

BUILDING OUR FAITH

PART 5

*You never know
how strong you are*



*until being strong
is the only choice
you have.*

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True Heart Faith Always Works

- There is a big difference between mental faith and heart faith. One can feel that he has lots of faith when he has mental faith only, but this is not enough.
- One must have true active faith that acts upon the Word of God and that will cause one to act as if the prayer has already been answered when prayer is offered.
- This kind of faith will not take no for an answer. It will not place blame on God and try to excuse one's self for the failure.

- It will not once question or waver concerning the answer. It counts things done whether they are seen or not. (Romans 4:17-25)
- On the other hand, mental faith will begin to question the will of God if the answer is not given immediately. It will reason, wonder, begin to doubt, and constantly seek for some grounds to stand upon and is easily reconciled to defeat.
- (Romans 8:5-17)
- One can always tell his true state and whether he is exercising true faith or not if he will be honest and consider things in the light of the Bible.

- True faith is taking God at His Word. It maintains that the answer to prayer has been granted regardless of whether it sees, thinks, or feels. It does not look to circumstances and possibilities in the least.
- It acts like it did through Abraham of old who simply believed God, and who was fully persuaded by the word of God alone that what God had promised He was able to perform.
- Abraham had his faith built upon what God said and not what he could see or feel.

- He was occupied with what God had said, not what he thought were his possibilities.
- He refused to reduce in the least degree his confidence in God. He held firm to his conviction that God was true to His word and would do as He promised.
- He even glorified God before he received the answer, and he acted as if the request was already fulfilled.

- True faith will always bring results if one will intelligently seek to know what God says and base his faith upon the Word of God and be determined to obey to the letter of the Word of faith, he will get whatsoever he saith ([Matt. 21:21-22](#); [Mark 11:22-24](#); [John 14:12-15](#); [15:7](#), [16](#); [16:23-26](#)).
- Let no one be discouraged if he does not get immediately what he has asked of God. Keep reading the lessons on faith and prayer and following the instructions in the supplements until your faith is built up to the point where you get what you ask of God.

- It may take time to build up faith, but it is worth all the work that is necessary to get a strong and unwavering faith.
- It will provide rich rewards in the end, so keep up an intelligent program of finding out what to do and how to do it, and all demons out of the Abyss cannot stop you from getting from God what you want in life.

What Faith is and How to Use it

- If one wants to please God he must have faith: ([Heb. 11:6](#)).
- This is one sure way to please God. If God can be made happy and well pleased in such a simple way, why shouldn't everyone who loves Him put forth the utmost effort to have faith in Him?
- None of us would be pleased if our friends constantly made us a liar every time we opened our mouths. Not one of us would feel like doing anything for those who did this.
- The same is true with God. He is a person, and we should learn to treat Him as a person and not insult Him by questioning and doubting every promise that He makes.

- How can we expect to get answers to prayer as long as we continue in such an attitude?
- How can we have the nerve to come to God continually and ask Him for something, and then tell Him by our acts and innermost feelings that we do not believe Him and cannot trust Him to the extent that He demands?
- Is it any wonder that we get so few prayers answered by such a procedure? The greatest miracle of all is that He ever answers us once.
- God is under no obligation to answer if we do not have implicit faith in Him for what we ask.

- Faith is simple. It is believing God without a waver, without doubting, and without questioning what He says.
- It is taking God at His Word and believing that what He has promised He is able to perform it. It is believing not only that He is able, but that He will do it. It is the quality of counting those things that "be not as though they were" (Rom. [4:17](#)).
- Faith is also the absolute conviction that what God has promised and what we have asked according to His Word is done already. It is "the substance of things hoped for" and the first payment on things that we desire from God ([Heb. 11:1-3](#)).

- The way to get faith is by hearing the Word of God (Rom. [10:17](#)).
- The way to use faith is to take God at His Word and count Him faithful in granting what is asked in the name of Jesus.
- Ask and then believe that it is done. Thank God for it as if it were already done.
- Expect the complete answer whether you see it at once or not. Forget symptoms, feelings, impossibilities, or anything to the contrary and it shall be done regardless of how impossible it may appear outwardly.

- Faith laughs at impossibilities and cries, "It is done." It leaves all results and all answers with God as being God's part, and it assumes that it is done.
- Our part then is to cooperate with faith and not hinder its working by doubting and questioning the how and when of the answer.

