

Faith for the Supernatural

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Epic Faith

Text: John 6:28-29

The enemy's number one target is our faith. Every time we see God move it is because He found someone who would **believe**. The work of God is to believe in Jesus. The way to victory in our Christian life is through faith. Victory comes by faith more than through prayer. You can spend hours in prayer but prayer unaccompanied by real, Biblical faith will accomplish **nothing**.

Mark 11:24 (AMP) Prayer is not a Hail Mary toss up, it is the work of trusting and believing God.

The way to victory is more than through works. Success does not come through the amount of **work** we do for God. If we do not have faith we will fail no matter how hard we work. Only faith makes it possible for God to operate in our lives. Jesus even said that without God, He could do nothing.

John 5:30 Faith trusts God over self. This is not a lack of confidence in our abilities it is a complete reliance and trust in the goodness of God.

When our faith wavers, God's hands are **tyed**. When Jesus would visit certain towns, He was unable to do mighty works because of the people's **unbelief** in either Jesus Himself or in His ability to accomplish His Word. **Mark 6:1-6**

Four Stages of Faith

1) Persuasion by **revelation** **Matthew 16:15-17**

~ Manley Beasley (Alive by His Life) - Genuine faith is based upon revealed truth that has been true in the heart of God since before the foundation of the world. We can only believe God for things that are already real in the spirit realm. Faith can never go beyond the revelation of truth to the heart... God will only do one thing; He will act according to what He originates. Our faith must rest upon God's perfect will revealed to us in our hearts, through His Word.

The process of faith begins with a **need**. This need is simply an invitation to God's supply which is found in His Word. We need to learn to get alone with God until we hear Him speak a word that reveals His heart and mind about our need. It is through His Word that God reveals the solution to our need. **Isaiah 46:10-11** The process of faith cannot start until we know God's heart and mind concerning our situations. When God gives us spiritual **eyes** and **ears** to see and hear His revelation, we will receive what He has to say. Scripture is full of men and women who believed what God had to say.

John 8:56-58, Hebrews 11:23, Hebrews 11:27

When we are truly persuaded we will take God at His word. Paul was fully persuaded because He had a revelation of God's **love**. Love will convince you of the genuine and goodness of God's plans for you. **Romans 8:38-39** When we are persuaded we will make a choice to believe.

Three things must be present in our life in order to enter into real, Biblical Faith:

- A **need**
- A **word** or a Biblical promise by God on which we can stand. **Romans 10:17**
- A **choice** to believe what God has shown you.

2) Embracing by **action** **James 2:14-26**

The Bible speaks to the fact that we believe with our **heart**. **Romans 10:10**
A full hearted faith means that we believe with our mind, emotions and will.

Full hearted faith is made up of three elements:

- **Intellectual** - To have an intelligent basis for our faith; to believe that God can fulfill His promises.
- **Emotional** - To want God to fulfill His promise and to want Him to for the correct reasons.
- **Volitional** - voluntarily to will- To make the choice or the want to, to believe. When our will acts our whole body reacts.

Many people intellectually can believe that God can do something and emotionally want or desire for Him to do something but many rarely make the choice to believe and act accordingly by faith. For instance, when someone asks God to heal them from life in a wheel chair they must make the decision to stand up and start to walk.

Only when we are stepping out on God's revealed truth to such a degree that He **has to** perform a miracle to keep His word are we actually trusting God and placing ourselves at His disposal. Peter only was able to walk on water when he stepped **out** of the boat.

Matthew 12:9-13 Are you so acting on His promises right now that God has to perform a miracle to keep them? To do so, we will have to forsake everything we sense in the natural realm. **Ephesians 3:20**

Powerless substitutes for faith

- a) **Wishing** - Believing is **having**; it is possession. Wishing says, "I believe God can. I believe God will. I will have it sometime". Faith says, "I believe God has. It is done. I have it now". Faith is **hope**; hope is not wishing, faith is certainty.
Hebrews 11:1, Hebrews 6:19, Isaiah 53:3-7, John 6:47
- b) **Mental** agreement - Many people mentally and philosophically agree with what God's Word says. We can admire God's word, we can agree with God's word but we must do and live God's word for it to be effective. For many, mental agreement sounds so much like faith that they cannot tell the difference.
- c) **Confession** without progression - We can say it but we must **do** it.

