

**FAITH  
WHAT IT IS  
HOW IT WORKS**

by Jackson Morro

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Fall River, Massachusetts

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# **FAITH WHAT IT IS HOW IT WORKS**

## **CHAPTER ONE WHAT IS FAITH?**

Anyone who has read the Word of God, the Bible, cannot help but notice that there is something that runs throughout: something known as FAITH. If this something called FAITH is so prominent in God's Word, then it must be to our advantage to learn about it and exercise it in our lives!

In fact, the Word of God makes a very bold statement about faith: "And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6)

1. We must have faith if we want to please God.
2. Faith means we believe in the existence of God.
3. Faith means we believe this God rewards those who diligently seek Him.

The Word of God also gives a specific definition of faith: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." The King James Version states: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Some of the great Bible teachers have put it other ways. Martin Luther, the man who was God's instrument to lead the Reformation stated: "Faith is the arm that reaches out to take the gift God offers." The great Bible teacher Dr. Finis Dake defines faith: "It is taking God at His word and believing that what He has promised, He is able to perform. It is believing that not only is He able, but that He will do it." (*God's Plan For Man, Dake Publishing, Lawrenceville, GA, page 33.*) Kenneth Hagin, the teacher of faith, writes: "Faith is grasping the unrealities of hope and bringing them into the realm of reality." (*New Thresholds of Faith, Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Tulsa, OK, page 5.*)

I like to define faith this way: Faith is the power to reach into the spirit world and take hold of what God has provided in His promises and

bring those promises to pass in the material world.

By faith, we participate in God's creative power. God blessed us by creating us in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1:26). God Himself created the world by faith (Hebrews 11:3). Faith is the power God has given us to participate in His creativity and bring His promises to pass in the world in which we live and in our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

The Word of God tells us certain facts about faith. All blessings come through faith. Faith is absolutely necessary for a successful Christian life. Faith puts absolute, total trust in God without any questions or doubts as to His faithfulness. Little faith or weak faith will get little results or weak results. Waver in faith and you'll get nothing (James 1:6-7).

Interestingly, our Lord Jesus Christ stated only two people had great faith, the Roman Centurion (Matthew 8:10) and the Syro-Phoenician woman (Matthew 15:28). Although Jesus often criticized His disciples or others for having little or no faith, God the Father and Jesus never rebuked anyone for having too much faith. Jesus never said, "O you of too much faith, why did you do so much?"

God is pleased by faith and has called us to a life of faith (Habakkuk 2:4).

## **CHAPTER TWO THE SEVEN RULES OF FAITH**

In this chapter, I want to share with you seven simple principles, seven basic rules that will make faith work effectively in your life. I pray that your knowledge of these rules will go beyond just a mere knowledge in your mind, but will become a knowledge in your *heart*. And I pray that this knowledge in your heart will move you to action, to *apply* these rules in your daily life because the only way we ever reap the full benefit of God's Word and promises is when we act upon them and apply them.

1. TO HAVE EFFECTIVE FAITH WE MUST ABIDE IN JESUS CHRIST – Our Lord Jesus said, "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 15:5) Jesus is our Source of effective faith. The Word of God states, "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith." (Hebrews 12:2) We must spend time in fellowship with Jesus through prayer, through a thankful and praising heart focused on Him. We must walk

as His disciples, do the things that please Him and honor Him, and get sin out of our lives.

2. TO HAVE EFFECTIVE FAITH WE MUST HAVE THE WORD OF GOD DWELLING IN OUR HEARTS RICHLY (Colossians 3:16) – We must *know* the Word of God and *obey* the Word of God. God has made a commitment to honor what He said in His Word. He even honors His Word above His name (Psalm 138:2, King James Version). God has given us His Word as true and reliable, a guideline for what He expects of us and what He will do for us.

3. DON'T PRAY FOR MORE FAITH – RATHER, USE THE FAITH GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN YOU! – Sometimes we go wrong here. Jesus never told anyone to pray for more faith. He was concerned with trying to get people *to use the faith they already had!* When a man came to Him with an epileptic son and stated that Jesus' disciples couldn't cast the demonic power out of his boy, he asked Jesus to help him have more faith. Jesus got upset. He stated that if we have even faith just the size of a mustard seed (the tiniest of all seeds), we'd have enough faith to tear down mountains. (Read Mark 9:14-29 and Matthew 17:14-21).

