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Bezael Enlite



WE WALK BY
FAITH

Living a life that gladdens the heart of God

PASTOR BANKIE

Dr. Bankole Olusina, fondly called **Pastor Bankie**, is a teacher of the Word of God. He teaches from the platform of Kingdom-Word Ministries. The emphasis of his teachings is the separation of the church from the world by the obedience to the truths of God. He is happily married to the wife of his youth and partner in ministry, Ufuoma.

Bezalel Enlite

Faith is not just a way by which we receive things from God; more than that, it is the basis of living a certain type of life. For those that live that kind of life, faith is the way they see and do everything. It is the way they drink, eat, sleep, work, relate with people, etc. Faith is the way they understand and interpret every event in life. Now, that kind of life is the one that pleases God; living by any other principle cannot please God.

Reading this book will help you understand many things, including:

- *What faith actually is*
- *How the power of God is activated*
- *What makes faith great*
- *What 'the faith' is*
- *What the hinderances to healing are*
- *The different aspects of the word of God, and*
- *How to walk by faith*

Read this book, and get ready to live a life that pleases the Father constantly.

We Walk
BY FAITH



Living a life that gladdens the heart of God

Bankole Olusina

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WE WALK BY FAITH
(Living a life that gladdens the heart of God)

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Introduction

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When He entered the house, the blind men came up to Him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith."*

*Matt 9:27-29

■ WE WALK BY FAITH

chapter 1

What is Faith?

Hebrews, chapter 11 verse 1, is what we reel off easily when we are asked the question about what faith is. “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen,” we would quote. But this quote does not tell us what faith actually *is*; it only tells us what faith does. I will explain with the following analogy.

Think of it; the Bible never really explains to us what breathing is; we just know what breath or breathing is because it is part of life. But the Bible does talk about breath here and there; for example, we are told it is a sign of mortality and limitation of ability, that it is a sign of life and that it is a type of

the things of the spirit.* In the same manner, faith is not actually defined in the Bible. It is a term used with the assumption that everyone knows what it is. Actually, just like breath, it is also so common everyone should know what it is. But for those who do not understand what it is, one gets to understand the term by following the way it is used. The Bible teaches us however concerning what type of faith we are to have, and where to place our faith.

Now, let us try and describe what faith *actually* is.

Faith Everywhere

Faith is part of the structure of life. Faith is not a special principle which is to be found with Christians alone; it is part of the fabric of human existence. No one can live without it. Even those who claim to be atheists, or that they believe only things supported by science, these also actually walk by a type of faith. It is faith to buy things because of what is written on the label. You do not do any independent verification before you take the words on the label for it. A person allergic to

*Is 2:22, Gen 7:22, Js 2:26 NLT

peanuts, as an example, will simply read the label on a bottle to check if peanut is part of the contents, and if the label says no, he goes ahead to buy and consume, even though peanut is very dangerous to his life. He stakes his life on a label. That is faith.

Atheists board flights all the time without checking about the plane or the pilot for the day. They have implicit trust in the aviation system of their country or whichever country they are in. They go to hospitals and get treated by a doctor they never personally verified. These are all acts of faith.

Faith is just how life is lived. It is actually not possible to operate by 'unless I see and touch.' Most of the things you operate by cannot actually be seen or touched. How many times can you 'touch' or 'see' the training of the pilot before you board a commercial flight? You actually cannot see or touch the integrity of a commercial bus you have just boarded. You simply get in and sit down, trusting that the bus company and the government regulators are doing their job of ensuring safety. Faith is the way of life.

The Object of Faith

Because faith is simply the way life is lived, what we have to do once in a while is to define the object of faith. It is the object that makes one faith different from another.

*Then Jesus said to the disciples, "Have faith in God."
Mark 11:22 NLT*

So, faith as a principle is common with every human being. What is special about the faith of Christians is that it is based on the words of the Lord Jesus and the cannon of scriptures; this cannon contains the words of the Old Testament prophets, the scribes, the New Testament apostles, prophets, etc. The faith of Christians accepts the spiritual realm; it walks with the information of the spirit as tangible evidence of the things that are not seen. Just like the man purchasing the bottle of a consumable in a shop, we take the words of the prophets as reliable *labels* about life.

The issue of the object of our faith is well illustrated in the story of the two blind men in Matthew 9. There we see the two men asking the Lord Jesus for

mercy. In the course of the conversation, the Lord Jesus told them that it was to them *according to their faith*.

Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, saying, "It shall be done to you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. Matt 9:28-30

The mistaken impression we often have is that He was saying to them that it was unto them according to their *desire*, that is if they actually wanted to regain their sight, then they would see. But a closer look will show that *that* was not what the Lord was saying. His emphasis was rather on a particular query. *"Do you believe that I am able to do this?"* That was the emphasis.

The faith that their healing was *according to* was not about desire but about their reliance on His ability to heal. What would happen to them was *according to* whether they accepted that the Lord Jesus had the power to do it or not. Christian faith is not about desire but about the trust in the living power of the Holy Spirit and of the Lord Jesus.

No Honour at His Home

When the Lord went to His own home district, there were a lot of people there who wanted to get well, but the problem was that they had a system of reasoning that could not accept that a man they knew from his youth, a carpenter's son, could be doing the kind of things that the man Jesus was said to have been doing. The general principle that a prophet has honour everywhere else apart from his own home and among his relatives held true in their lives.

The next Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. They asked, "Where did he get all this wisdom and the power to perform such miracles?" Then they scoffed, "He's just a carpenter, the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us." They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Mark 6:2-3 NLT

This pattern of reasoning is what is called unbelief, which is the opposite of the faith in God. It was not about their desire; it was about their understanding of the flow of spiritual power. They definitely

wanted to get healed, as there were many sick among them. Jesus wanted to help them, and so He laid hands on them. However, the flow of power was so poor that only a few got healed, and these ones were not too sick. It was not because of lack of desire on their part, or even on His part; it was because of lack of faith.

And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any mighty miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Mark 6:5-6 NLT

Faith is the way we reason about spiritual power. The more you understand about the way things work in life, especially knowing that the spiritual rules over the physical, the greater your faith will be. If you truly understand that the power lies with God and the Lord Jesus, and you rely on that knowledge, then your faith is great.

Great Faith People

Did you notice that the two persons who Jesus said had great faith during His earthly ministry both uttered words of great understanding? I am

referring to the Roman centurion and the Syro-phoenician woman. Let us read the scriptures about them.

Lord, do not trouble Yourself further, for I am not worthy for You to come under my roof; for this reason I did not even consider myself worthy to come to You, but just say the word, and my servant will be healed. "For I also am a man placed under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to this one, 'Go!' and he goes, and to another, 'Come!' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this!' and he does it." Now when Jesus heard this, He marveled at him, and turned and said to the crowd that was following Him, "I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith. Luke 7:6-9

What was this 'such great faith' which the Lord marvelled at here? A close look shows that it was the understanding the man had of spiritual order, and that he believed that Jesus had the power to issue commands which move things in the spirit. The Lord was so impressed. He was saying that no one He had met in Israel had that depth of understanding concerning life and about Him.

Now, let us see the other person. Here was a woman who was desperate to get healing for her daughter, and the Lord Jesus was not paying her any attention. She harassed them so much that the disciples had to beg the Lord to say something to dismiss her. He agreed to speak with her but only to explain to this desperate soul that the anointing He carried was sent specifically to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. He thought the woman would understand that you cannot take food meant for children and give it to dogs. Those dogs were not even part of the family actually; the dogs in their time and region were not the beloved household pets we have today. The woman was not part of the household of Israel, so she should not expect Him to feed her the children's bread.

The response of the woman was something else, like we say. She did not take offence. The last set of people who were offended in His home town got nothing. She did not shout misogyny, racism or tribalism, as a modern 'liberated' woman may have shouted. She only pointed out to Him that when children eat, crumbs fall, and these are usually thrown out for the dogs to consume. It therefore

follows that since she was close enough, she could take from the crumbs. Many of us overlook another part of her faith, which is that she understood that the Lord could command healing from a distance, just as the Roman did. Such understanding was great, and Jesus exclaimed,

"O woman, your faith is great." Matt 15:28

What she wanted was granted her. Her daughter was healed. It was to her according to her faith, not according to her desire. It was granted according to her understanding of the flow of life from the Lord Jesus. That faith got her desire fulfilled.

What Faith is

So, what is faith?

Faith is what you know about life. Faith is knowing truth which you may not have personally verified, because you trust the source of information.

Christian faith is the understanding we have of the exalted place of God in life generally and in our lives specifically. It is to have the knowledge of the spiritual. That is what faith is.

When we speak of faith without qualifying it, we are usually referring to Christian faith. With reference to Christian faith, faith in other things is called unbelief. It is when we have taken our faith away from God and His Christ and have put it on another object.

Unbelief

I said earlier that even those who claim not to be believers actually have a kind of faith, as life is not possible otherwise. The Bible calls their kind of faith unbelief. Like I explained above, unbelief is when you put your trust or faith in other things apart from God and His word.

Let us take an example: There are all kinds of illnesses and diseases out there. Let us consider a person who is ill and so goes to a doctor. The doctor takes time to talk to and examine this patient. He orders some tests, sees the results, and at the end puts everything together. He determines that the disease is incurable, and that the patient will be dead within a year. He informs the patient of these facts. What does the individual do? He begins to put his house in order, because he believes he will

die and not live. That is faith in a system. It is faith in the educational and health systems of that society. To such a person, the word of the system is final. He may go to see another doctor or try some alternative therapy, but deep inside he believes that the system is trustworthy. Note that each doctor is a *prophet* of the system. He cannot receive anything beyond the capability of the system. It is to him according to that understanding. It is not about desire. He may travel up and down, and spend the last penny he has in his aim to get well, but it is all to him according to that natural health system's ability. He cannot get well unless that system attains a major advancement before his time is over.

Now, you understand why the Lord asked those blind fellows, "do you believe I am able to do this?" He was asking them, "Is your faith in the other system or you do realize that there is a healing God who has put His power in my hands? Do you also understand and acknowledge that with this God, nothing is impossible? Are you here only because you heard stories and are grasping at just about anything?"

Many times, people come to the Lord in prayer because they are desperate, but they actually have not transferred their faith to Him yet. To them, He is just another straw that they are grasping at, just like they grasped at herbal medicine. If they see another straw tomorrow, they would grasp at it too. They have not been able to see that He is a healer with whom there is nothing incurable.

Healed by a Touch of the Garment

Let's read the following two passages of the Bible; the first is about a king in Judah, while the other is of the woman with the issue of blood.

In the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa developed a serious foot disease. Yet even with the severity of his disease, he did not seek the Lord's help but turned only to his physicians. So he died in the forty-first year of his reign. 2 Chron 16:12-13 NLT

A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. She had heard about

Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. For she thought to herself, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed." Mark 5:25-28 NLT

In these two passages we see an interesting contrast. In the first case, we see a king who knew the Lord but who abandoned his faith in Him and turned to physicians, and he died. In the second we see a woman, who knew many physicians and spent all she had on them, but when she discovered the Lord, she turned to Him and was healed. What I want you to notice is the switch in the placement of that woman's faith.

