



8. (06/09/05)

TOPIC: **THE DYNAMICS OF FAITH**
TEXT: **HEBREWS 11**

Faith is a very dynamic force in the life of any victorious Christian. As we read the account of faith by the generals of old in Hebrews 11, we see the mighty things these saints did through faith. Through faith, the dead were raised back to life again (Hebrews 11:35); through faith, the Israelites passed through the red sea on dry land (Hebrews 11:29); through faith also, the wall of Jericho fell down flat (Hebrews 11:30)! Hebrews 11 gives us an amazing summary of what faith can do and what faith did in the Old Testament. Very amazing!

What is faith?

“**Faith is living above the law**” (1 John 5:4). The law says you can’t, faith says **I can** (Philippians 4:13); the law says cancer, faith says **I’m healed** (Exodus 15:26); the law says failure, faith says **outstanding success** (Joshua 1:8).

✝ 1 John 5:4 –

For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our **faith**.

✝ Philippians 4:13 –

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

✝ Isaiah 53:5 –

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes **we are healed**.

✝ Joshua 1:8

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have **good success**.

What is faith?

“**Earthly foolishness, heavenly wisdom**” (1 Corinthians 1:25). By faith, Noah built an ark in a world that had never rained. While building the ark, people mocked him for building an ark to put on dry land. To them, he was being foolish. Other people build arks to use on a sea but he built his ark and left it on dry land. He was indeed foolish to them. However, Noah did not give up. Later on, as the bible teaches, not only did it rain, the rain was so intense that it found his boat on dry land! – Hebrews 11:7. We see also the account of Daniel (in Hebrews 11:32, 33) how he stopped the mouth of lions by faith. He became a fool to men for not bowing to another god but he was wise through faith. Faith is earthly foolishness and heavenly wisdom.

✝ 1 Corinthians 1:25 –

Because the **foolishness** of God is **wiser** than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.





What is faith?

“**Faith is GOD SAID**” (Romans 4:18). The bible says “who against hope believed in hope”. Why? It is because it was **spoken** by God. In other words, “God said” and that settled it for Abraham. That is faith.

✚ Romans 4:18 –

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was **spoken**, So shall thy seed be.

What is faith?

“**Faith is SURELY**” (Romans 4:20). Abraham did not stagger at the promise of God through unbelief because he had a SURELY down in his spirit. The moment you have a surely in your spirit, you are unstoppable!

✚ Romans 4:20 –

He **staggered not** at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

What is faith?

“**Faith is a lifestyle of victory**” (1 Corinthians 5:7; 1 John 5:4). In other words, faith always wins! – It never loses; it never gives up!

✚ 1 Corinthians 5:7 –

For we **walk** by faith, not by sight.

✚ 1 John 5:4 –

For whatsoever is born of God **overcometh** the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our **faith**.

How does faith come?

One sure guarantee of faith is **constant contact with the word of God** (Romans 10:17). Faith cometh by hearing, hearing and hearing the word of God! The more we study God’s word by way of meditation, listening to message tapes or going to a “word” church regularly, the more our faith in God gets built up for life’s challenges. A “word” church simply means a church that speaks the undiluted word of God.

✚ Romans 10:17 –

So then faith cometh by **hearing**, and hearing by **the word of God**.

When is faith?

“**Faith is NOW**” (Hebrews 11:1). Hebrews declares: “Now, faith is”... This lets us know that faith is now! Even though **the result of** faith may have to endure (like for Abraham), faith is at work now; not tomorrow, not next week but now! Faith is in the heart now as a result of the word of God; or better put, as a product of the word of God.

✚ Hebrews 11:1 –





Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Hebrews 11 (Bible text)

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 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.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.

18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

19 accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

22 By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel; and gave commandment concerning his bones.

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.





- 24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;
- 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;
- 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.
- 27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.
- 28 Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.
- 29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.
- 30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.
- 31 By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.
- 32 And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:
- 33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
- 34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.
- 35 Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:
- 36 and others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:
- 37 they were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;
- 38 (of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.
- 39 And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:
- 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.

