

FAITH: THE INGREDIENTS OF CREATION

by Paula Leanues

Faith is believing. Faith is knowing. Faith reaches to heaven and retrieves. Faith creates.

If we believe in what we see, we are not exercising faith. Faith believes in the unseen, beckons the unseen to be seen. Faith plows through what is seen, calling those things that be not as though they are (Romans 4:17), and creates a thing anew, or brings new life to a dead situation.

“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” (Hebrews 11:3)

Smith Wigglesworth said, “There is nothing that will profit you but that which you take by faith.”

Faith takes what *is not* and makes what *is*.

It’s easy to believe that after midnight, a new day begins. It’s easy to believe that we will get out of bed, go to work, eat, speak, breathe... This is all the substance of facts, “stuff” we’ve seen before.

But what about the things we haven’t seen? How about the healing needed in our body or the bank account that needs a boost or the spouse we desire to have someday or the child we need to come to the Lord and receive salvation?

Do we have faith in any of this coming to pass? Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith, it is impossible to please God. If we have not faith, we have not anything we desire.

Psalms 37:4 tells us, “Delight thyself also in the LORD: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”

I delight in the Lord. I refuse to enter into any false doctrine. I love His Word. I am glad in my heart when in worship... So it appears I meet the definition of “delight in the Lord.”

Well, what about the desires? How do I “create” these things? How can I move heaven and get them to come to pass?

God is always able to do what we ask, but He is only willing once He meets our faith. Our believing He *can* do is one thing; believing He *will* do is another.

What we seek to accomplish or attain in our lives, or on behalf of

someone else must always in some way glorify God. We are not here to get every selfish want handed to us on the heavenly silver platter. We must first seek the Kingdom and His righteousness.

In seeking first the Kingdom (this is the heavenly Kingdom, which inhabits every believer's heart), we in no way cancel our desires. We give God the opportunity to tweak and mold them for a better, more eternal fit.

God is able to do "exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us..." This is from Ephesians 3:20. That's *His* power, *His* faith, *His* agreement that works in us!

Seeking a spouse is not a selfish desire. But if your goal is to have the hottest looking girl on your arm to impress your friends, or to have someone to pay your bills so that you can stay home and vegetate, you should go back to the drawing board. Why do I need this in my life? What purpose will this serve? Will God receive any glory?

We are eternal beings. We cannot only focus on the earth, nor on reasoning that God cannot allow. When our desires are in line with the will of God, we will see their fulfillment as we exercise our faith toward them. God gives us a special faith, His very own faith, supernatural ingredients to pray with, in order to bring something to pass.

John G. Lake once found himself losing his eyesight. He was a man who believed God, who walked his faith talk, who sought any vision on the basis of glorifying God.

When out taking a walk once, he prayed and told God if there were any way He would receive any glory out of his going blind, then God should let it happen.

As he walked, his sight was restored and he came back home that night with his answer.

Faith seeks the best for a person, whether the self or another. Faith seeks the best for a situation. Faith seeks the best for God and the reputation of His Kingdom. Faith, exercised properly, and not amiss, does not fail.

The fundamentals to faith not failing are: purity/holiness; right motives; no bitterness; the Word, Jesus abiding in you, with the presence of His Holy Spirit; no doubt.

It may seem like a lot, but when you examine yourself, you will not only like what you see better with all these things in proper order, but you will see answers to prayers.

1. *Purity/holiness*: 1 John 2, 3: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure." God

made man in His image. We are to strive to be more like Jesus. With Him in our hearts, this should just come naturally. 1 Peter 1:16: “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.”

We read in 1 John 21, 22: “Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” That’s quite a promise from the Word. With a pure heart, we can come to the throne and in faith know that we receive whatsoever we ask.

