

# The Faith of God

April 14, 2013

## I. The God kind of faith

Mark 11:21-24 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you."

### A. "Have faith in God."

Literally, "Have the faith of God." (from Barnes' Notes)

### B. Explicitly Stated; The Greek grammar makes it a command

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God.

John 14:1 "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

1 Corinthians 13:2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

This is a command (v. 22). Four one-syllable, sharp words: Have Faith in God. Faith is the answer to our challenges in life.

What do we do when:

When anxious?

Have faith in God. He promises to work everything together for good.

When disappointed?

Have faith in God. He promises to bring good out of bad in the lives of His children.

When angry?

Have faith in God. He promises to settle scores on our behalf.

When impoverished?

Have faith in God. He promises to meet every need.

When facing sickness or death?

Have faith in God. He gives eternal life.

When lonely?

Have faith in God. His presence is near.

(from Nelson's Annual Preacher's Sourcebook; by R. J. Morgan)

### C. Faith in God is also faith in Jesus

Faith in God (Heb 6:1; 1 Thes 1:8; 1 Pt 1:21)

Faith in Jesus (Acts 20:21; 24:24; Eph 1:15; Phm 1:5; Rev 14:12)

### D. Jesus is speaking to believers corporately

In the Greek, every occurrence of you in verses 22, 24, 25 is plural. Its form and meaning make it corporate. This section assumes that the faith expressed, the prayers uttered, and the forgiveness extended, are all communal acts. (from Believers Church Bible Commentary).

### E. Jesus offers the power of God and not the power of positive thinking

faith in God (v 22), ... Allows God to accomplish God's redemptive mountain-removing tasks through the believer provides confidence that all that the believer asks shall happen (v 24). Rather

than the power of positive thinking or the power of thinking positively, Jesus offers the power of God to accomplish God's redemptive will through those whose requests are based on and have grown out of a relationship with God, those who have faith in God (from Word Biblical Commentary).

## **F. The faithfulness of God**

...the great and saintly Hudson Taylor always said that this should be translated not so much, 'Have faith in God,' as, 'Hold on to the faithfulness of God.' It became the motto of his life and work. Of course, that is to have faith in God, but, you see, if you put it in that way—'Have faith in God'—the emphasis seems to be on your faith. 'It is not that,' said Hudson Taylor, 'it is the faithfulness of God that matters. When you have no faith in yourself, hold on to His faithfulness.' God is immutable. God is faithful. He will never change. That is what faith in God really means. Whatever may be happening to you, wherever you are, hold on to the faithfulness of God. (from: God the Father, God the Son; by Lloyd-Jones)

## **II. Faith pleases God (Heb. 11:6,39) so, we are told (commanded) to:**

Live by faith (Heb. 10:38, Gal. 2:20).

Walk by faith and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).

Pursue faith (1 Tim. 6:11, 2Tim. 2:22).

Fight the good (fight of faith 1 Tim. 6:12).

Abound in faith (2 Cor. 8:7).

Accept the one who is weak in faith (Rom. 14:1).

Rest your faith on the power of God (1 Cor. 2:5).

Grow in faith (2 Cor. 10:15).

## **III. Comparison of Bible text (Mark 11:22-24 with Matthew and Luke).**

Mark 11:22 And Jesus answered saying to them, "Have faith in God.

Mark 11:23 "Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him.

Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.

Matthew 21:21 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.

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.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.

Matthew 21:22 "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

## IV. How faith comes:

Rom 10:17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Rom 1:16 for it (the gospel) is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes

1 Tim. 1:4 the teaching of God which is by faith

Heb. 12:2 Jesus is the author and finisher of faith

1 Cor. 12:9 the spiritual gift of faith

Eph. 6:23 ... faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Cor 1:18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

## V. God's promises develops faith

### A. Abraham

Rom 4:13-16 Abraham's inheritance was based on God's promise

For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no law, there also is no violation. For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

Rom 4:19-21 Abraham grew strong in faith as he contemplated God's promise

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; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

Gal 3:29 like Abraham, we are heirs according to promise

And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

### B. Saints in the Old Testament

Acts 13:32-33 the gospel declares fulfillment of God's promise

"And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus,

Acts 26:6-7 Old Testament saints served God because of His promise

"And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers; the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day.

### C. God's promises are fulfilled (received) in Christ.

2 Cor 1:20 For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes;

Eph 3:6 to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body, and fellow partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel,

Gal 3:14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Gal 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

## **D. We receive God's promises through His covenant**

Eph 2:12 remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Heb 8:6 But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

## **E. Sin does not nullified God's promise**

Gal 3:17-18 What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise. For if the inheritance is based on law, it is no longer based on a promise; but God has granted it to Abraham by means of a promise.

Gal 3:22 But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

2 Peter 1:3-4 God's promises equip us to partake of God's nature seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

## **VI. The faith of God is based on:**

### **A. His Word**

2 Cor 4:13 But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak, (Gen 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26).

### **B. Solving problems**

Gen 1:2-3 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, ...Then God said, "Let there be light"; (Mat 8:23-27; Mk 4:35-41; Lk 8:22-25)

### **C. His will**

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.

### **D. Grace**

Mark 11:25-26 "Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you your transgressions. ["But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."]