She started out thinking that the doctors could help. It took her years, but she eventually discovered that her faith was misplaced. It had cost her everything she had and she wasn't improved at all; in fact, she was worse, either because their treatment was useless and the disease was progressing anyway, or because the treatments were actually harmful. Whatever be the case, her only benefit was to discover the limits of the system she had faith in.

Now, at that time she began to hear of Jesus. Testimonies were filling her ears concerning what had been accomplished by the hands of this Jesus. He had healed many persons with all kinds of illnesses. People had listened to Him and been healed. He had laid hands on them and they had been healed. In some cases, He had merely spoken the word and the people had been healed. There were all kinds of testimonies. One thing was clear in everything—He had the power and her case was not a hard one for Him.

But how can one get to tap that power? Something in her said, “you do not need to get His attention; all you need is to touch His clothes — just the fringe of His garment.” And she thought, “that is all I need.” She had a new pattern of thinking. Her faith was in something and someone different. She had left the realm of the pursuit of doctors, and to pursue Jesus was the sign of her new faith. In the times gone by, she needed to spend money and pursue the physicians, since that was the place where her faith was. Pursuit is a sign of faith. Now, money was no longer the need, but the new faith must still have its expression, this time in a different type of pursuit.

Getting close to this man was not going to be easy. She came in from behind — in the press. There was a crowd and so she had to press. There was a throng of people, but she pushed. They knocked her down but she got up and pressed. They were stronger than her but she pressed. Her new way of reasoning made the effort reasonable. And she touched it—the edge of His robe.

And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over.” Mk 5:34 NLT

It was not her desire; it was her faith. It was her new way of thinking. It was her pressing as a result. It was not her desire but that she had come to believe He could. She wasn't just trying to get well; she knew He had the power.

Trying, Not Faith

Many have come to Jesus just to try. “Maybe He can do something; you never can tell,” is what they are thinking. One came to Him one day with that mindset.

But if You can do anything, take pity on us and help us!
Mark 9:22

What?! No wonder the disciples had been labouring all day on this matter and not getting results. The man had the situation tightened by his lack of faith. It was not a hard case because the demon was so strong; the problem was that the man was a tester. To him the Lord Jesus was another person to be tried.

The Lord Jesus turned to him and said, “you are saying if I can? The problem is not if I can heal your child but if you can believe!”

“What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.” Mark 9:23 NLT

The Lord had to make special intercession not chronicled in the text to get the matter solved. He did that because the ignorant man pleaded, having admitted his shortcoming. He begged the Lord Jesus, “help my unbelief.” He had compassion on him and made special prayers to the Father for the man. He was a lost sheep without a shepherd, but his desperation to help his son moved the Lord to help him too.

But the woman with the issue of blood was a different case. She wasn't trying; she was of faith, so much faith that her case was solved by a single touch, a touch which the Lord was not even aware of until the deed was done. In her case, the Lord said, "Daughter, your faith has made you whole." It was not His prayer. It was not a special anointing. The power was always present; the connection was her faith.

Power Always Present

God has made abundant power available for His children all the time, but where is our faith? We are often seeking a special anointing, but where is our faith? We are often looking for where the environment is greener, but where is our faith? We are often looking for who we know in high places, but where is our faith? We behave as if the Father we know in the highest place is not enough. Oh, where is our faith?

About the deliverance of that boy we read of in Mark chapter 9, when Jesus said, "this type does not go out but by prayer," we just assume that the demon was tough; but the demon was not tougher

in itself than other demons the Lord has driven out of people nor was it stronger than other problems people had been healed of. When they asked the Lord why they could not cast it out, He first made it clear that littleness of faith was the problem.* Unbelief on the part of the man and on the part of the disciples made it a complicated case. It was not the type of demon that was the problem. It was the toxic air generated by the lack of faith that made it necessary to make special intercession to the Father for it to be driven out.

We have placed our faith somewhere else, and for that reason every breakthrough is now a matter of hard prayer. *This kind cannot come out by anything but prayer.* And we are so proud that we are prayer warriors when in reality we created a tough environment for breakthrough because of unbelief. Yes, the prayer got results by the mercy of God. However, was it necessary to go by that route?

That woman with the issue of blood didn't need all of that. She believed, and it was unto her according to her system of reasoning.

*Matt 17:20

How did she get to know it? What convinced her that there was power there with Him?

Two principles were at work here, and I will like us to see them. The first is the release of the spirit of faith, which I believe was done through John's baptism. The second is the power of attention, that is the kind of news she paid attention to.

Let us start by looking at the spirit of faith.

chapter 2

The Spirit of Faith

But having the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak.

2 Cor 4:13

Monkeys are very smart animals, but no matter how much you teach a monkey to talk, it can never do so. The reason is simple—there is no 'talk' in the monkey. It is not about how good a teacher one is or how hard the monkey is ready to work, it is about the innate *inability*. So it is with faith. It is not just about trying hard; it is more about whether the thing that makes believing possible is inside the person or it is not. The thing inside a person that makes it possible to believe is called *the spirit of faith*.

This *ability* to believe is a gift of God. If you do not have it, you cannot be made to believe through persuasion. Of course, it is possible to have it but neglect to use it, but first the heart must have *the spirit* to be able to walk in faith. This spirit is a gift that God can give and can withhold. Note how He withheld it from the people at a time in this word through Isaiah.

*He said, "Go, and tell this people:
'Keep on listening, but do not perceive;
Keep on looking, but do not understand.'
"Render the hearts of this people insensitive,
Their ears dull,
And their eyes dim,
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
Hear with their ears,
Understand with their hearts,
And return and be healed."* Isa 6:9-10

By the operation of the spirit, Isaiah was to make the people *unable* to understand with their hearts. They saw and they heard but it didn't profit them because the spirit of faith was not in them. God had

withdrawn the spirit through the prophesying of Isaiah.

It is important that I point out that God does not give this spirit arbitrarily; it is supplied to those who fulfil certain basic criteria in their hearts. In the case of this woman with the issue of blood, I am persuaded that she had been to the baptism of John. As an Israelite, the Lord gave a place from which she could receive that spirit, and that was at the baptism of John.

Faith and Repentance

John came with a message concerning repentance from sins, and a baptism that went with it. The Spirit of God was out there, calling people through John's message to repent and be baptized. Please pay attention to the fact that John did not promise healing to anyone. He promised no miracles. All he focused on, like most prophets before him, was that the people needed to live up to the covenant they had with God because of their ancestry, and forsake their sins. Like Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc. preached before him, the message was centred around coming back to God and forsaking sins. The

prophets explained to the people that their lives were out of order because they had forsaken their God. For the people of the covenant, that was the place where faith started from.

Sometimes people argue that to be a Christian, faith is all that God asks for and that repentance is not fundamental to salvation. It is by faith alone, they say, implying that a man does not have to repent of sins to be saved. This is however not accurate, and a close examination will show that it is absolutely meaningless. Yes, it is true that when we look at the letters superficially, the New Testament would seem to focus more on believing than on repentance, but a closer look will help us see that the authors of the New Testament never sought to distinguish between the two. It was like *wet* and *water* to them — two sides of the same coin. Anyone claiming to believe must be repenting at the same time, otherwise the faith is false or dead. The Lord Jesus preached repentance, and His apostles did too.

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is

at hand; repent and believe in the gospel. Mark 1:14,15

How I (Paul) did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:20,21

Answering the call to repent of one's sins and be reconciled to God is the foundation of faith for every person. You cannot believe unless you are ready to forsake your sins. Repentance means to have a change of heart, to desire to change direction concerning one's way of living, and to therefore turn from actions that displease God. That is what you find in a heart that seeks after God.

John the Baptist came to Israel preaching a message of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. He did not promise miracles but reconciliation with God only. Anyone who came to him would be ready for the kingdom of God when it would come. All were supposed to prepare for a kingdom where God would be the king and the law-giver. They were to be willing to live in subjection to God's rule. But

there were no promises of miracles, and he did not attract anyone to his meetings with the wonders he performed. He was a prophet, and the primary duty of prophets is to call to repentance.

Now, everyone who came to John received the spirit of faith that would be necessary to relate with Jesus Christ when He would come, but they did not know it.

Let Us Love Righteousness

Many people wait for God to perform miracles before they would believe in Him. When they see miracles, they rush to believe for the purpose of receiving their own miracles. They hear testimonies of God supplying abundantly for a giver, and they rush to give. It is unfortunate that many preachers actually encourage Christians to follow those examples of giving so that they too might receive, but it doesn't work like that. Once the blessing is the reason for the repentance and the good works, the spirit of faith is not supplied and the people do not get anything.

When John was calling, people repented because their hearts smote them for their sins. The only 'selfish' thing was the desire to be delivered from divine judgment. The fear produced hatred for sins. They were not looking for miracles, and John was doing none anyway.* It is hatred for sin and the desire for righteousness that actually provoke the spirit of faith. Those who love to do what is right because the Lord has helped them to know that wickedness is displeasing to Him are the ones that God actually blesses.

*You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You... Ps 45:7*

When it comes to giving, we must understand that those who are giving because of what they will get are not pleasing to God, and they will get nothing. It is the motivation of love in the heart that provokes the miraculous power in that area. If you read Paul's letter to the Philippians, he made it clear that the motivation for the gifts they had sent to him with Epaphroditus was love; it was not because they wanted to receive. He said, "*How I praise the*

*Jn 10:41

Lord that you are concerned about me again. I know you have always been concerned for me, but you didn't have the chance to help me."* It was the concern that was their motivation. They were intent on being a blessing to the man; they were not looking for a miracle.

Many times we try to learn faith for receiving when what we should be learning is righteousness. And there is a principle in the things of the spirit, and it is that often, you don't get the thing you are directly seeking; rather when you seek certain things, other good things not sought follow. So we see that Solomon did not seek riches but he got it in abundance, and this was because he sought the wisdom to help him govern God's great nation.** He obtained long life and the eradication of his enemies with it.

Also, the Lord Jesus told us that it is those who will try to keep their lives that will lose it, and that it is the person who would willingly lose the life for the sake of righteousness that will end up finding it.*** So, it is not what we seek directly that we find. It is

*Phil 4:10 NLT **1 Kgs 3:10-13 ***Matt 10:39

understandable therefore that many people seeking faith for miracles will never get it, but those who are falling down in baptism for righteousness will go away with faith for miracles.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Matt 5:6 KJV

Those who pant after righteousness will be satisfied with many things. They are not being filled just with righteousness, but with all other things added to them. Their stomachs and bodies will be satisfied.

The spirit of faith is for the contrite of heart, who seek to walk in righteousness with the Lord. It is not given to the person who simply has the desire for receiving things from the Lord. No wonder the Lord Jesus said we are to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all other things will be added to us. The love of righteousness is what opens the heart for the spirit of faith.

On The 3rd Day, The Lord Will Come

There is this *third-day* principle in spiritual things which we must understand.

The Lord also said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people." Exo 19:10-11

Everything the Lord wants to do among His people has a season of preparation; so, Moses was to tell them to consecrate 'today and tomorrow'. The time of fulfilment is the third day. Before Jesus came with the power of the kingdom of God to do miracles in the lives of the people, John went ahead as a forerunner to prepare the people that would receive the reign of the Saviour.