Praying for more faith is actually unbelief. We'd be more correct in praying, "Lord, help me to effectively use the faith you have given me." *You already have within you all the faith you need to meet everything that is going to come your way in life.* When you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords took up residence within your heart. If Jesus lives in your heart, then you already have within you *right now* all the power and all the faith you will ever need to meet any circumstances as you try from your heart to obey God daily and walk in His will for you. The Bible tells us that God has dealt to every person the measure of faith (Romans 12:3). In other words, He has dealt you all the faith you need for your life.

Just as a baby is born with all the muscles it needs at birth, people are born again with all the faith they need. As babies grow, some become muscular because they exercise more; others become weak and flabby because they don't use their muscles. But all have the same muscles. God has a "Law of Use": "For whoever has, to him shall more be given; and whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him." (Mark 4:25) In other words, we are going to be muscular or flabby in the realm of faith depending

upon how we use that faith (Read also Hebrews 5:13-14).

4. LISTEN TO FAITH PREACHING – “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17) God is a CAN DO God. God is a GOOD God. GOD IS A BIG GOD. The devil is a little devil. That message is absolutely clear throughout the Bible in both the Old and New Testaments. Faith pleases God and He will move on behalf of those who come to Him in faith.

5. REJECT “DOUBT” PREACHING – The Word of God tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). What God did in the Old Testament, He’ll do today. What Jesus did on earth in the New Testament, He’ll do today. Preachers who try to qualify and water down the promises of God and His power have no basis for doing so. It’s amazing that God even bothers giving them anything from His Word. But He is rich in mercy, love and grace, so He deals with each person according to their capacity and openness to Him. God is not limited in His power. The Word of God states, “For nothing shall be impossible with God” (Luke 1:37), and Jesus said, “With God all things are possible.” (Mark 10:27; Mark 9:23) God hasn’t changed or grown weak (Malachi 3:6; Isaiah 43:13). Don’t ever let anybody convince you He has, even if they are speaking from a pulpit.

6. DON’T PRAY “GOD, IF IT BE THY WILL” – This is wavering and even doubt. First, find out God’s will in a situation (His will is always according to His Word), and then pray boldly. Find a scripture or a promise and claim that promise and pray for it, focusing on it like a laser beam. Be as specific as you can about your need. If a scripture or promise covers your situation, *boldly claim it as God’s will*. If, in the process of your prayer, God must answer your prayer in a modified way because of other situations or circumstances you are unaware of (God always sees the BIG picture, and many times we don’t), then God will reveal that to your heart and you’ll be able to redirect your prayer according to God’s revelation to your heart. (Read 1 John 3:18-24.)

7. HOLD GOD TO HIS PROMISES – God’s Word is His covenant, or His contract with you. He has promised to back it up. There are requirements on both parties in any contract. You are expected to fulfill your condition; God is expected to fulfill His promises. If someone made a contract with us and we fulfilled our conditions and they didn’t, we’d want to sue them. God

wants us to be bold in holding Him to His Word. He's faithful. He'll *always* deliver. Read the story of the Syro-Phoenician woman in Matthew 15:21-28. She came to Jesus seeking healing for her daughter. Jesus refused her three times. But she pestered Him a fourth time and was even willing to go to Him a thousand times if need be. And of course, this pleased Jesus, Who was really just testing her faith. She got the healing for her daughter and she got a compliment from Jesus, being one of only two people He ever said had great faith. It's not blasphemous to be bold in claiming God's promises and holding God to His Word. He's pleased by this kind of faith. Rather, it's an insult to God to be wishy-washy with Him about His faithfulness and ability to perform what He promised!

### **CHAPTER THREE HOW FAITH WORKS**

How does faith work? What can you and I do to *really* get our faith in motion? The Word of God tells us:

*For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.*

- Galatians 5:6

The key to powerful faith, to great faith, is that faith is put into motion by love. Going to God with a faith that is motivated by love causes God's power (God Himself is Love – 1 John 4:8) to be released. In fact, as Galatians 5:6 states, faith which works by love is the only thing that matters to Jesus.

We see in the Gospels that Jesus stated that only two people in the New Testament had great faith. The first was a Roman centurion, a soldier who came to Jesus on behalf of his ill servant seeking a healing for him. This Roman soldier was motivated by love, by concern for his servant who was suffering great pain (Matthew 8:6). Jesus saw the love-driven faith in the centurion's heart and stated, "Truly I say to you, I have not found such great faith with anyone in Israel." (Matthew 8:10) And the servant received the healing he needed.

