

UNDERSTANDING FAITH

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Hebrews 11:6

We become the children of God by faith. God comes to live and work in us by faith. We receive Jesus Christ by faith. A good definition of a believer's life and actions is **RECEPTIVITY OF HIS ACTIVITY**. All this is by faith.

We cannot even take credit for faith because in Hebrews 12:2 the Bible says. "CHRIST THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH"

So even faith is a gift of God. There are several things we need to understand about faith.

1.NO NEED TO ASK FOR FAITH IF WE ARE BELIEVERS.

If the author and perfecter of faith is living within us, all faith is there already. We need to utilize or exercise the faith. Once the disciples asked the Lord, "Lord increase our faith" (Luke 17:5) Jesus replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'be uprooted and planted in the sea,' it will obey you". There is an illustration of electricity which cannot be seen. Electricity is here but the room can still be dark. We need to turn on the switch so that electricity can be manifested. Faith is compared to the switch to manifest the power of God and see God answer prayers.

2. FAITH IS SEEING THE INVISIBLE

In John chapter 6 we have the story of Jesus feeding thousands of people from a boy's lunch. The disciples saw the 5 small loaves and 2 small fish, and said "how far will this go among so many?" (John 6:9) Jesus saw the invisible which is the unlimited supply of His Father. He gave thanks and acted upon His faith in God.

We see the blind eye, the empty wallet, and the impossibilities. We are

bound by the visible. Jesus saw the invisible. He saw the Will and Power of His father to heal and supply.

3. FAITH IS ADDING THE WORD OF FAITH TO THE THOUGHT OF FAITH

We must declare the word of faith.

We may have the thought of faith but often are afraid to speak the word of faith or act upon our faith. Jesus spoke the word of faith.

He told the crippled man, "Get up and walk" Luke 5:24

He spoke to the man with the paralyzed hand, "Stretch out your hand" Luke 6:10

He spoke to the leper, "Be clean", and immediately he was cleansed from leprosy. Luke 5:13

Peter spoke the word of faith to the man sitting at the temple gate who had never walked before. "In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!" and the man was healed and walked. Acts 3:6

4. FAITH IS ACTION.

Faith is built upon doubt.

Faith is doubt conquered.

Unbelief is doubt accepted.

Faith is active, not passive, it calls for action.

All believers believe and say, "God is almighty" "God can do anything".

But ONE IN A THOUSAND says "God is almighty in me" or "God will do so and so through me".

I have learned to NEVER WAIT FOR THE MONEY AND THEN TAKE ACTION. That is not faith. That is going and working by sight.

"Without faith it is impossible to please God" Hebrew 11:6

George Mueller in London, England had 2000 children in his orphanage. He kept receiving more children and God kept providing more funds to feed and clothe the children. He only prayed to and trusted God to supply all his needs. He sent no appeal letters and conducted no fundraising banquets. In addition to the 2000 children he also had a share in the support of over 300 missionaries, including Hudson Taylor in China. His only appeal was to God. We will never be disappointed when we trust in God. I have often been disappointed in people making promises to help but then forget all about it or change their mind.

I have 5 Training Centers called BMW (Bible, Missionary and Work Training Center) here in Indonesia with 270 students. We started with Budget of \$2000 per month in 1999 with about 80 students. Last year we received an additional 150 students. All the students receive full scholarship for room and board and tuition fees. The school is completely free. Today the budget is \$8000 per month. We keep receiving more students by faith and God keeps supplying the needed funds as we step out by faith. God is so faithful, totally trustworthy and He never ever disappoints some one who puts his trust in Him. We base our faith on the promises of God in His Word. He has promised to supply all our needs (Philippians 4:19). If we do have needs, the problem is not with God but the problem is with our trust in Him.

We start to rely on our own understanding, and scheme and design “tricks” of fundraising. Once a Christian fundraiser told me, that the key is in the PS at the end of the appeal letter. He told me that people really pay attention to the PS! That may be true but the fact is that GOD really pays attention when we take a step of faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”

Hebrews 13:8

Is faith easy? Yes and No.

Yes, if we are accustomed to it. It seemed so easy for George Mueller to trust God to provide for his 2000 orphans children each day. He only prayed to God and never asked people for money or assistance. God always provided.

No, when the first trembling steps are being taken. Like a child learning how to walk. Faith is not simply repeating a creed or a statement of faith.

Faith is not repeating a prayer over and over again.

Faith is not doing something or going some where.

Faith is a conviction of the Holy Spirit, recognition of God’s voice and God’s will and act upon it.

Faith is a hidden communication of the Holy Spirit through the human facilities of heart and mind. God speaking to us in His still small voice. We know what to do, we know what is right. Then we act upon this communication, upon this conviction and this recognition.

**“It is God who works in us to will and to do of His good pleasure”
Philippians 2:13. By faith we act based on His word, His will and His
good pleasure. We have received Jesus Christ by faith and live by faith.
He is Joy, He is Power, He is peace and He is all in all. He is in you and
in me and this is an exciting life, AN EXCHANGED LIFE. HIS LIFE.**