It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:17

The baptism of John was the preparation. The baptism was a sign of repentance and readiness for the rule of God. Preparation is crucial; those who neglect to take part in adequate preparation miss

out in the time of manifestation. We read of the effect of the lack of preparation in the lives of some of the people; Luke testified that, *“the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John.”**

I believe that this woman whose faith we are examining, the one with the issue of blood, being an Israelite, went to John and was baptized, as a sign of her repentance. As a result, she got the spirit of faith, ready for the goodness of the kingdom of God in Christ Jesus.

Let me emphasize that our primary quest must be for righteousness and not for blessings. Our primary desire must be to cleanse ourselves of all defilement, so that we can walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects and to bear fruit in every good work. We must be eager to be the clean bride which He ordained us to be. That is what is meant by seeking first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; when we do this, all other things will be added into our lives.

*Luk 7:30

■ WE WALK BY FAITH

chapter 3

Who Told You?

Now let us consider the second thing which must have prepared this woman healed of chronic haemorrhage for that healing encounter with Jesus. We have seen the matter of *the spirit of faith*; now we will examine the subject of the information she received.

We remember that in the beginning Adam and Eve disobeyed God and then ran from His presence. When He asked where they were, they told Him they were in hiding because they were naked. Then He asked, “*Who told you you were naked?*” This question shows us the power of information.

In life we live by information. It is very crucial that we understand this. This woman whose faith

healed her chronic bleeding got information that shaped her pattern of reasoning. Remember that it is *that* pattern of reasoning that is faith.

She started out with the physicians because she *thought* they could help, but they failed, and she lost faith in them, which was good anyway. Her faith was being built up in a new area. Some things were beginning to reshape her thinking.

She had heard the reports concerning Jesus... she kept saying, If I only touch His garments. Mark 5:27-28
AMP

She heard He had been healing the sick. It was reported to her the great works He had done. The spirit of faith in her was brooding upon the new information and bringing up faith. Her eyes were sharpened by that spirit of faith so that she perceived, and her ears were opened so that she understood. Could this be the kingdom of God which John said they were to prepare for? Definitely God has sent a deliverer to His people and He is going about doing good and healing all who were sick. Without any doubt, she knew where the power

was. After considering all the information given her, she drew a conclusion, “I only need to touch His garment and I will be healed.”

Her faith caused her to press. She was not acting. She was not trying to impress anyone. She did not read any book on how to act on the word of God. What was going on was a result of the conviction she had. She was convinced that this Jesus was full of the power of God, and that the power was great enough to pass through His clothes to kill off any and every ailment. That conviction was a result of the faith. That is why the word of God says to us in Hebrews 11:1 that *faith is the conviction of things not seen*.

This woman was not trying to practice a religion. It was not an attempt to do something out of the world. It was rather a conviction that there was power at work through this Man. The action was a natural result of the reasoning pattern in her heart. That reasoning pattern is what faith is.

Many times people behave as if the action is what will get results. We often motivate people to act on the word which they are not convinced of; but it is

all superficial and doesn't draw the power of God. This woman's case was not so. She acted because she was convinced.

How did she become convinced? It was through learning. The spirit of faith in her acted upon the things she was learning and produced the conviction. Paul wrote thus to Timothy:

You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of... 2 Tim 3:14

The woman paid attention to the reports about Jesus. She heard the reports concerning Jesus. I am of the opinion that she did not just hear those reports in passing; she heard the reports and contemplated them. She confirmed the reports. She investigated the reports. She filled her head and heart with the reports so much that all she could think of was Jesus. That was how she developed the conviction that could tap the anointing with the Lord Jesus being unaware of it. Many persons needed to get Jesus' attention, but she didn't need to; her conviction was intense as a result of what she had contemplated.

Attend to His Stories

Many of us do not realize that the information we pay attention to is what determines what we are convinced of. The world around us is a pool of diverse kinds of information; you must choose the information that you wish to have fill your heart. The kind of information you choose determines what you will become convinced of, and that is the faith of your life.

Many of us spend all the time reading what the World Bank says about our nation, what some economists somewhere have to say about our future, and what some analysts have to say about possibilities of our becoming anything in life, and we want to pray about finances with faith. It does not work like that. When we pay attention to all that information, what develops is unbelief. It is not possible to spend time to develop unbelief and then turn around to pray in faith.

If you want to have the faith to pray concerning finances, you must pay attention to Bible stories about divine control over the supply of bread and water. You must realize through study that the

economy is divinely controlled. God can break the staff of bread, and He can make abundance flow. The story of seven years of abundance in Egypt is a true story. God causes rain to fall and makes it cease. The flow of wealth into individual lives is also spiritually controlled. Pay attention to testimonies of persons who the Lord has blessed and supplied their needs. Let your heart be filled with these truths. A new reality of the control of the spiritual over the physical in the area of finances will fill your heart; it will do so in such a measure that you will be convinced of the power of God to control these things. That is when you can pray in faith.

Story, Story

How is faith developed? It is to fill our heads and thoughts with reports concerning the Lord Jesus. Christians must understand that stories are important in life. Read the stories of the Bible. Take time out to pay attention to credible testimonies. Talk about them. Read books that give testimonies of what the Lord has done for people. Think of these things all the time. Fill every part of your heart with the testimonies and stories about Jesus.

Do not fill your thoughts with the negative things of life.

Once, I read a book in which a man was accidentally infected with HIV. He was a haemophiliac and had been infected through receiving blood products needed to control his condition. That was before the days of effective drug treatment. The book was a Christian book which showed how the man died peacefully. When I returned the book to the sister who lent it to me, she asked how I felt about the book. I said the book was okay, but she noticed the lack of excitement in my words. So she said, "Oh, you expected him to get healed?" She said it with a tone of rebuke, as if to say "why can't you just appreciate such a nice story." I replied her that, "Yes, I expected him to be healed. So he died peacefully, right? How has that taught me anything new? How has that boosted my faith? It was natural for him to die, and he did."

I am not ashamed to say that I am looking out for the power of God to heal HIV. I am a minister of the gospel; I do not need anyone to reinforce the natural pattern for me. I already knew he was going

to die unless something special happened, and he followed that established natural pattern. I need the power of the Spirit reinforced in my mind. I am looking for the power of God.

Now, compare that with the testimony I heard of a brother who God revealed to that he had an illness He wanted to heal him of. At that time he did not even know he had HIV. When he found out, he went to the Lord in prayer, and the Lord told him to go and get baptized. After baptism he was totally healed. It is a true story. I like that story. It tells me that with God nothing shall be impossible.

I remember Oral Roberts talking about his first son, who had died from suicide. The young man had been held in bondage to drugs for some time. One day he came to his father to talk about his life; Oral Roberts prayed for him at the end of the meeting, and according to him, he felt the power of God in his hands to heal the son. As the boy was leaving the room, he turned and asked his father if he knew of any drug addict who had been healed by the power of prayer. The father told him he knew God healed all kinds of afflictions, but unfortunately, he didn't

have any story to tell the son of deliverance from drugs. He realized that the boy's faith simply fell at that point. There was no story about Jesus in his head to keep his faith. He shot himself a few days later and died.

The stories you pay attention to shape the size of your faith.

*O God, we meditate on your unfailing love
as we worship in your Temple.
As your name deserves, O God,
you will be praised to the ends of the earth.
Your strong right hand is filled with victory.*
Ps 48:9-10 NLT

Meditate on Jesus

Stop meditating on troubles and failures. Many people do not understand that the world is filled with faith-killing news. They think they are 'facing reality' when they fill their thoughts with all the negative news of the world. The woman with the issue of blood could have spent her time thinking of the money she had wasted, and become bitter against doctors, against life and maybe against

God. That would be facing her reality. She could have been thinking of the oppression of the Romans, how Pilate killed those worshippers when he mingled their blood with that of their sacrifices. There were bad things happening that time too. If she had done so she would have remained with her haemorrhage. But she chose to meditate on the reports about Jesus.

What are you meditating on?

We need to meditate more on the Lord Jesus. We need to think more and discuss more about the work of the cross, how He died for our sins and gave us new life in His resurrection. We need to spend more time talking about Jesus. We have spent too much time with world economics, current politics, sports, and fashion. Christians even spend time watching immoral reality shows and get carried away with *fake* reality. See, anything that is not making Jesus clearer to you is reducing your faith. Let us read here the admonitions of Paul and Solomon.

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. Col 3:16 NLT

My child, pay attention to what I say.

Listen carefully to my words.

Don't lose sight of them.

Let them penetrate deep into your heart,

for they bring life to those who find them,

and healing to their whole body. Prov 4:20-22 NLT

■ WE WALK BY FAITH

chapter 4

Hindrance to Healing

Medical science has advanced greatly. With human knowledge, so many diseases are preventable, diagnosable and treatable these days. The scientific knowledge that underlies the practice of medicine is vast. Doctors know about viruses, bacteria and other microbes—how they are transmitted, how they cause troubles, and how they may be treated. Right now, as I write this book, the COVID-19 pandemic is on and vaccines have recently been released. In just over a year after the beginning of the outbreak in the Wuhan district of China, hundreds of scientific publications were already available about the structure of the coronavirus responsible, its possible origins, how it is transmitted, how it

affects the human system and how it causes disease and death.

Now, these things are broken down for lay people's consumption and pumped out in the news every day. The average person today knows more about viruses and vaccines than a doctor knew a hundred years ago. As a result of such advanced knowledge, which is now common to most people, even the minds of Christians have been shaped into thinking everything about diseases is natural. This vast amount of knowledge has greatly increased our faith in physicians.

I have read people explain that in the days of old, before the advancement of scientific knowledge, people spoke of plagues and pestilence because they didn't know about bacteria and viruses, and that they believed in curses only because they didn't understand the microbial world. They explain that now things are different, light has come, and so those ideas of curses and such are to be discarded. Essentially, we are taught daily in schools, in the news, and as medical experts speak here and there, that there are no plagues, no curses,

no wrath of God and no power in the realm of the spirit. We are being made to believe that everything that happens is natural—you catch a disease by chance and may die if the physicians have no cure for you.

See, whether we like it or not, these things make up the reality of faith for most people today. Remember that faith is the understanding we walk by and how we think. So, even Christians spend so much money in annual check-ups. Every day they seek the physicians. They are not trying to be wicked; it is the depth of knowledge which they have accumulated that is shaping their faith. A time then comes that they reach a point where the knowledge and wisdom of the physicians fail, when they develop what the system of knowledge around the physician calls incurable, they then turn to God in prayer.

Even though at this point they turn to the brethren to ask for prayer, you see, the prayers are not prayers of faith. They are prayers of desperation and grasping at straws. There is little faith in them. Faith is a system of life; all these years they have

walked by natural knowledge, so it will take time to turn their hearts to true faith in Jesus the healer. It is not just about the desire to be healed but about how one thinks about the control of life and nature. The knowledge of the natural is too much in those hearts. How do you get them now to stop thinking only about genes, microbes, the immune system, age, vitamins, chance, etc.? These are the things they have come to believe control health and which should be manipulated to sustain it. To look now and see the power of God above all these is hard.

What the knowledge of the natural begets is nothing but unbelief. Remember that unbelief is simply faith in another system apart from God. No wonder Solomon lamented that much learning is weariness to the soul. The soul becomes weighed down, and unbelief rules.