- If a Christian will truly exercise faith that he knows is necessary, there will be no question as to the answer.
- One can get healing, health, success in business or in any undertaking, prosperity, happiness, or anything that would cause one to be victorious in any phase of life ([Mt. 17:20](#); [21:22](#); [Mk. 11:22-24](#); [Jn. 15:7, 16](#); Rom. [8:32](#); [Heb. 11:6](#); [Jas. 1:5-8](#)).

Kinds of Faith

- There are several kinds of faith mentioned in Scripture, of which the following list will be helpful in arriving at the kind of faith one should have:
- 1. COMMON FAITH ([Titus 1:4](#)). It is called "the mutual faith" ([Rom. 1:12](#)). This is the faith that is common to all men who claim to be Christians.
- It is common because of the few commonly accepted truths held more or less alike by all Christians, such as belief in Christ as a Savior and in eternal life.
- The uncommon kind is that rare faith in apostolic power and in the fullness of God in the lives of all Christians.
- It is faith in these truths that brings controversy because the average church member has not been taught that he can have all the benefits of the gospel which were experienced by early Christians.

- 2. STRONG FAITH (Rom. [4:20](#)).
- This faith is the kind that refuses to be defeated. It refuses to take no for an answer.
- It laughs at circumstances, symptoms, all outward appearances, and what is seen, heard, or felt, and it doggedly holds to the fact that what has been asked of God is granted.
- Abraham had this kind of faith: (Rom. [4:18-22](#)).
- This is the kind of faith all men should have and could have if they would only persuade themselves that God is true to His Word.

- Most men claim that they have faith in God to this extent, and not one wants to say boldly that He is a liar and that He will not do as He said, but when it comes to exercising faith that will not doubt or waver in prayer, very few will maintain such a strong faith and thank God for the answer even before it is realized.
- Very few will simply refuse to question or waver in the least when it seems that things are going contrary to what has been asked of God.
- This is exactly why they do not get definite answers from God.

- There is no person who will exercise faith as strong as that of Abraham who will go very long without an answer from God.
- Such a thing, that God would refuse one who came to Him in such unwavering faith is literally impossible and unheard of ([James 1:5-8](#); [Heb. 11:16](#)).
- All men are definitely assured of getting from God those things which He has promised if they will "walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham" (Rom. [4:12](#). 23-25).

- 3. LITTLE FAITH ([Matt. 6:30](#); [8:26](#); [14:31](#); [Lk. 12:28](#)). This is the same as no faith because it is the wavering kind ([Heb. 10:23](#); [James 1:5-8](#)).
- 4. GREAT FAITH ([Matt. 8:10](#); [15:28](#)). This is the true, unwavering faith that will always move God to answer according to His abundant promises ([Heb. 11:6](#)).
- 5. UNFEIGNED FAITH ([1 Tim. 1:5](#); [2 Tim. 1:5](#)). This faith is the kind that knows no hypocrisy, sham, or counterfeit. It is the kind that does not brag or put on outward show, that it is real.

- It is simply genuine and real and sincere in its every aspect. It proceeds out of a pure heart and from a good conscience, as stated in these Scriptures.
- It is not hereditary, although in [2 Tim. 1:5](#) Paul speaks of it as being in three successive generations.
- It is the kind that all honest, pure, and sincere men have.
- It is the unselfish, holy, and godly kind that naturally increases in the life of every true child of God, as he grows in grace and knowledge ([2 Pet. 1:4-9](#); [3:18](#)).

- 6. TEMPORARY FAITH ([Luke 8:13](#)). This is the kind of faith that believes for a while and springs up like a mushroom, but because of shallowness, lack of root it fails in time of temptation and test.
- People through the ages have been of this type. They receive the Word of God with great joy, and it seems that they are going to outstrip everybody else in faith, but after a few days or weeks they are not heard of again.
- They never fully come clean with God or make the full surrender of their lives except for the moment. They do not prepare the soil so that the seed can take root and produce fruit.