3) Confession by **declaration** **Romans 10:10**

The mouth will always agree with what the heart believes. **Luke 6:45, Proverbs 4:23**

Words simply express what we are thinking. We think it and then we say it. If we are living and walking by faith and not by sight then our mouth will line up with God's Word.

Remember Jesus only said what the Father was thinking because Jesus is the living **Word** of God. **John 12:49**

The third stage of faith is to begin speaking in faith. Faith is more than saying the right and correct words because you can say the right things without faith, this is called a **lie**.

Remember, what is in your heart will come out. God never calls us to lie to ourselves or others but to believe. Faith understands that before you open your mouth you must allow God to deal with your heart.

Someone said that we speak to ourselves at a rate of 1300 words a minute. How many of those words are in agreement with God? Everything that has ever come into existence began in the heart and mind of the Father. He spoke and He created, He called those things that were not as though they were because they WERE **already** done in His mind.

Romans 4:17(AMP) Our faith is simply our ability to join in this process of creation. We discover and receive the truth from God's Word (Not our own vain imaginations: vain imaginations create fantasies which should never be confused with reality)

We speak that Word with authority with our mouths and continue steadfastly in our confession in the face of contradicting circumstances while the Holy Spirit brings into **visible** being what was true all along in the invisible spiritual world. **Hebrews 11:1**

What is the difference between faith and **presumption**? Faith is based on the revealed will and Word of God. Presumption is based on our will and our desires. Genuine faith stands on the Word of God and makes its confession and trust in the Word **known**. This confession is so extreme, so radical, that it is either the confession of a full or of a rewarded receiver.

Hebrews 11:6

It is at this point that Satan will use everything in his arsenal to cause us to retreat from our **position** of faith. Remember faith is a strategic position of spiritual strength. Faith requires persistence and tenacity because standing in faith does not mean always having **quick** results. Tenacity means no matter how long it takes we continue speaking the Word instead of speaking our **feeling**. If you need to speak your feelings tell them to Jesus alone.

Mature faith understands that our mouth can give **expression** to either the flesh or the spirit- It is important that we learn to express our faith more than we learn to express ourselves. Remember that our words are **seeds**. You will have what you say either for the good or the bad. **Proverbs 18:20-21 (AMP)**

4) **Contending** or fight of faith **1 Timothy 6:12, Jude 1:3**

After we choose to believe we must continue in the ongoing activity of faith. We continue until the promise is fulfilled, persevering in the activity of faith until God's promise becomes a reality.

Enemies of Faith

- **Reason** - Faith is not reasonable to man's senses. Reason is not according to faith. Reasoning and rationalization hinder faith. Living by faith is a supernatural life, it is beyond the natural. For instance we are promised a peace that passes understanding. That is in reality a peace that does not make sense to our concept of reasonable thinking.
- **Feelings** - Our feelings are not legitimate evidence of a faith life. Saying "I'm just not feeling it" means you are relying on emotions to justify faith. We are justified by faith not by our feelings. To be honest, we all know our feelings are a **fickle** mistress. If we rely on our emotions we have allowed them to become our God and we are in idolatry. Remember Satan understands that feelings can be manipulated. What you may feel may not be what God is telling you. Our faith is governed by what you hear from God. **Isaiah 30:21** We must choose to **obey** God's words and not our feelings and emotions.
- **Ignorance** - You cannot believe what you do not know from the Scriptures. Ignorance is not an excuse, it is an enemy. **Romans 10:17, Hosea 4:6, Proverbs 4:7-9**
- **Works** - Works can be enemies of faith when they are not the product of faith. Remember, anything not of faith is sin. Many Christians try working things out in their own strength before they faith it out with the Word. **John 6:63, Romans 14:23**
- **Bargaining** with God - When you are walking by faith you do not have to bargain with God or make a deal with the devil.
- **Laziness** - This is an unbiblical attitude. 'Que Sera, Sera'. 'Whatever will be, will be' means that the future is up in the air, and whatever is going to happen, is going to happen. To respond in faith we must purposely advance God's will on earth. **Matthew 11:12** Resting in His promises does not mean just sitting on our blessed assurance. We must aggressively resist the devil and press into God. We must vocally oppose every lie of the enemy. **Numbers 23:19**

When we stand in Faith God will fulfill His promises.