The Spiritual is Above All

The truth is that when the Bible speaks of plagues and pestilence instead of bacteria, it is not because of lack of scientific advancement; it is because it is speaking deeper truths. Viruses and bacteria are like bullets with which an assassin kills. The fact

that you discovered bullets or pellets in a dead body does not mean there was no human who fired the fatal shot.

Death and diseases are spirits. When the spirit of a disease is withdrawn, the bacteria in the person dies, the immune system of the individual gains the upper hand over the virus and it dies out. When *the spirit of life* is working in someone, it will kill off all germs and silence any defective gene in the person. It causes regeneration to occur in aging tissues. It is called *the power of life*. A blessing will make sure that germs cannot gain a foothold in a person's system. These physical things are controlled and limited by the spiritual.

Sometimes I think of how the single angel who attacked the camp of the Assyrians killed 185,000 in a single night.* That was when they were camped against Hezekiah and Judah. The Lord had spoken through the prophet concerning the king of Assyria, in response to the prayer of Hezekiah, that *“He will not come to this city or shoot an arrow there;*

*2 Kgs 19:35

and he will not come before it with a shield or throw up a siege ramp against it." I imagine how the angel accomplished that feat. The easiest explanation would be a cold spell with which he froze the men overnight. It would have been an unusual weather pattern which was hitherto unknown, or maybe known but which came at a very unusual time and without any warning. Some have said it was an outbreak of a disease like plague or cholera, but I don't lean towards that because such would take more than one night. Whatever be the case, it would have been seen as a natural occurrence by people around, but we know it was the action of one angel.

We know, as a matter of fact, that Sodom and Gomorrah were submerged under a rain of fire and burning sulphur which fell over the region. It has been postulated that a volcano erupted not too far away, shooting its contents into the sky; the lava and burning sulphur then fell over the region as a fiery rain. But all these were controlled by the forces of the spirit. Angels determined the time of the release. These things are true and we have come to understand them as such.

We know, from studying the scriptures, that Abraham was sustained without anyone ever checking his blood pressure. He was not sick until his death at the age of 175. We know that Moses lived to be 120 years of age without developing bone weakness, heart failure, or cataracts. This was because the life of God was sustaining him. His muscles did not waste away. When the day to die came, he was informed, and was told to lie down where he died. We know that Aaron died in a similar manner when Moses removed the priestly garment from his body. These things are taught to us in the word of God.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron at Mount Hor by the border of the land of Edom, saying "Aaron will be gathered to his people; for he shall not enter the land which I have given to the sons of Israel, because you rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah. Take Aaron and his son Eleazar and bring them up to Mount Hor; and strip Aaron of his garments and put them on his son Eleazar. So Aaron will be gathered to his people, and will die there." So Moses did just as the Lord had commanded... After Moses had stripped Aaron of his garments and put them on his son Eleazar, Aaron

died there on the mountain top. Num 20:23-28

The Wrath of God

Death is not an accident; it is always an appointment. People die in different ways, but every death is an appointment. We saw Moses and Aaron die peacefully by divine appointment, and we also saw Saul and Ahab die violently in battle, also by divine appointment.

So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the Lord, because of the word of the Lord which he did not keep; and also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry of it, and did not inquire of the Lord. Therefore He killed him and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse. 1 Chr 10:13-14

Advanced scientific knowledge does not change the fact that God still has indignation, and when He is angry He pours forth His wrath upon the earth. You can isolate the virus or bacteria, and have fun or headaches doing so; it is an assignment He has given men to be occupied with. The end of the plague will not come until He says so. In the current COVID-19 pandemic, millions have died while we

keep talking about the virus and rushing for human cure. By the time vaccines were produced, within weeks the debate was already on *on* whether they will be effective against the numerous new strains that were already being discovered. The truth is that a spirit of death was released to go into the earth and kill or make sick. There is nothing random about the people dying. Names have been given to the executioners before they left their place of abode to come down to the earth. When we understand this, we can pray in faith. I do not see viruses; I see a plague of God's wrath and spirits released over the earth. I see the solution as prayer for mercy to the throne of God. I can pray in faith.

I remember the story told by John G. Lake about a region in South Africa which was ravaged by the plague while he was there as a missionary. Yes, doctors and health workers were working, but a certain man, a local black preacher, went to the mountains to pray. One day as he was joined by John G. Lake in prayer, God opened their eyes and they saw a flock of demons spread over the land. In the spirit they pursued after those demons and drove them out of the region in the name of the

Lord. In the natural, the next day the epidemic began to die down.

Jesus the Healer

Because of these things, we understand that we must go to God for healing. Yes, the knowledge of the natural is so much, and indeed it has often helped in teaching us some basic responsibilities in caring for ourselves. These are responsibilities which the Lord gave to us. However, we must be careful in the time of sickness to look up to God first. The spiritual controls the physical.

A number of times, over these many years, I have been ill; at such times I would crawl before the Lord in prayer to raise me up. Sometimes I have taken 'an ointment from figs' and 'spread it over the boil',* so to speak, in taking some man-made medicines, and have gotten well, but most times I did not need to do that. I usually take a rest and feed on the word of God. The Spirit of God lets me know that the treatment is in feeding on the word of God. I just feed on the word of God until I fully recover.

*Is 38:21 NLT

Some of those times people have asked, “why don't you take medicine?” I tell them I am taking medicine, but just not human tablets and injections. I talk to the Lord every day, and He is working. He is infusing life. There was a day I was quite ill and so uncomfortable; there was this fever that was going up and down, and which was making me quite uncomfortable. I turned to the Lord and told Him about the fever; I even asked whether He would simply take it away or if I could be permitted to take two tablets of paracetamol. A few minutes later, the fever was gone permanently; it did not return till I fully recovered. I didn't have to take a tablet.

At that time, even though I didn't think I was going to get worse, I told my wife that if it were to happen, she should allow me lie on the bed, on a brand new large white towel to signify the bosom of the Lord. Let me pass out on it, I told her. I explained that I will be raised up when the Lord would be done, on whichever side of eternity He would decree. I told her I wanted no hospital. During that period, I was speaking to the Lord about my life, my ministry and my usefulness to Him on the earth. I realized I

would not die unless He decreed so. Jesus already bought the right to my life by His blood and no devil can take it from Him. In the same light, no one can save me from the sleep in the Lord if that becomes His decree. Yes, I fully recovered.

People often speak as if rushing to the hospital will save your life. Sometimes it appears so, but so also it is that at other times that is the very thing that kills. Life is supernaturally preserved. Spiritual things are real.

I remember a dear brother being suddenly afflicted in his bones, in the foot. The doctors wanted to operate but he called on the brethren first. We arranged to meet and talk about it. I understood what the doctors were about to do, and I feared for the possible outcomes. At best he would be in a cast for a year and hopefully eventually get well. But things could get much worse. So, we said, “why don't we give the Lord time too?” He is a real doctor; why can't we be patient with Him as we would be with human doctors? The fact that He doesn't heal in a day doesn't mean He is not

healing. We agreed to give the Lord time. We joined our hands, prayed and asked the Lord Jesus to heal the affliction. He returned to the doctors to tell them he wasn't going to have the surgery, and we continued to wait on the Lord. He continued to declare the word of God. It took a while but he began to recover, and a year later, he was totally well.

The word of God is real medicine. The Lord Jesus is a real doctor. We must subject our natural knowledge to these facts. He can control your blood pressure, make normal the pressure in your eyes and normalize the flow of insulin. He wakes up kidneys with a touch. He dissolves cancers with a word.

Testimonies

I went to preach in a certain church in Lagos a few years ago; in the course of my message that day, I spoke about the fact that Jesus is a doctor. Because of this, two women came to share their testimonies with me after the service. One said that in her family of four or five siblings and two parents, she

was the only one not taking anti-hypertensive drugs. She controlled her blood pressure with the word of God and prayer. She said if her blood pressure went up, she would take time to pray and to cast any worries that may be on her mind unto the Lord, and her BP always returned to normal.

The other woman said she developed arthritis in the foot and so she went to see the doctor; he made his diagnosis and gave her a prescription. When she got home, something in her said, “once you start, you may never stop.” Actually, that is the way with a lot of diseases that doctors treat—they can't be cured but the doctor only seeks to 'control' the disease or reduce its effects. For this reason, many patients take medicines all the days of their lives after the diagnosis is made. Think of hypertension, diabetes, and indeed the arthritis this woman had; most persons with these disorders fall in this control-only category. The woman said she thought about it and decided to go on a retreat to see Jesus the healer. She abandoned the prescription.

The day she arrived at the retreat centre, she attended a service in the chapel there, and the preacher gave a word of knowledge about her condition and said the Lord said He has healed her. She stayed there for a few days meditating and praying. By the time she left, the pain was still there in her foot but she said she knew the Lord had touched her. She went about her business and tried to ignore or work around the pain as much as possible. The interesting thing was that she couldn't remember when the pain left. The Lord granted her so much of the peace of God that passes all understanding, such that it was days after the pain was gone that she realized it. She had totally forgotten about it. One day she was walking and she suddenly remembered, "Oh, I used to have pain from arthritis in this foot." It was all gone. She testified to me that months later, the pain tried to return but she prayed again and the Lord granted her the victory. That was how she overcame arthritis.

Jesus is indeed a doctor—a real doctor we can consult and who operates on our bodies to heal. His

word is tangible medicine. If He so leads, you can declare His word into water and drink it as medicine for your health. You can meditate on His promises several times a day in a similar way as people take physical medicine. His medicine is superior.

chapter 5

A Life of Hope

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... By faith we understand... Heb 11:1,3

The understanding you have of things around produces certain expectations each time you face a situation. As an example, when the clouds gather and are dark, you expect rain. It does not matter whether you *want* rain or not; the expectation of rain falling is a deduction from the things before you.

Expectation is different from desire; it is a derivative of reasoning. That reasoning is called *mind* in the scriptures, and the expectation is called *hope*.

We are often mistaken when we read Hebrews 11.1; we read the verse as if it is saying that faith is used to give assurance or confirmation to our desires, but that is a misinterpretation. The error stems from misinterpretation of the word 'hope' which is contained in the verse. *Hope* in our common English simply means *wish*. When the Bible uses the word however, it is not a wish; it is actually better rendered in modern English as *expectation*. The Greek word used there actually means *firm expectation*. It is therefore easier to appreciate it if you would read the verse this way: *Faith is the assurance of what we expect*. See, it is not about desire but about biblical *hope*.

The point I'm trying to get across is this: first comes information, then faith acts on the information, and finally a certain expectation is born. That is the order. Faith *produces* hope.

Faith is the way we process information. It is a software that the mind runs, so to speak. Godly faith is to process information with the word of God as the basis of all conclusions. Everything is interpreted with the foundation of the word. With

this faith, we have true understanding. Any way we process information that does not take the word of God as the foundation of all things is called unbelief. Let me explain further.

The Spies Who Trusted God

At a time, there were these twelve spies who were representing a nation who desired to take a land. They went to the land in question, and there they saw resident giants and cities surrounded by high walls. The residents were numerous, strong and ready to fight. The spies compared all these with their own size and their number, and they declared an expectation, or *hope*, of defeat. Their conclusion was:

We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us. Num 13:31

Actually, not all of the twelve spies said this; two of them spoke differently. Watch carefully what these other two said.