- Some teach that this cannot happen, but it does in spite of the so-called impossibility of falling away from the faith and being renewed in repentance again.
- Some teach that one cannot fall from the faith, but Jesus certainly said that some would "receive the word with joy; and these have no root, WHICH FOR A WHILE BELIEVE, and in time of temptation FALL AWAY" ([Matt. 13:20-21](#); [Luke 8:13](#)).
- Paul speaks of these as those who "concerning faith have made shipwreck" ([1 Tim. 1:19](#)), as "having cast off their first faith" by going "aside after Satan" ([1 Tim. 5: 12-15](#)), and as having "erred concerning the faith" ([1 Tim. 6:21](#)).

- Many Scriptures say that men can depart from and fall from the faith ([Acts 14:22](#); [1 Tim. 2:15](#); [4:1](#); [5:8-15](#); [6:10,21](#); [2 Tim. 2:18](#); [Heb. 3:6](#); 12-14; [6:11-12](#); [10:22-28](#)). Men are repeatedly told to continue in the faith ([Acts 14:22](#); [Col. 1:23](#); [2:6-7](#)).
- Anybody with common intelligence knows that he can disbelieve anything that he chooses to lose faith in, especially in things that are not seen.

- 7. ACTIVE FAITH ([James 2:14-26](#); [Heb. 10:19-38](#)).
This is the kind that acts upon the Word of God as it is made clear. James put it this way: "shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."
 - All men must have this faith to get anything from God.
 - As long as faith is purely mental and passive no action will be taken to obey the truth.
 - Men must get beyond the stage of hearing and into the act of doing what God says before they get results.

- Active living faith moves to obey every truth of God to the letter and to appropriate what God has promised.
- It acts as if the things that are not seen are a reality.
- It is quick to provide works to prove that it is sincere and obedient.
- Multitudes of people have never had an answer to prayer, and they are missing the greatest blessings of life by such neglect.

- Most people depend upon others to get answers for them. They pray, as they think, but they want someone else to do the believing.
- In reality, they are not praying. They are merely saying words and going through a form of prayer.
- True New Testament praying is always heard of God, and the answer is always sure. God has planned that all men should have this kind of faith and results.
- "These signs shall follow them that believe," and "all things are possible to him that believeth" ([Mark 9:23](#); [11:22-24](#); [16:15-20](#); [John 14:12-15](#)).

- Faith can be developed into a mighty living force that will know no defeat.
- You can know that you are master of all demon powers and circumstances through Jesus Christ.
- You no longer need be a slave to fear, timidity, weakness, failure, sickness, poverty, helplessness, and despair.
- You can be a conqueror in the very things wherein you have suffered defeat. ([John 15:5, 7, 16](#); Romans 8:31-39)

- You must awake to the consciousness of the new life you have in Christ.
- As a branch, you have His life, His health, His power, His love, and His nature flowing through you.
- You are the fruit-bearing part of Christ in the Earth. You are in Him and He is in you.
- You have His words abiding in you, giving you faith for whatsoever you ask.
- You have as much right in Him to be asking and receiving from God as He had. You have a right to expect the same answers from God that He got.

- You represent God here as He did, so do not be satisfied to go without the benefits that He died to give to you.
- You are commanded to be a doer of the Word, and this means ask and receive. You are not to be merely a hearer.
- You are not deceiving yourself when you act upon the Word. It will be confirmed, for it is truth.
- It must be a living, active faith, not a mere mental passive something that all sinners can have. You are in Christ, and as God's child and heir you have the authority to act on the Word.

- You are a fruit-bearer, a producer for God, so get busy and produce for Him according to His Word.
- 8. WAVERING FAITH ([James 1:5-8](#)). This is faith doubting God and refusing to believe.
- Truly to believe and to have faith is to act on the Word. It means taking what is already yours.
- To believe on Jesus means to take Him for all that the Bible declares Him to be.
- It means that you take salvation from sin, healing for the body, answers to your prayers, and all that He died to bring to you.

- Believing is an act of the will. When you really believe you have acted. You have taken the necessary step to get what you want from God.
- Faith is action in counting those things that be not as though they were (Rom. [4:17](#); [Mark 11:22-24](#)).
- Doubting is refusing to act on the Word. Unbelief is either refusing to act according to the knowledge that you have, or it is a manifestation of ignorance of the Word of God. (JAMES 1:4-8)

- If you do not know, you cannot act because you do not understand. If you do not understand you are afraid to act because you do not know how to act.
- The cure for all unbelief is a thorough knowledge of the Word and consecration to obey it to the letter, regardless of how impossible it may seem at the moment.
- A wavering faith is called double-mindedness, a constant change of the mind as to what is wanted or whether the thing asked for is wanted or not.
- It is the attitude of yes-no, yes-no, and yes-no, until God Himself cannot tell whether it is yes or no. One minute it is decided that a thing is wanted, and it may be wanted with some real desperation, but the next minute it is not so important.