We read of the second person with great faith in Matthew 15:21-28. We see a Canaanite woman come to Jesus on behalf of her daughter who was

demon-possessed and tormented. Jesus tested her faith by denying her three times, actually calling her a “dog” once. But love for her daughter compelled her to not give up regardless of what she must face. Love for someone else will cause us to take risks or suffer insults that we ourselves would not normally endure. Jesus saw this faith working by love in this mother and as a result we read, “Then Jesus answered and said to her, ‘O woman, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish.’ And her daughter was healed at once.” (Matthew 15:28)

The God Who is Love (1 John 4:8) and is pleased by faith (Hebrews 11:6) will always respond to faith which works by love (Galatians 5:6). This type of faith reflects and is rooted in the unselfish, self-giving of the Lord Jesus, Who poured His life out for others during His earthly ministry and even poured His life out to death on a cross, for the salvation from sin for all mankind (1 John 2:2), giving it as a free gift to anyone and everyone who will believe in Him (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9).

*The most powerful faith will be the faith that works by love. It will be the faith that calls upon God to move on behalf of a suffering person. It will be the faith that desires from the heart that God will bring about His best result for all persons involved in any given situation.*

Faith at its best will always pray for God’s best for all involved, even one’s enemies. Faith believes that if God’s best will is done for others, it does not cause us to lose, but that a good God, freed by our faith to do His best in others’ lives, will also be freed to do His best in our lives, and He will not be remiss in the matter.

The Lord Jesus Himself taught us that faith working by love is the key to opening up God’s storehouse of miracles in our lives:

*And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*

- John 14:13-15

With God, all things are possible (Mark 10:27) and nothing is impossible (Luke 1:27). The key, Jesus said, to being able to get *absolutely anything* from God is that we ask in His (Jesus’) name, and that we keep His commandments. What are His commandments?

*And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. And*

*this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.*

- 1 John 3:22-24

John goes on to tell us that these commandments are not burdensome (1 John 5:3). In fact, God Himself, through the power of the Holy Spirit will give us His own love to help us love others, if we want to walk in love (Romans 5:5). Faith is only going to work at its best if we walk in love (1 Corinthians 13:2).

The commandment of Jesus to love as a requirement for the operation of faith brings the Ten Commandments to a new, higher level. The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) are an excellent moral guide for a person's life because, simply stated, if you practice them, you won't hurt anyone. But Jesus lifts these "don't"s of the Ten Commandments to a higher level in His Commandment of Love. We go beyond just "not hurting others" to the higher level of actually calling upon God and being committed in our own actions toward others, to seeing God's best come to pass in their lives.

Jesus' kind of love is the only thing that can set one free from legalism and judgementalism. Once you get into Jesus' kind of love, you have, as the saying goes, "got it made." Nothing or no one can hurt you because your every response to them is LOVE. Furthermore, you have opened your "pipeline to heaven" to receive the maximum power of God possible in your life.

As Christians, we've got to line up with the words of the Apostle Paul:

*But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

- 1 Timothy 1:5

The Bible, the Word of God, and our Christian faith weren't given to us to be argued about among Christians. Rather, our faith was given to us to be a demonstration of power, the power of the Resurrected, Living Christ. As Christians, to grow in our faith, we've got to get beyond the idea that we will lose if we pray for something good to happen to someone else or even to our enemies, or that we desire them to have God's true, scriptural blessings in their lives. The Word of God tells us that we truly only gain when we pray for others to gain and we are committed in our hearts to God's best for them. Faith works by love. Period. Simply. When we walk in faith that works by

love, we'll find that we get *everything* we ask for from God. And He'll even make sure we get many good things we didn't even ask for!

Take care and God bless you.

\* \* \*

### **Is Jesus Christ Your Lord And Savior?**

The most important decision you'll ever make in your life is to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord.

You can do this right now if you confess to God you are a sinner (as we all are) and simply ask Jesus to forgive your sins and come live inside of your heart (your inner person).

If you are sincere and really mean it when you ask Him, He will come to live inside of you, forgive your sins, give you new inner life and inner joy and peace, and give you a new power to live your life. He will make Himself very real to you. Jesus is Who you need and Who you've been looking for all your life!

God bless you today.

For more information, write to us:

We invite you to send any prayer requests you might have for prayer at our chapel prayer meetings. Send to:

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Also write to be put on our mailing list to receive periodic letters. Let us know specifically if you'd like to receive the Daily Devotional.