

LEARNING TO LIVE BY FAITH

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- I. Faith Defined: "Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence** of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Faith is not a doctrine, attitude or concept but a **divine energy**, as real to the spirit world as electricity is to the physical world.

- A. God has given the **measure** needed to each person (Romans 12:3).
- B. As a Christian it is impossible to **please** God without using the faith given (Hebrews 11:6).
- C. Note from Hebrews 11:1 "**Now** faith is..." - Faith only operates in the present (memory deals with the past; hope deals with the future).
- D. Faith's source - Romans 10:17 (In other words, faith is produced as we hear God speak to us; we hear Him speak as we prayerfully read His Word).
1. It is not enough just to read the **Bible** -- The Greek *logos* speaks of the written Word. One may read intellectually or critically this *logos* without hearing Gods speak.
  2. The Greek for "word" in Romans 10:17 is *rhema*, meaning "a living word being **spoken**" - when we prayerfully read and expectantly listen for God's voice, He will make applicable Scripture "come alive" to our spirit man. This is *rhema*.
- E. How Do I **release** my faith? - Mark 11:23,24 (Just as faith is **received** when God speaks, so faith is **released** when you speak).
1. Mark 4:39 - Jesus **spoke** to the sea.

2. John 11:43 - Jesus spoke to the dead.
3. Mark 11:14 - Jesus spoke to the fig tree.
4. Romans 4:17 - when we speak faith-filled words we are doing what God did when He created all that is.

## II. About Being "Saved" by faith..

- A. The key to heaven is saving faith.
  1. Saving faith is not mere intellectual assent, or agreement with certain historical facts.
  2. Saving faith is not mere temporal faith.
    - a. sickness/surgery - healing faith
    - b. Money problems - financial faith
    - c. Driving/flying dangers - traveling faith
    - d. Big decisions - deciding faith

All of these have one thing in common, they are temporal. This kind of faith is good, as far as it goes, but it must be understood that it can save no one.

3. What saving faith is: trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life.

There are three elements of saving faith, (K.A.T.):

- a. Knowledge - the intellectual element.
- b. Assent - agreement with the facts.
- c. Trust - relying or depending; making the eighteen inch journey from the head to the heart!

III. Four Important Things You Must Become Established In To Develop Confidence In Using Your Faith:

- A. God has **no favorites** -- Every person born into the family of God has the same redemption. To assist with this, repeatedly read Romans 4:25 and Colossians 1:13-14 and note the "us" in these verses includes you, so substitute "me" in it's place as you read.
- B. I don't have to **overcome**; I am already an overcomer! - I don't have to be afraid of the devil anymore than Jesus was. See Ephesians 2:1-7 especially noting your **position** in verse 6.
- C. I am **righteous** (II Corinthians 5:21) - I have right standing with God because I was given the gift of Jesus' righteousness when I was born again. Therefore, I don't have to approach God based on my merit but rather His!
- D. My faith can only work in an atmosphere of **love** (Galatians 5:6) -strife will tie up your faith "muscles."

IV. Ten Things That Will "Short-Circuit" Your Faith:

- A. Disobedience (John 9:31).
- B. Secret Sin (Psalm 66:18).
- C. Indifference (James 5:16 - "fervent" means "hot and bubbling").
- D. Un-mercifulness (Proverbs 21:13).
- E. Instability (James 1:6).
- F. Self-indulgence (James 4:3).
- G. Un-forgiveness (Mark 11:25).
- H. An unruly tongue (Isaiah 58:9).
- I. A spirit of condemnation (I John 3:20-22).
- J. A spirit of strife at home (I Peter 3:7).