2. *Right motives*: When we ask out of God’s will, sometimes it is because we ask with selfish motives. Although God truly wants us to be happy and have the things we desire, we don’t always consider the big picture, such as, “Is this something that God knows is best for me, or for anyone else involved?” “Will the benefits be short term and only for myself?” James 4:3: “Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

3. *No bitterness*: Not having forgiven someone, or not making amends for a situation you know is within your ability will make any faith you have void. Jesus said in Matthew 6:14, “For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” Unforgiveness is a blockage to the spiritual flow of grace and blessing.

Matthew 5:23,24: “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.” Any sacrifice or prayer to God is not acceptable unless you first set things right in your heart and in relationships with others.

4. *The Word, Jesus, abiding in you, with the presence of the Holy Spirit*: In John 15:7, this is what Jesus said: “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.” We can ask what we will and know that we will receive. This is an amazing promise. Once we accept Jesus into our hearts, He abides in us. We are praying *with* the Great High Priest who intercedes *for* us.

Sometimes we don’t know what to pray. If we have the Holy Spirit in us – this is all by faith – then we will be directed in prayer. Romans 8:26: “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

5. *No doubt*: Faith is expected of us. Faith will fail when we allow

doubt to creep into our hearts. Even when things don't look as if they are going our way, we have to hang in there and choose to believe. It's scriptural. We are called to "move mountains" with our faith. Read the words of Jesus in Mark 11:23: "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

"Whatsoever he says".... That is another great promise from the Word. Smith Wigglesworth put it this way: "Dare to believe and then dare to speak, for you shall have whatsoever you say if you doubt not."

James 1:5 says we should ask for wisdom. But it follows in verses 6-8: "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways." This is a rule for anything we ask for. It is not faith when our mind sways back and forth, "Yes, God will do it; I don't know if He will."

Let's say you meet all these conditions. Now let's make a spiritual dish, with some ingredients of faith.

Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." There is an equation here. Faith = substance. What is substance? The ingredients, the makeup of a thing, its consistency.

Faith = evidence. What is evidence? Proof and assurance. This is not by sight. This is by an inner knowing that we have the things we have prayed for.

Things hoped for = desires of the heart.

Substance (faith) + evidence (faith and inner knowing) = heart's desire coming to pass.

Just as God framed the worlds by His spoken word, we too can frame what we hope for by "framing" it with our words of faith. One exercise is to take an 8 ½ by 11 sheet of paper that has a decorative frame. Write around the frame words of faith. What are your goals? This will work for anything. Here's one example, if you have a heart for evangelism: "I will begin my own Bible school and train up the youth so that they become strengthened in the Word and evangelize the city" can be written around your "frame." Inside the big space in the frame, write that thing you ultimately seek: "Revival in our city." Speak it daily. Speak it in prayer. Believe it will come to pass.

Some of the substance/ingredients that make the bridge of faith (faith fills in the space between your hope and your receiving): prayer, spiritual

warfare (casting out demons, canceling the devil's assignments against you with the spoken word), seeking, believing, fasting, visualizing (a great way to "get there" is to see yourself there first!), claiming aloud, removing those mountains, reclaiming the Kingdom by force, binding and loosing, praise, praise, praise, thanksgiving, following Jesus' example (the way He lived, the way He believed), forgiveness.

Not all need to be utilized all the time. Again, the Holy Spirit will direct your prayers.

Get to work also. Faith without works is dead. If you want to start a Bible school, research what is required of you; if you want to get married, get the picture of the qualities you are seeking, and *seek*; if you want to have a job where you are fulfilled and can help people, scan the papers, talk to friends, find out the companies/organizations that hire for such positions; if you want to write the great American novel, then don't talk about it – start writing!

Faith is an amazing tool given to us by God. Without it, we cannot be saved. Without it, we cannot see heaven. Without it, we cannot utilize the laws of the Kingdom. Wigglesworth said he could get more out of God by *believing* Him for one minute than by a whole evening of screaming at Him.

God responds to faith. If you feel you need more faith, pray about it. We are all given faith when we are saved. It is like a muscle. When it is used, it increases in strength. God can show us how. Let the ears of your spirit and the eyes of your heart be opened to Him.