- People who have wavering faith do not really make up their minds that they are going to see the fight of faith through to an answer.
- They would accept the answer if it would come without any hesitation or effort on their part, but to take the necessary steps to get an answer or to fight in the least for the thing that is asked, is another question.
- 9. UNWAVERING FAITH ([Heb. 10:23](#); [11:6](#)). This is faith taking God at His word without any question. ([James 1:5-8](#)). (for He is faithful that promised)" ([Heb. 10:23](#)). ([Heb. 11:6](#)).

- This is faith refusing to doubt, wonder, question, or reason about one detail of what one has asked for from God.
- It has absolute confidence that what was asked is according to the Word of God, and therefore it knows that prayer is answered.
- It rests upon the promises as the basis of the answer, instead of upon feelings and things seen.
- It refuses to act contrary to what it has asked or to question in the least any delay in an answer.

- It counts the thing done regardless of all outward evidences to the contrary.
- It laughs at impossibilities and goes on in utmost confidence that what God has promised He is able to perform.
- It gives thanks for the answer from the moment it asks and looks forward in child-like expectation of getting it.

General Facts Concerning Faith

- FAITH CAN grow ([2 Thess. 1:3](#)), lead to utterance ([2 Cor. 4:13](#)), work through love ([Gal. 5:6](#)), clothe the naked ([Matt. 6:30](#)), heal the sick ([Matt. 8:1-17](#); [9:2](#), [22](#), [29](#); [James 5:14-16](#)), dispel fear ([Matt. 8:26](#)), make whole ([Mark 10:52](#)), save from sin ([Luke 7:36-50](#); [Eph. 2:8-9](#)), fill believers ([Acts 6:5-8](#)),

- purify the heart ([Acts 15:9](#)), sanctify ([Acts 26:18](#)), impart revelations (Rom. [1:17](#)), justify (Rom. [3:28-31](#); [Gal. 3:24](#)), give access into grace (Rom. [5:2](#)), produce righteousness (Rom. [9:30-32](#); [10:6-10](#); [Phil. 3:9](#)), give security (Rom. [11:20](#); [2 Cor. 1:24](#)), bring blessings ([Gal. 3:9](#)), impart the Holy Spirit ([Gal. 3:14](#)), make men children of God ([Gal. 3:26](#)), bring hope and salvation ([Gal. 5:5](#); [Eph. 2:8-9](#)), make conscious of Christ ([Eph. 3:17](#)), quench fiery darts of Satan

- ([Eph. 6:16](#)), produce works ([Phil. 1:17](#); [James 2](#); [1 Thess. 1:3](#); [2 Thess. 1:11](#)), edify ([1 Tim. 1:4](#)), produce inheritance ([Heb. 6:12](#)), and keep one true to God ([1 Pet. 1:5](#)).
- FAITH CAN BE seen ([Matt. 9:2](#); [Mark 2:5](#)), obeyed ([Acts 6:7](#); [Rom. 1:5](#)), turned away ([Acts 13:8](#)), and continued in ([Acts 14:22](#); [Col. 1:23](#)). Faith can be made without effect ([Rom. 3:3](#)), it can be increased ([2 Cor. 10:15](#)), examined ([2 Cor. 13:5](#)),

- destroyed ([Gal. 1:23](#)), perfected ([1 Thess. 3:10](#)), shipwrecked ([1 Tim. 1:19](#)), departed from ([1 Tim. 4:1](#)), denied ([1 Tim. 5:8](#); [Rev. 2:13](#)), cast off ([1 Tim. 5:12](#)), erred from ([1 Tim. 6:10](#), [21](#)), overthrown ([2 Tim. 2:18](#)), followed ([2 Tim. 2:22](#)), rejected ([2 Tim. 3:8](#)), made sound ([Titus 1:13](#); [2:2](#)), kept ([2 Tim. 4:7](#)); and tried ([James 1:3](#); [1 Pet. 1:7](#); [5:9](#)).