And they spoke to all the congregation of the sons of Israel, saying, "The land which we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. "If the Lord is pleased

*with us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us — a land which flows with milk and honey. "Only **do not rebel against the Lord**; and do not fear the people of the land, for they will be our prey. Their protection has been removed from them, and **the Lord is with us**; do not fear them. Num 14:7-9*

I have highlighted some words with bold characters. They are important words. "*If the Lord is pleased with us.*" "*...do not rebel against the Lord.*" "*...the Lord is with us.*"

These two men, Joshua and Caleb, saw everything the other ten men saw, but they came to a totally different conclusion. What was the reason? It was because they *thought* of the Lord. That was all. Their considerations were: Are the people of the land bigger than our God? Are the cities too fortified for our God? These were the points in consideration.

They thought of the works of the Lord in Egypt, in the crossing of the red sea, and many other great deeds He had done. These thoughts shaped their own conclusion. They faced the reality like all the other spies, but they added the greatest reality to

the picture—the reality of God.

God had given them a promise to bring them into the land of Canaan, and that promise was more important than every other thing they could see. Their expectation, or hope, was “we can take the land.” What is the assurance, or *substance*, of the hope? Simple; it was reliance on the person and the promise of God.

Hope is not a desire; it is what is derived from observing things around and interpreting the observations in the light of the person and the promises of God. The other ten spies derived their expectation from all the evidence minus the God factor; they carried the people along with them, and they are all said to have walked in unbelief.

So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief. Heb 3:19

Unbelief vs Faith

What is unbelief? It is when you make conclusions without giving the promise and person of God the pre-eminence in the midst of all the evidence before you. It is when you believe what the doctors say but

not what the word of God says. It is when you believe what the news reports say and that determines your decisions. It is when you accept the projections of climate change campaigners and your expectation of what will befall the earth is based on it.

Unbelief is when your reasoning system does not shout out *first*, “if God has promised;” “If the Lord is with us;” “Considering that it is written in the word of God...”, etc. If these things are not the foundation of your expectations in life, you are walking in unbelief.

This is the plan of God for the child of God, that they will build their lives upon the promises which the Lord made concerning their lives. It is that the reality of God will be the foundation of all decisions. It is that they will not make a decision and ask God to bless it, but will rather say, “What is the promise of God concerning what I am facing?” That is the life of faith, and the life of hope.

The Word Became Flesh

And the word became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 1.14

There is no one who touches the heart of God like the person who builds his or her life on the promises He made. There is no one who God regards as much as that person whose life is being built on the word of God so much that every decision is made because of what the Lord said.

Many of us think that God loves offerings and sacrifices. We have lied to ourselves that the more we do supposedly for Him the more He will appreciate us. But this is so *so* untrue. He does not regard the people who do things for Him a fraction as much as He regards those who take His word so seriously that they will risk their lives and everything for it. They will risk everything for the integrity of His word.

We are so eager to *do* for Him, but He is saying, "Entrust your life to Me. Risk everything on my faithfulness. That is what I want."

We want to travel, do business, work hard, and then give 90% as an offering. But He is saying, "Relax, do that small thing I have given to you now, and trust that as long as I am your God, your future

will be secure.”

“Don't bother yourself with saving money for tomorrow simply because I said don't. I know it doesn't make sense according to the financial principles you have learnt from the world, but that is what I say.

“I don't want your sacrifices and offerings. I want you to trust me with your life!

“Stop looking for offerings to give to me; observe from your father Abraham; when I want an offering, I will provide it for myself.* I never ask for an offering that I did not provide.”

We are looking for what to give to Him when this is what He is saying:

*Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.
Could you build me a temple as good as that?
Could you build me such a resting place?
My hands have made both heaven and earth;*

*Gen 22:8

*they and everything in them are mine.
I, the Lord, have spoken!
I will bless those who have humble and contrite hearts,
who tremble at my word.” Isa 66:1-2 NLT*

What is His plan? The Lord Jesus was the word of God becoming flesh, and that is precisely what He wants our lives to be. We are supposed to be the embodiment of the promises of God in our lives. The interesting thing is that there is no part of our lives that He didn't think of ahead. David was amazed when God helped him to understand this mystery just a little.

*How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.
They cannot be numbered!
I can't even count them;
they outnumber the grains of sand!
Ps 139:17-18*

It indeed is amazing that He has thought of every bit of our lives, from the great parts to the fine details, and from the profound to the mundane. Everything. He thought of how long each should live, who we will marry, where we will live, what

we will do, what we will wear and eat, what colour will be the slippers, what haircut, what jewellery, how much money, what number of children, which street to build on, which country to dwell in, who to bless, which mobile phone number, etc. The number of parameters He thought of is literally mind-boggling. David was amazed.

We can't out-think God. All He is asking for is that we will let those things He planned manifest.

Architect of Our Lives

Imagine a master architect; he plans a building for years, from the foundation to the roof. He set every pillar in its proper place; every door, every window; each is properly set. He and his team chose the colour of paints, the type of tiles, fittings, the cobble stones, etc. Everything. What do you think his greatest joy would be? Yes, you guessed it right! It is to see that building come to reality on the ground, with every detail just as he planned it.

Now, what would irk him the most? That would be the smart fellow of a builder who decides that the rooms are not the right size, he has a better shape for the windows, or a door is too wide.

There was this carpenter who once did a partitioning job for me. The fellow decided and overruled the design of the architect who did the design. Unbelievable! I gave him the drawing, but without discussing with me, he decided a particular door was too wide, and he did it his way. I reported to the architect who explained the reason why the door needed to be that wide, but the arrogant fellow had messed the job already.

For this hypothetical situation we are considering, it would be a disaster for even the colour of the paint to vary from that which the master had decided.

So it is with God.

We have often done a great job of messing with His designs. The world gives us all kinds of suggestions and we redraw the plan of God for our lives. We choose a different street for the building of our lives and we use a different colour of paint. Sometimes it is so bad we are not anything like what He planned at the beginning.

I feel bad that He allows us to do it, but we can mess with His plans if we wish.

What He wants is simple: *“Allow My thoughts and words form your life. The events, challenges, experiences and people you will meet in life are the builders I use. They can’t mess My plan for you; only you can do that. I want your life to be built up according to My promises, according to My word. I want you to form your expectations on the basis of My revelations to you. That is what I want.”*

How do we allow the plan of God become real? It is simply by believing every word that we read from the word of God. It is simply by refusing to change our beliefs to fit the circumstances around. It is by responding to every situation according to the knowledge of the word of God we have. Remember that the experiences, challenges, and people we meet in life are the builders He uses to form His plan in us. What we need to do is to react to every challenge and experience with the word of God. The result will be that the experience will help bring the plan of God into existence, even if it looks bad at first.

When you are faced with giants, respond like Joshua and Caleb: “If God is with me, I can take the land.”*

When you are faced with temptation, respond like Joseph: “How can I do this wrong thing and sin against God.”*

There will be times you will say, like Esther, “If I perish, so be it.”*

There may be times you will sell all you have and give,* and there may come the time to speak like Abraham to the king of Sodom, “I have sworn not to take even the tong of a sandal from these goods.”*

How do you allow the plan of God manifest? It is to believe every promise of God, form your hope on that basis, and react to every situation according to the word of God. It is to make every decision in such a manner as to please God each time. The ways of the world and their expectation of you must never be the basis of your decisions in life.

*Num 14:8, Gen 39:10, Est 4:16, Luk 12:33, Gen 14:22, 23

■ WE WALK BY FAITH

chapter 6

The Sacrifice of Isaac

There was a time God tested Abraham, and Abraham passed the test so well that the Lord became quite excited, so much that He swore to bless Abraham. Yes, the devotion he demonstrated in passing that test was quite impressive, but actually most of us misjudge what really happened in that process which caused the Lord to be so pleased. It is necessary therefore that we examine it and see clearly why the Lord was so pleased.

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah,

and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.” Gen 22:1-2

Here was God asking Abraham to give Him Isaac, but not in the manner in which Hannah would later give Samuel. Samuel was given to serve God in His place of worship, but Abraham was asked to kill Isaac and burn his body to ashes. That was a huge ask. Now, let us look for a moment beyond the serious matter of killing a whole human being, an adult for that matter, and first get the background on the person we are trying to kill here.

God called Abraham at the age of 75 with a promise to make him great and a father of a great nation. Abram, as his name was at the start, left everything he had known to go on a journey into the unknown. He did not have a child for many years, even after obeying God and proceeding on the adventure. Then one day he had Ishmael through Hagar, but God did not accept this as the son through whom He would fulfil His word to Abraham. Abraham was later to send Hagar and Ishmael away from him.

Then, at the age of 100, 25 years after the call, Isaac was born to the old woman Sarah, the wife of Abraham. What a joy! Finally, the Lord came through; the word of God was fulfilled!

Isaac was therefore a very loved child, both to Abraham and to Sarah; he was the son of promise through whom everything God had promised about being a father of many nations would come to pass. God said it specifically that His covenant was going to be with Isaac.* All hopes were on this boy. And the boy grew for many years. He became a man. He was something between 30 and 40 years of age when God asked for him to be offered as a burnt offering. Assuming he was 35, that means it was 60 years since the initial call. That is the story around the person who God asked Abraham to sacrifice for Him.

And Abraham obeyed.

Now this is where we make our mistake—the question about why he obeyed. The assumption often is that he loved God so much that he was

*Gen 17:19

ready to give God anything, even something as precious as this Isaac. We have explained how precious he was. Many times pastors teach that we should be willing to give so much to God just as Abraham was willing, and that if we are ready to do so we will also be blessed like Abraham was.

Well, being willing to give so much to God is good, but that was *not* the reason Abraham did what he did, and it was not the reason why the Lord was especially pleased with Him. What impressed God about Abraham's action was the faith that was portrayed. Please note this rendering of verse 1:

Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith.

Gen 22:1 NLT

It is so appropriately rendered. It was not a test of love but a test of faith. God was not checking whether Abraham cared so much for Him that he would give Him anything, even the things precious to him. Such thoughts are for human beings who by nature can be needy of material things. What God is needy of are children who trust Him absolutely. That was what He was looking for in Abraham. The

core of the test was the promise which the Lord God had made about the lad.

It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted." Heb 11:17-18
NLT

The issue was trust. Would Abraham be able to trust God despite all other pieces of evidence indicating things would go wrong? Was that word of God truly final for him? That was the issue. It was the ultimate test, and God didn't apply it lightly or randomly. He applied the test to a man He had personally trained for about 60 years.

The Tutelage

Why did He spend so much time to train a man? It is because trust in Him is the most precious thing to God. He craves it. He wants it. He desires it. He is in need of someone who will trust Him absolutely.

Many of us are so concerned about "what can I do for God?" when God is concerned about "who is

there that trusts me so much that my word is final with them?" He is not so concerned about our offerings of money or of our time or any other work we think we can do for Him; His real offering is the heart that will trust Him totally. His real offering is the *person* willing to build his or her life on His promises, and wait for Him to fulfil them. Such a person desires to have a testimony of being a fleshly manifestation of the plan and word of God. That is what He seeks. Abraham gave it to Him.

So, why did Abraham sacrifice Isaac?

Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. Heb 11:19 NLT

See, that was the only way out. If the promise would not fail, then God had to raise him up from the dead. The issue was not Isaac himself, but the promise of God. Abraham had come to understand a God whose word cannot fail. So he came to that conclusion. We will not realize how dramatic that conclusion was unless we bear in mind that at that time there was no record of God ever raising any person from the dead. It was a radical thought. That

was why God was so pleased that He swore to bless Abraham.

Will we dare to make God glad? It is not the sacrifice that He seeks; it is the trust in His word. God wants our lives to bring Him pleasure. We were created for His pleasure. He is that Master Architect whose pleasure is in seeing His thoughts become flesh exactly as He planned it. It is in our lives He wants to see His word manifested. We have to put our faith in Him until we bring that joy to Him. Who will love God enough to do that for Him?

He is asking you and me today to make up our minds to live a life based on His promises, and not by our own strength nor by our own wisdom. He wants a life that brings His architectural plan into existence through trust.

■ WE WALK BY FAITH

chapter 7

Other Things that Struggle for Our Faith

I *am the Lord, and there is none else.* Is 45:18

It is interesting that the Lord has to introduce Himself like above; but why does He do it?

It is because we so easily get distracted; other things easily pretend to be God before us and we tend to put our trust in them. We may not call them *God* directly, but we behave as if they are. Let me explain.

I was once speaking with a man who was about to relocate with his family from Nigeria to a European country. Now, this person was a Christian. In the course of our talk he began to explain his reasons for the move. “Over there you are able to plan the future of your children; you are able to plan your

life," he said to me. I couldn't say anything to him, especially since his mind was made up anyway, but I looked at him and, in my mind, shook my head, so to speak. I was looking at a man who was speaking about a European country and calling it God. How can a country make it possible for you to plan the future of your children? By saying that, he had decided that he and that country put together are God. But the Lord says, "I am God and there is none else." He said to Israel:

You shall have no other god besides me.

There are many things around pretending to be God.

What do we mean by *God*? Sometimes a god is someone or something you bow to in worship, but it is not restricted to that. Just as importantly, 'God' is the person you look to as the source of your help. When David said, "my help comes from the Lord," he was saying, "the Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is my God." Anyone you look to as the source of help is in *the place* of God in your life. If you are focused on any human system, or anything else, apart from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, you are having another god besides the true God.

The god of Location

Many of us believe that prosperity is on the other side of the fence. We think we are to look for it in another country. We forget that the plan of God for each person is tied to the geographical location He chooses by Himself. It is a plan He made before we arrived on the scene. His primary purpose is not to make us rich or give us a comfortable life; His primary aim is to have His plan for our lives fulfilled.

Location, or relocation, for a Christian is a very crucial decision and must never be made for the sake of prosperity or for security. It must be made with sincere prayer concerning where the plan of God is. Sometimes, the Lord may say to move from one place to another for a certain period, or to go there so as to do the work He ordained for the person at a particular season. He led Elijah about, just like He led Abraham about. Each location was decided, not by personal desire or the apparent assurance of prosperity or security, but by the will of God.

If you are changing location for the sake of prosperity, you are saying that location is God.

That would be idolatry.

There are many women who want to marry a rich man so as to get out of poverty. They are saying a husband is God. A true believer must never think marriage is deliverance from poverty. If you are looking to marry a rich person so as to become rich, then you are walking in the love of money and the worship of mammon. You are having another god besides God the father of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is a matter of fact.

Some have looked at the method by which God prospered some persons before them and have decided that they must follow that pathway too. As an example, a man who is a software developer becomes rich through that trade; as a result, young men are focused on learning software engineering in the pursuit of wealth. They want to be another Mark Zuckerberg. They forget that there are things God wants to do that eyes have not seen yet.

There are so many other gods out there, all competing for our worship. Anything you look to as a source of life, of prosperity, of fulfilment, etc.,

apart from the God who we know in the Lord Jesus, is another god you have chosen.

...so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else. 1 Kgs 8:60

Chance is not God

Recently, the Spirit laid it upon my heart to explain to the people of God that chance is not God. People put their trust in chance, and so they take steps to improve their *chances*. But chance is not in control of life. When Solomon in philosophizing said time and chance happens to all, he was looking at life from the apparent perspective only; according to him, he was looking *under the sun*. We know that when everything is considered, it is of God who shows mercy.* David said, “God is judge; He brings down one and lifts up another.”**

When people think that their life is dependent on chance, they behave in certain ways. They take steps to improve their chances. “Dress in a different manner to improve the chances of brothers noticing you; that way you will marry quicker.” “Move to a

*Rom 9:16 **Ps 75:7

bigger church so as to be able to meet more single people, as it is a matter of chance.” “Move to a bigger city where there are more jobs.” “Go to a better country that have more jobs so as to have a better chance of one falling on you.”

But chance is not God. The Lord is God and not chance. David told us that His thoughts about us are so many that they cannot be numbered; they outnumber the grains of sand.* Every detail is planned by Him. Blessings are not random for the child of God; they are commanded.

For there the Lord commanded the blessing... Ps 133:3

You are not alive by accident. That *accident* did not happen by accident. You were not delivered from that mishap by chance. Looking through the scriptures teaches us that what appears like a matter of simple chance or ordinary enemy actions were actually plotted with precision in the realm of the spirit. The death of Job's children appeared like the effects of a natural disaster and their

*Ps 139:18

involvement was like a matter of chance, but observing from the heavenly side informs us that it was a result of the action of Satan who had been empowered for such by God.

Of the Kings

Another example is the encounter of Saul with Samuel the prophet, who later anointed him the first king of Israel. Saul's father had sent him, with one of the servants in the household, to go in search of some missing donkeys. After a long time of fruitless searching, they strayed into the region where Samuel was, and the servant suggested they should see the prophet so he might help them with visions to locate the animals.

Now, the loss of the donkeys seemed random, and telling Saul to go look for them was random. Inability to find them was a matter of chance. Out of desperation they decided to ask a prophet about it—a random decision it seemed. But was it all random?

No. Samuel was actually waiting, and Saul was actually being guided to that place at that time.

Now the Lord had told Samuel the previous day, "About this time tomorrow I will send you a man from the land of Benjamin. Anoint him to be the leader of my people, Israel." 1 Sam 9:15-16 NLT

In all the apparent randomness, it was God who actually sent Saul to Samuel. Saul was not even informed.

When the time of Saul's death came, it also appeared like a random matter in battle. The battle had gone bad and he was injured. But when the Lord was to reveal what actually happened, we are told:

So Saul died for his trespass which he committed against the Lord... Therefore He killed him and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse. 1 Chrn 10:13-14

In the death of Ahab, the same chance turned out to actually not be chance but God. Ahab went disguised as a regular soldier into battle against the Arameans. Jehoshaphat went with him but in his royal outfit. The king of Aram had told his soldiers to target only Ahab, the king of Israel. But they

could not find him because of his disguise as a regular soldier. Yet the man died. What caused the death of Ahab should have been thought of as absolute chance, except for what was revealed.

An Aramean soldier, however, randomly shot an arrow at the Israelite troops and hit the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. 1 Kings 22:34 NLT

How very unlikely for that to have happened. Talk about bad luck! The soldier did not aim at anyone in particular, but his arrow hit Ahab specifically. Not only was Ahab hit, but he was struck in the gap in the joint of his armour. Now, that is some bad luck! But was it chance?

No, it was not. God had said Ahab would die there, and Micaiah had staked his prophetic calling on it happening.

And the Lord said, 'Who can entice Ahab to go into battle against Ramoth-gilead so he can be killed?' (Micaiah said) "If you return safely, it will mean that the Lord has not spoken through me!" Then he added to those standing around, "Everyone mark my words!"
1 Kgs 22:20, 28

Chance is not God; it doesn't kill; it doesn't save; it doesn't prosper people.

If you are running here and there trying to improve your chances, then you are looking to another god apart from our Father.

chapter 8

What is The Faith?

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 Cor 13:5-6

*But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from **the faith**, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.* 1 Tim 4:1-2

We understand what faith is. Faith is walking with the knowledge of the spiritual. Faith is knowing that what God says is true and is the foundation of reality. Faith gives us the ability to know the unseen and understand the spiritual forces that control life. But there is what is called *the faith* in the New Testament. Here faith is preceded by the definitive

article, *the*, to indicate that it is something special we are speaking of. What does it mean?

The faith refers to faith that is centred on the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not just faith in God and in the realm of the spirit. *The faith* is faith in which everything is understood to be about the man Jesus, Son of God, who was born of a virgin, who died on the cross, who was raised by God after three days and three nights, and who is alive forever. The same Jesus is coming again.

Many times, Christians put a cap on their spirituality because they do not understand the faith of the Lord Jesus as they should. They know spiritual principles; they may know the operations of God under the former times; they may know about angels, demons, creation, destiny, etc., but they do not bring everything into subjection to the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Their knowledge therefore may sound like faith, but they are not operating *the* faith. Let me give a few examples.

The Blessing of Abraham

Many Christians believe in the power of blessing; they know how God blessed Adam in the

beginning, and how He blessed Abraham. They know of the blessings of Abraham, but they then turn around and tell you that if you want the blessing of Abraham, you have to bless a Jew or pray for the physical land of Jerusalem in the Middle East. Now, that sounds like deep spiritual insight, except that they omitted the person of Jesus in the whole narrative—a grave omission. Yes, blessings are true, and indeed God blessed Abraham, but *the faith* teaches us that the blessing is fulfilled only in Christ Jesus.

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. Gal 3:16

Abraham's blessings are mine if I am of faith in Christ Jesus. The promises are to Christ and those who are in Him alone; that is *the faith*.

See, in Christ there is no Jew or Gentile; all are one in Him.

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed

yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. Gal 3:26-29

Ancestral Curses Are Broken

The faith tells me that all my sins are forgiven in Christ. It tells me that ancestral curses are broken in Him. Many times, Christians pray to break ancestral curses and they want to claim deliverance because of the length of their prayer and because of the affliction of the flesh with fasting. Different forms of sacrifices are offered to break different kinds of bondage in their lives. They even mention the name of Jesus in the prayer, but the prayers are not of *the* faith.

The faith tells me that all ancestral curses have been broken if I am in Him; what I need to do is to make sure that indeed I am in Him. The faith tells me that there are no more sacrifices needed for sins or for the breaking of spiritual bondage, since Jesus is the final sacrifice for my sins.

By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Heb 10:10

All Things Are Freely Mine

Many times you see Christians giving so that they may get from God. They do much good works and then come on the basis of the works to God in prayer so that He might bless them. But that is not true faith. I have heard of '*the power of your seed*' and such doctrines. Christians are often told to give money so that blessings will come. These words are usually supported with a lot of testimonies, and people are told, "it is working." The teachings often sound so deep and spiritual. But such teachings, though spiritual sounding and backed with many verses of Scripture, are not in agreement with *the* faith.

The faith tells me that all blessings are mine because Jesus Christ paid for them, and I can freely partake of them. I do not come to God in prayer by the power of the good works which I did; I am a believer in Christ Jesus and so I come because of the grace and mercy which I have in Him. I do good works simply because I am a child of God and I am

like my Father. He created me and ordained me for those good works.

