

FAITH

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

(Hebrews 11:1)

I came to God by faith. I didn't see Him. I heard that He exists, so one day I called on Him, saying, "If you are, I want to know you." Twenty years have gone by since that day when I placed my faith in God. It was, without question, the best thing I have ever done in my life. I simply placed my faith in the only One worth placing faith in. For we can have great faith in people or things, but they may let us down.

Just look at history. Time and time again we hear of people who put their faith in someone who led them astray—sometimes with catastrophic results. We hear of people being disillusioned with their lives after their hopes in certain things of this world came crushing down. So we see that what is important is the object of our faith.

The object of our faith must be God and His Word.

We start with whatever faith we have, then continue to strengthen our faith as we grow in God's grace. I remember thinking how much faith was enough, and I prayed for greater faith. But then I discovered that the size of my faith is not important, for it is always growing. This dawned on me one day as I pondered the words of Jesus to His disciples, "If you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you" (Matthew 17:20).

We don't need a great faith to begin the Incredible Journey—we need faith. Period!

Let us look at the Old Testament believers. Some of them did great things, didn't they? And look at Jesus and all the things He did. But was it really their doing, or was it God working in and through them?

Jesus therefore answered and was saying to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner."

(John 5:19)

Jesus said,

"For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak."

(John 12:49)

Jesus spent His entire life on earth in total dependency upon His Father. How can we live otherwise? Jesus showed us the way, the truth, and the life!

To walk by faith is to walk in total dependency upon God.

God has revealed Himself in His written Word—the Scriptures. He explained Himself to us in Jesus—the living Word.

I came to the conclusion that if we want to walk by faith, the way to do that is to know what God says in His written Word and to know Jesus—the living Word. Beloved, we have to know what God has already done on our behalf and we have to know who we are in Christ Jesus, and what we have already received in Him. It is truly about knowing these truths and acting upon them.

We can liken our spiritual birth to our physical birth. First, we take baby steps. We don't know much, and we need milk. Our walk is a bit wobbly, but we are learning, and we grow. We are gaining trust, while stepping out in faith. God says something, we act upon it, and it works! We start to practice righteousness—His righteousness. We are replacing our thoughts and our ways with God's thoughts and His ways, and His desires become our desires. The Christian life is a process. The sooner we get established in the Word of God, the better off we will be. We find out that we don't have to ask God for a lot of things that we keep asking for at the beginning. We learn that we have already received them all, when we received Jesus. All God's promises are *yes* in Him.

For the Son of God, Christ Jesus, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silvanus and Timothy—was not yes and no, but is yes in Him.

For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

(2 Corinthians 1:19, 20)

His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, **through the true knowledge of Him** who called us by His own glory and excellence.

(2 Peter 1:3)

We Christians already have Jesus and all God's promises. *Brothers and sisters, we must believe it act upon it!* To keep asking for something we already have is not walking by faith. Think deeply about this simple truth!

After I became a Christian, my prayer was: "God, make me a woman after your own heart." I have trusted God ever since with the results, because I read in His Word that He will perfect the work He began in me (Philippians 1:6). I consider it a true act of faith.

God said so, and the issue is settled. Truly, it is about letting go of the old self and believing in God.

Now, do I always feel like it? No, but I am not to be a slave to my feelings or emotions. Instead, I live by faith alone, saved from forever tossing on the stormy sea of emotions!

Faith is knowing that God already did or said something, and then acting upon it.

Our faith doesn't cause anything. In our faith we plug into what is already established by God. We begin to live each day in alignment with His will!

We don't need a big faith to begin; we have a big God and big promises from God.

We can say, "Thank you, Lord!" in all circumstances (the bad, as well as the good), because God told us through the apostle Paul that in everything that happens, He works for good of those who love Him. Now, that's faith!

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

(Romans 8:28)

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

(Romans 10:17)

And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

(1 Corinthians 2:4, 5)

But now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

(1 Corinthians 13:13)

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

(2 Corinthians 5:7)

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

(2 Corinthians 13:5)

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,
in whom we have boldness and confident access through faith in Him.

(Ephesians 3:11, 12)

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,
having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, and overflowing with gratitude.

(Colossians 2:6, 7)

But since we are of the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

(1 Thessalonians 5:8)

And the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus.

(1 Timothy 1:14)

But My righteous one shall live by faith;
And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.

(Hebrews 10:38)

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

(Hebrews 11:6)

For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you

who through Him are believers in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

(1 Peter 1:20, 21)

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

And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

(1 John 5:4, 5)