

LIVING & WALKING BY FAITH

Lesson 5

Introduction – In this class we will be addressing the following three questions:

- What Is Faith?
- How Important Is Faith?
- What Are The Enemies of Faith?

GAL 3:11 – “THE RIGHTEOUS SHALL LIVE BY FAITH”

1. FAITH IS:

A. TOTAL & COMPLETE TRUST

John 3:16 (Amp) – “For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He (even) gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever **believes in (trust in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.”*

- Wheelbarrow Faith

B. SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR / CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE

Heb 11:1 – “Now faith is **being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”*

- Helps if we are “seeing” from “heavenly places” where we’re seated
- Moves us from “natural” realm to “supernatural” realm

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

**BY FAITH WE...*

A. ARE SAVED

Romans 5:1 – “Therefore since we have been **justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Eph 2:8-9 – “For it is **by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

1. **NO WORKS!** – “Afflict Yourselves” ... “Cut off” (O.T.)
2. **CERTAINTY!** – It’s NOT “I hope I’m saved”
3. **STABILITY!** – Settling this and allows you to move on!

B. RECEIVE

Mark 11:24 – “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”*

- Allows us to walk and live under “open heavens”

- Over & over Jesus said, “According to your faith...”
Mark 6:5-6** – *And he could do **no mighty work there**, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled **because of their unbelief.”

- Yet the opposite was also true: No Faith – Very Few Miracles”

C. LIVE & WALK

***2 Cor 5:7** – “*We live by faith, not by sight.*”

Prov 16:9** – “*Man makes his plans, but **the Lord directs His steps.”

D. WE PLEASE GOD

***Heb 11:6** – “*And without faith it is impossible to please God...*”

- His promises, which are “yes and amen in Christ” were purchased at “great cost”
- Unbelief is the same as calling God a liar – Very Offensive!

3. THE ENEMIES OF FAITH

***THESE CAN STOP GOD’S PEOPLE DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS...**

A. SATAN’S LIES & SCHEMES

***Genesis 3:4-5** – “*You will **not** surely die. **For God knows** that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God.*”

***John 8:44** – “*...the devil ... **he is a liar** and the father of lies.*”

- He weaves lies, schemes, fear, etc... in a web to steal, kill and destroy

B. PEOPLE

Mark 5:36-40** – “*Do not fear, only believe. **And he allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James and John ...** And they (the mourners) laughed at him. **But he put them all outside...”

***Mark 8:33** – “*...he (Jesus) rebuked **Peter** and said, ‘**Get behind me Satan.**’*”

- Surround yourself with people who believe
- Even friends can be used by Satan

C. SELF-RELIANCE

Lev 16:29** – “*...you shall **afflict yourselves ... and do no work.”

***2 Chron 32:8** – “*With him is only the **arm of flesh**, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight for us. And the people gained confidence...*”

- Does the Bible say, “God helps those who help themselves.”?
- Living in the “realm of self” limits you to the “realm of the natural”

D. FACTS (KNOW, SEE, HEAR, SMELL, TASTE & TOUCH)

***2 Cor 5:7** – “*We live by faith, not by sight.*”

John 20:29** – “*Because you have seen me, you believe; **blessed are those who

have not seen and yet have believed.”

- Doubting Thomas
- Israel: The Promised Land but the Giants
- Peter: Walking on water but the wind and waves
- Lazarus: Raised but he stinks by now

E. REASON

Romans 12:2 – “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of you mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is...”*

- Note: Not the “removal” of the mind, but the “renewal” of the mind.
- We must line up our thinking with the Word of God.

F. EMOTION

Psalms 42:5 – “Why are you **cast down, o my soul, and why are you in **turmoil** with-in me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.”*

- Ever *feel* unsaved, unclean, unworthy, unable, etc...?
- Know this: Your *feelings* can be wonderful, but they can also lie to you

G. PAST & FUTURE

Heb 11:1 – “Now **faith is...”*

Exodus 3:14 – “This is what you are to say ... **I AM has sent me...”*

- Far too many people live in the glory years of the past (or the failures of the past).
- Still others are always gazing off into the future.
- Both can have value, but must not keep us from living in faith right now.

H. TIMING

Heb 6:12 – “We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through **faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”*

- Some people have all the faith, but no patience
- Others are very patience, but have no faith
- Consider: Moses, Joseph, David ... even Jesus

CONCLUSION: Jesus stated when he was on earth that he would find little faith when he returned (*Luke 18:8*); yet it’s faith that we must have – especially in the coming dark days! As we meditate on the song, **THE VOICE OF TRUTH** by Casting Crowns, let God examine our hearts to see where we’re lacking in faith. If there are areas that God brings to mind, why not stand as the song is being played and ask God to give you faith to slay the giants and to walk on water.