I do not claim anything from the Father because of something I did, but I claim everything because of the work of Jesus on the cross. I give, not because I am trying to get something from God, but because I believe in the Father's care for me and have no need to trust in the money with me. I also give because I am blessed to be a blessing and I am faithful to fulfil Gods' pleasure in all circumstances. That is *the* faith.

All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. Eph 1:3-4
NLT

The faith teaches me that my Lord Jesus has paid for everything. All the promises of God are mine in Him. All my sins have been forgiven; I am being cleansed constantly from all sin, and I have the power of grace to help me walk above sin.

True Spirituality

The faith teaches me that I do not belong to myself but I belong to the one who loved me and gave Himself up for me. So I live for Him alone. I do not learn faith so I can get my own way and meet my needs, but I learn faith and I employ all spiritual resources so that I can live for Him.

And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. 2 Cor 5:15

The fact that you are quoting verses from the Bible does not mean you are truly spiritual. True spirituality is about being in *the* faith. Many people practice what I call *spiritualism*, rather than true spirituality. Spiritualism is knowing the laws of the realm of the spirit, just like a person may learn physics or mathematics, and deploying these for effect. So, they learn how to focus and bring things to be. I remember a book in which the author, who is not a Christian, described how to use your imagination to bring things to pass, and there were so many stories in the book to testify of the effectiveness of the methods. It was all spiritualism.

So, people put pictures on the wall and focus on it until the things become real. They even learn how to use words to control events around them. These things seem so good and deep, but they are only general spiritual laws; they are not specifically Christian. Hindus, Buddhists and practitioners of many other religions spend years to master them. Many of the things we call magic are nothing but operations of the knowledge of simple spiritual laws—they can be mastered by any diligent person.

Christians must be careful not to accept everything that seems good and spiritual as godly and Christian. Many so-called churches exist today which are nothing but centres of spiritualism. The Christian seeming name placed over a place does not make it a church.

True spirituality is centred on Christ Jesus. It is not about what you know about the laws of the spirit but about who you are coming through. Be careful to approach God the Father in the name of Jesus and in the power of His shed blood alone. That way, you do not come into judgement at the presence of God but you receive mercy. For you, the presence of God will

not be a place of judgment but the throne of grace and mercy. There you will obtain mercy and find divine assistance, that is grace, in the time of need.

Peace In The Higher Planes

As a believer in Christ Jesus, you do not practice meditation for decades to attain inner peace; you just allow the word of Christ to dwell in your richly. The peace of God that passes all Hindu and Buddhist understanding comes to you in response to a simple prayer offered in the name of Jesus. That is spirituality. You do not try to master spiritual laws; you only learn to obey the word of God and to offer prayers. You meditate only on the Word and not on your needs. There is no need to make an image of your desire and keep it on a wall to gaze at. Your meditation is on the word of God and the sacrifice of Jesus. In Christianity, which is true spirituality, our pursuit is not how to use spiritual knowledge to get results; rather, Christlikeness is our pursuit.

In the faith, we interpret our lives according to what we are in Christ Jesus, and that alone. We deploy all spiritual resources available to us so that Christ is formed in us. We seek to have Christ

reflected in all that we do. We do not spend all night praying for money or for one material blessing or the other, our effort is primarily on fulfilling Christlikeness. All other things are added to this.

As a Christian, Jesus is the reason for my life. He is the reason I am forgiven. He is the reason I am blessed. The reason why I am a victor is because I am in Christ.

The reason why I am blessed with all blessings is because I am in Christ; it is not because of the works I have done, the prayers I have prayed or the seeds I have sown. Christ is the source of my blessings.

All the promises of God that are in the word of God are mine because I am in Christ.

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. 2 Cor 1:20 NLT

Christ is all that God planned in eternity for us and which is manifested through the Son, Jesus Christ. The knowledge of this is *the faith*.

chapter 9

The Faith of God

An experience in the life of Jesus and His disciples stands out. There was a time that He was hungry and He longed to eat some fruit from a fig tree that was in His view. When He got there, it turned out that the tree was only full of leaves but had no fruit. In exasperation he uttered a word against the tree. “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!” He said.

Now, I am careful not to say He cursed the tree; this is because I am convinced He was not deliberately cursing the tree, even though the words He spoke had the power of a curse, and Peter later pointed out to Him that He actually cursed the tree. But when He spoke, it was a casual statement, the kind

that many of us have spoken against our cars, our keys, our clothes, our tools, our countries, and sadly, sometimes against our children. “This rubbish car;” “This good-for-nothing suit that man sold to me;” “Which kind of nonsense child is this?” We make those statements in exasperation and do not think they matter. It was that kind of situation that the Lord Jesus was in, but unlike us, His casual word was just as powerful as if He settled down to meditate on what He would do to the tree, and then proceeded to curse it.

He said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!”
Mark 11:14

As they were passing by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots up. v20

He had spoken against the tree the previous day—I assume that was in the afternoon. The next morning, the tree was dead from the roots. Think about it; it was just a casual word, yet the tree died. That was why Peter shouted, “Rabbi, look! The tree You cursed has withered!” I can imagine his shock.

See, this was a man who was used to Jesus' words getting results. He had seen His word calm the sea. He had seen people healed at His command, some of them remotely. He had seen thousands fed with just a handful of loaves and fish. He had seen all kinds of miracles, but in almost every case, there had been a deliberateness to His words. What made this surprising here was that Jesus was not even cursing; He only spoke casually, it seemed, but the result was just as remarkable.

Now, what I am actually driving at is the explanation that Jesus gave about this occurrence. He said to His disciples,

Have faith in God constantly. Mark 11:22 AMP

Now, what the Lord Jesus said in the original language can be translated literally as "*Have faith of God.*" The Amplified translation here helps us to see that a God-centred faith is a constant lifestyle. Yes, everyone has one form of faith or another, but genuine faith is that which is placed in God and it is characterized by *constancy*.

Constant Faith and Every Word

One major reason why faith doesn't seem to work for some of us is because we misunderstand how it actually works. Many Christians treat faith as a tool which they can pick up when needed and lay down when they think it is not needed. They treat faith as something to pick up only when they need to get something from God or to get a certain result at a moment in life. But faith is not such a tool. We have already seen that faith is actually the *modus operandi* of walking every day. That is true faith.

True faith is not just for the time of prayers or when there is a need; rather, it is constant. That is why obedience to the word of God in everyday living is part of the faith of God. True faith makes us believe in God so much that we wrap ourselves around every word He has spoken; it is the only way to have faith in God constantly. That was what Jesus meant when He quoted Moses as follows:

Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Matt 4:4

It is every word. Every word. Many of us want to pick some words, but it is every word. You cannot operate faith unless you are paying attention to every word.

It is the word of sacrifice at the same time as the word of blessing.

It is the word of giving along with the word of receiving.

It is the word of deliverance at the same time as the word of dying for the faith.

It is the word of taking up as well as the word of laying down.

We don't only receive things from the Lord but we also lay down or forgo things because of Him. We must not overlook that because of faith Abraham refused to take things that had become legitimately his own; this was after the conquest of those kings who had overrun Sodom and taken Lot and others as captives. He was obeying *every* word. The word that promised him blessings also put restraint on him. It was not just anything that he could take, whether legal or not.

Abram replied to the king of Sodom, "I solemnly swear to the Lord, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will not take so much as a single thread or sandal thong from what belongs to you. Otherwise you might say, 'I am the one who made Abram rich.' Gen 14:22-23 NLT

Moses forsook the pleasure of the palace; he was also obeying every word. Men rejected deliverance because of a better resurrection, and many died in the process. They were obeying every word.

Abraham had to let Ishmael go, a thing that was so painful for him. But he was obeying every word. He could not accept the word of the blessing which promised the coming of Isaac without obeying the word that said he should let Hagar and Ishmael go.

The matter distressed Abraham greatly because of his son. Gen 21:11

It was not easy, but he had to let Ishmael go, because every word had to be obeyed.

Even though he had been anointed king, and the incumbent king was chasing after him to kill him, yet David had to twice forgo opportunities to kill Saul, save his life and quickly mount the throne. Why did he let those chances pass? He was obeying every word. Samuel, I believe, had taught him, "You cannot touch the Lord's anointed and be guiltless; you must mount this throne free of the blood of Saul." David used these and similar words to instruct his men. He obeyed the instructions at risk to his life.

The word of God does not just contain blessings for us to claim, but also instructions by which we must live our lives. The reason many of us have weak faith that can hardly do anything is because we want to obey the word of God only when it is convenient while we obey words from elsewhere at other times. We want to obey common sense in our every day living, but then start claiming promises when the tough sides of life come to us. That is not having faith in God constantly. That is not the faith of God.

■ WE WALK BY FAITH

chapter 10

Aspects of the Word

This concept of *every word* is very important because the word of God has different aspects. Many of us have faith in the word of blessings alone, but that is a problem. When we need something from the Lord, we pick up faith as a dispensable tool from the shelf; we start to claim money, health, protection, etc. But there are words we were supposed to be obeying even when we do not have any immediate need. This oversight is why faith is often weak.

The word of blessings is just one aspect of the whole of the word of God. The word of God has several other aspects. After studying the subject for a long time, I found that the word of God can be divided into five groups, and these are all named in Psalm

119. They are *promises, precepts, commandments, testimonies* and *ordinances*. Let us now look at them one by one.

Promises

Promises are easy to understand. They are the things that God has planned to do for us. The expression often used by David for this in older versions of the Bible is 'thy word' or 'your word'. This is not to be confused with the total word of God; he was referring to the promises God made to him. As an example we read,

Establish Your word to Your servant, as that which produces reverence for You. Ps 119:38

A modern translation renders it as "*Reassure me of your promise, made to those who fear you.*" NLT

There are many promises. "I shall not want," is a promise.

"I am the Lord that heals you," is a promise.

"With long life I will satisfy you," is a promise.

"No evil shall befall you," is a promise.

"You will be above only and not beneath," is a promise.

Indeed, there are so many.

*For to those who fear Him there is no want.
The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;
But they who seek the Lord shall not be in want of any
good thing.* Ps 34:9-10

*No weapon that is formed against you will prosper;
And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will
condemn.* Isa 54:17

*For thus says the Lord, "Behold, I will extend prosperity
to you like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an
overflowing stream."* Isa 66:12*

We tend to know many promises and we try to claim them by faith, and we should, but we must not forget that promises are just one aspect of the word of God. Focusing on them alone will make our faith erratic, inconstant, and not able to pull weight in the realm of the spirit.

Precepts

Another major aspect of the word of God is *precepts*.

*Modified from the Revised Standard Version

*You have ordained Your precepts,
That we should keep them diligently.* Ps 119:4

Precepts are the *principles* of life that God's word teaches to us. In the natural we have laws as the law of gravity, the Charles' and Boyle's laws of gases, etc. Also, we have rules that guide electro-magnetism and such phenomena. In the same way, there are spiritual principles that guide operations of life, and we must use them to guide our lives. As an example, the word of God teaches us that there is seedtime and harvest, and that we must diligently sow our seeds at certain times and patiently wait for the time of harvest.

Patience and waiting for God are precepts. We cannot lay hold of promises without patience. Also, faithfulness in all we do is a precept. We know that the faithful will be lifted by the Lord in due season. The honour of parents is a precept of God's word; it is the key to long life and prosperity.

