



Sunday March 17, 2019
Faith
Part-6 : The Believer's Walk of Faith

We have covered:

- Part-1 : An Introduction to Faith
- Part-2 : God's Sovereignty, Grace and Faith
- Part-3 : Faith And The Ministry of Jesus
- Part-4: Jesus' Teaching on Faith
- Part-5: Faith in the Old Testament

Today : The Believer's Walk of Faith

Faith holds an integral place in the life of the believer. In this message we highlight specific areas where exercising faith in God is very important, as believers.

#1, We Are Saved By Grace, Through Faith

Ephesians 2:8 -9

**8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,
9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace offered to us freely. But it can only be received and experienced through personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Since this great work of God in our lives takes place by grace through faith, it would be right for us to infer that **everything else that we receive from God would follow the same interaction - by grace, through faith.**

#2, Everything Must Be Done In Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."

Romans 14:23

But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.



Everything we do, even day-to-day matters such as eating, etc. must originate out of faith in God. How we think, speak, act, the choices we make, the values we hold, the careers we pursue, the job we work at, etc. must spring out of our faith in God. **We live life by faith. To live by faith means we live consistent with what we believe. We think, speak and act in line with our faith.**

To doubt is sin. Whatever we do out of doubt, does not receive God's approval.

#3, Faith Is Key To Receiving From God

James 1:5-7

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

James begins in verse 5 by specifically talking about receiving wisdom. He then ends up stating in verse 7, that this is the way we receive 'anything' from the Lord.

As with the free gift of salvation, God has designed that everything else, which He has promised and provided for us, must be received by faith. God is a bountiful and generous God. He is an impartial God. He give to all, liberally and without scolding. So we do not need to hesitate in asking God. But we must ask in faith. God desires to bless, prosper and give to us, but we must receive by faith.

#4, Faith Is The Means To Gain Victory

1 John 5:4

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

To live an overcoming, victorious life we must walk in faith.

God has already declared that faith is the winner. Faith "*has overcome the world*". Now we need to walk in faith to live as overcomers in life.

The "world" represents the entire system of evil and rebellion against God. It represents all that has to do with "darkness" - things that are not from God, that do not align with the will and purpose of God. These would include the ways, works, influences and ideas



of people, and the works and schemes of the devil. There will be things that people do, or things that the devil throws against us, or things that come up in life situations that are contrary to the ways and will of God. By faith we overcome such things and walk in victory.

#5, Faith Is Our Shield Against The Enemy

Ephesians 6:16

above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

When we stand in faith, no matter what the enemy throws against us we will be able to extinguish and nullify every fiery dart he sends. Faith is key to overcoming satan's schemes and attacks against us. After all, the one primary thing that satan is after is our faith in God. He ultimately wants to destroy our faith in God. And it is this very thing - our faith in God - that neutralizes and cancels every effort he makes against us.

We are to resist the enemy, standing firm in faith.

So when the enemy attacks with temptations, sickness, troublesome situations, or any other evil scheme - stand firm in faith. Speak your faith. Your shield of faith will quench every fiery dart of the enemy.

#6, We Receive The Promise Of The Spirit By Faith

Galatians 3:14

that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

We receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the work of the Spirit in our lives by faith. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is referred to as the "promise" of the Spirit (see Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5,8; Acts 2:33).



God said that in the last days He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh - that is all people, all age groups, men and women. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is available freely for all believers. But each one must receive by faith.

Sometimes believers are afraid when we talk about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They are afraid that they might get some 'other spirit'. They are afraid of the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. But the Lord Jesus assured us in Luke 11:11-13 *"If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"* So when we ask our Heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit, He will give us His Holy Spirit. Not any other spirit.

#7, We Exercise Spiritual Gifts, Minister God's Power And See Miracles By Faith

Romans 12:6

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

We exercise spiritual gifts, such as the gift of prophecy, by faith and in proportion to our faith.

Galatians 3:2-3,5

2 This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—

3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?

5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

As we saw earlier, we receive the Spirit by faith (vs 2).

God ministers (fully supplies) His Spirit, releases the ministry of His Spirit and works miracles amongst us in response to our faith (vs 5).

So when we gather together, having faith and expectation is so important if we are going to see the ministry of the Spirit and see healings, miracles and deliverances taking place.

Acts 3:16

And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.



After Peter and John saw the cripple man rise up and walk, Peter explained in Acts 3:16 that it was faith in the name of Jesus, faith that was from God that caused this healing to take place. So also as we minister to people, we minister by faith in the power and authority of the name of Jesus. We minister by the faith of God in our hearts. **Faith in God works the same way today, as it did in Bible times!**

Fear holds us back from stepping out in faith to see the supernatural manifestations of the Spirit, healings and miracles. Because of fear we tend to let the gifts of God remain dormant in us. Hence we see the apostle Paul encouraging Timothy in 2 Timothy 1:6-7 *"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

Condemnation, a sense of guilt, feelings of unworthiness and shame also weaken our faith and keep us from stepping out in the gifts of the Spirit. We must learn to put these aside and operate by faith so that the works of God can be done through us.

#8, We Must Fight The Good Fight Of Faith

1 Timothy 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

We are engaged in a conflict. This is a "fight of faith", implying that we engage in this spiritual conflict by faith. It is a good fight because it is a fight worth fighting. It is a good fight, because it is a fight that we win.

We must engage in this fight of faith. **This fight *of* faith, is a fight *for* faith and a fight *in* faith.** It is a fight for faith - to keep, maintain and guard our faith. It is a fight in faith - we fight by exercising and standing strong in faith.

MINISTRY TIME | SALVATION CALL



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday March 17, 2019
Faith
Part-6 : The Believer's Walk of Faith

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *James 1:5-7; 1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 1:6-7*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

Of the eight statements made about the believer's walk of faith, pick any three of these further that seem to have immediate relevance to you currently, and discuss how you would apply these into your life-situations:

#1, We Are Saved By Grace, Through Faith

#2, Everything Must Be Done In Faith

#3, Faith Is Key To Receiving From God

#4, Faith Is The Means To Gain Victory

#5, Faith Is Our Shield Against The Enemy

#6, We Receive The Promise Of The Spirit By Faith

#7, We Exercise Spiritual Gifts, Minister God's Power And See Miracles By Faith

#8, We Must Fight The Good Fight Of Faith



While we know all of these statements are important, which one of these really stands out for you, in the matter of exercising faith in God?

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.