-45 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, (42) saying, "**Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.**" (43) Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. (44) And **being in agony He was praying very fervently**; and **His sweat became like drops of blood**, falling down upon the ground.

Luke 23:33 When they came to the place called The Skull, there **they crucified Him** and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.

Hebrews 12:3 For **consider Him** who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that **you WILL NOT** grow weary and lose heart.

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. (11) Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **stand firm** against the schemes of the devil. (12) For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the

heavenly places. (13) Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to **resist** in the evil day, and having **done everything**, to **stand firm**. (14) **Stand firm** therefore, having GIRDED YOUR LOINS with **truth**, and having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**, (15) and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **gospel** of peace; (16) in addition to all, taking up **the shield of faith** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (17) And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the Word of God.

1 Peter 1:4-9 You who ARE PROTECTED BY THE POWER OF GOD **through faith** for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. (6) In this you **greatly rejoice**, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been **distressed by various trials**, (7) so that the **proof of your faith**, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though **tested by fire**, may be found to **result in praise and glory and honor** at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (8) and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you **greatly rejoice** with joy inexpressible and full of glory, (9) obtaining as the outcome **of your faith** the salvation of your souls.

Our 'race' is not a sprint, but a marathon:

Hebrews 12:1-3 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **run with endurance the race that is set before us**, (2) fixing our eyes on **Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith**, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) For consider Him who has **endured** such hostility by sinners against Himself, **so that you will not grow weary and lose heart**.

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