Respecting holy things is a precept we walk by. Showing mercy to the weak and patience with the

ignorant; these are all precepts of God. *

The word of God is full of precepts, and the wise will seek them out *diligently* so as to build their lives on them. Unfortunately, many of us spend our energy building our lives according to the precepts of the world and yet expect the promises of God to be fulfilled. As an example, the world has precepts concerning how to prepare for the future, and many believers spend more energy on that rather than realizing that the precepts of God for the believer is to not have anxiety about the future. The believer is rather to be faithful in all he or she does today while trusting the Lord to take care of the future. These are not natural or common thoughts; we must seek diligently on how to apply them to our lives. It is only then we can start claiming the promises of God for our future.

Promises are Linked with Precepts

One vital thing we must realize is that the promises of God are superimposed upon these precepts. Even when they are not explicitly stated, we have a

*Heb 6:12; Ps 37:3,4; Eph 6:2; Rom 14:1

duty to seek them out. Let me take an example from the word of God given to Eli by that unnamed man of God.

The background to this was the life and practices of the sons of Eli who were priests serving with their father in the tabernacle of God in Israel. The Bible tells us that they did not know the Lord nor did they understand the customs of priesthood, but they were priests. They did all manner of evil against the Lord, especially as it had to do with the worship at the tabernacle. The testimony was that they despised the offerings of the Lord. They wouldn't follow the order Moses and Aaron had laid down when it came to handling the sacrifices. They used to seduce the young women who assisted at the entrance of the tabernacle. Their father could not control them, and his weak rebukes were ignored. That is the background to the visit of this man of God.

Therefore the Lord God of Israel declares, 'I did indeed say that your house and the house of your father should walk before Me forever'; but now the Lord declares, 'Far be it from Me — for those who honor Me I will honor, and

those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed. 1 Sam 2:30

What we see here is that even though the Lord God had given the promise that the household of Eli would be His priests forever, yet the promise was not fulfilled because of the dishonour that the household showed the Lord. He said, “those who honour Me I will honour, and those who despise Me will be lightly esteemed.” In summary, the fulfilment of the *promise* of everlasting priesthood is tied to the *precept* of honouring the Lord.

It is the duty of every child of God to search out the precepts of God in every area of life. When you see a promise, there are usually precepts upon which the fulfilment of those promises will depend; take time to search them out and live according to them. That is holiness. This is why Paul wrote,

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. 2 Cor 7:1

Without the practical fear of God in each aspect of

our lives, the applicable promises will remain unfulfilled, no matter how much faith we claim to have. Again, this is because faith is all-round; it is a constant thing. For faith to be true, we follow *every* word. Without having this constant and every-word faith, our faith is not the God-kind of faith. It will fail us when we want to lean on it. The real *exercise* of faith is in walking by the precepts; the faith for promises will flow easily when we need to use it.

Commandments

Commandments and decrees (or statutes) are the direct instructions that we are given by God. Under the law, Israel had 10 major commandments and about 600 other instructions they were to obey. Now, those commandments were meant to be obeyed simply, but beyond this, one may through them understand the precepts of God. As an example, God gave a commandment that, “You shall not muzzle the ox that is threshing out grain.” But Paul, writing in the New Testament, explained that the instruction was not given primarily because of oxen but because of ministers of the gospel. The precept of God concerning caring for

ministers of the gospel is to be learnt from there. So, Paul said, *“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches.”**

In the New Testament, we are not under the laws of Moses since our covenant is different from the one those laws served; rather, most of our operations are based on the understanding of the precepts of God. We understand that every commandment which the Lord gave to Israel through Moses had a spiritual reason, and that is what is called the *spirit* of that law. What we do in the New Testament is to walk by the spirit of the law. Interestingly, the spirit of the Law has been distilled for us into the one major commandment:

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35

Love is our foundational commandment. Upon this commandment of love hang all our actions. This is precisely what Paul was referring to as walking in

*1 Cor 9: 9 -11, Gal 6:6 -7

the spirit.* The spirit of the Law is love and anyone who constantly walks in love has fulfilled all the laws and will not obey the desires of the flesh.

In addition to this one main commandment, we have other supporting instructions. Here are a few of them:

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. Matt 6:19

Do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Matt 6:25

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!
Phil 4:4

Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil 4:6-7

Commandments are a part of the word of God.

*Gal 5:16

Testimonies

*Take away reproach and contempt from me,
For I observe Your testimonies.* Ps 119:22

Testimonies, another aspect of the word of God, can be described as personal commandments and instructions. When we pay close attention to precepts and even the general commandments, we often come up with personal or *personalized* instructions for living. These are based on how the precepts of God interact with each person's life such as the personality, environment, purpose, and even the stage of spiritual development. The personal rules may therefore not apply to everyone, but they are important to our individual spirituality.

The testimonies may have to do with how we use our time, whether we use a smartphone or not, or even whether we watch TV or not. They may speak to what kinds of material possessions we may acquire, what kinds of businesses we will get involved in or even if we will get involved in any at all. Each person will have personal commandments. They are not to be imposed on other

Christians; they are derived from personal revelation. Now, because they are derived from revelation, they are almost as powerful in our lives as direct commandments.

Ordinances

Ordinances are physical activities that we get involved in which express *invisible* spiritual truths we are walking by. They are physical but they are sacramental in that their relevance is of deep spiritual significance. The two best examples are baptism and the communion table.

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38

The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth. 'For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.' Acts 22:14-16

Baptism is an outward sign of true faith in the heart. Every believer should be baptized by immersion in

water as a sign of dying with Christ and being raised to new life. Many have at that moment received miracles of healing and other miracles. I heard the testimony about a young man whose tattoos disappeared after baptism. The early apostles always commanded it even when they encountered people who the Lord had already saved.

Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?" And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Acts 10:46-48

This verse here happened in the house of Cornelius. The gentiles had been born again and filled with the Holy Spirit while they were listening to the words of Peter. There was no doubt that these were now true believers in Christ Jesus, as shown by the sign of receiving the Holy Spirit. Peter then ordered that they be made to partake of that ordinance of baptism by immersion in water.

Communion

The communion table is another important ordinance which the Lord commanded us to

participate in.

For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 1 Cor 11:23-26

Every Christian must regularly take part in the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup of the Lord. The Lord commanded that we are to do this in remembrance of Him. It is not a mere physical thing; rather, it is such a powerful spiritual operation that those who handled it wrongly ended up sick and some even died.* It shows therefore that when we participate properly, there is activation of the resurrection power of Jesus in our bodies. Healings will take place and infirmities will be removed.

*1 Cor 11:30

Come Together

Another ordinance we should mention before leaving the subject is that of physical gathering together of believers. It is an important ordinance which we are commanded concerning in the New testament.

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. Heb 10:25 NLT.

Physical gathering is important. Faith is sharpened at such meetings and the right spirits shared. We thank God for modern technology which makes online meetings and streaming of services possible, but these things cannot replace the physical meetings. We were not created for online fellowship but for physical communion where we touch each other, join hands in prayers and share spirits. It is a crucial ordinance which we must not neglect.

Following the Lord Fully

So, we have seen the different aspects of the word of God. It is when we are following and obeying all

these different aspects, as part of our every day living, that we are walking constantly by faith. That is when our faith cannot for any moment be put on a shelf. That is when the faith is constant. The Lord Jesus said it, "Have faith in God constantly."

It is when we follow all the aspects of the word of God that we can be said to have followed the Lord fully, just like Joshua and Caleb.

None of the men who came up from Egypt, from twenty years old and upward, shall see the land...; for they did not follow Me fully, except Caleb... and Joshua..., for they have followed the Lord fully. Num 32:11-12

chapter 11

We Walk by Faith

Walking by faith is a deliberate choice we make. Each person has to determine to walk with the Lord, and that is only possible by faith. We read the testimony of Enoch, that he walked with God until he walked into the next realm, because God took him. We are told that for him to have done that it was because he chose to walk by faith.

...for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God. And without faith it is impossible to please Him... Heb 11:5-6

So, to walk by faith is a decision we make. It is like giving our lives to Christ. Each person must determine that, *"henceforth I will walk by faith."*

I want to recommend a systematic way of walking by faith which will eventually create a habit of faith in our lives. There are four areas in which we should *deliberately* build our lives on the word of God, and in doing so we will be walking by faith. They are as follows.

1. *Understanding of the events of our lives*

There are different ways to look at the things that happen in our lives. We can look at them on the natural and physical level, which Solomon called 'under the sun', or one may look at them with the eye of the spirit. To explain, let us look at the life of Joseph.

Joseph lived in a polygamous and rancorous household; he dreamt dreams which narrating them made his brothers, who were already jealous of him, hate him more. One day, they conspired to kill him in the fields to end all his nonsense, but one of them with a softer heart decided to save him; that was Reuben, the oldest. He warned the rest against shedding of blood and thus managed to persuade them to rather let Joseph rot away in a pit. His aim was to come back and rescue him. By the time he

came back, the other brothers had brought Joseph out of the pit and sold him to slave traders. The traders took Joseph to Egypt where he was resold. That was how the young man became a domestic slave to a high-ranking man in Egypt.

This narrative about Joseph is when we look from the physical level. Our view from below shows only the jealousy, hatred, treachery, and greed of men. We see a demonstration of how wicked men can be to even their own brothers. But what about when we look from above—from the viewpoint of God?

*He called for a famine on the land of Canaan,
cutting off its food supply.*

*Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them —
Joseph, who was sold as a slave.*

Ps 105:16-17 NLT

The view from the side of the spirit is that it was God who *sent* Joseph into Egypt. It was not his brothers that succeeded in their plans, but it was God who took advantage of their wickedness and used it to send His servant into Egypt. Now, that is

true understanding and is the viewpoint of faith.

It is only by faith that we can understand. Without faith, we have no understanding. We may see the physical facts but we actually do not understand what we are seeing. Only faith grants us true understanding.

By faith we understand... Heb 11:3

Joseph eventually understood this; his reaction afterwards to everything done to him was therefore surprising to the common man. His brothers found it hard to believe that he could forgive them simply and totally, without trying to exert any form of revenge, even though he had the power. His dream had come true and he had the power of Egypt in his hands, yet he wanted no vengeance. He actually felt sorry for them. He was seeing everything from the spirit and could not focus on the physical side of things. He was indeed a man of faith.

On their own side, Joseph's brothers thought it was his respect for their father that kept them safe. So, after their father died, they sent a delegation to

Joseph to tell him that their father had specifically requested that he took no vengeance against them.

So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' Gen 50:16-17 NLT

What was the reaction of this man of faith to this message? It was the same he had given to them all the while:

But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. Gen 50:19-20 NLT

To him, it was all God. God planned the whole thing for good, and it is the plan of God that matters.

As children of God, we must understand that indeed God is working everything out for our good and in line with His eternal purpose. We must look

at our circumstances and truly give thanks to the Lord, even though we cannot see what good He is working. We must see the hand of God in everything in our lives and watch out for the purpose He is working. It is a *deliberate* decision of faith to do so. We must stop grumbling or complaining but rather spend our energy giving Him thanks.

Even in past events in which we do not have a hand, God was working. He chose your parents, even if you now don't like them; He chose your country of birth, even though you wish you were born in America. He was working out His will.

There are no accidents in your life; Satan is not able to control your circumstances. God may grant him the power to tempt, but all his temptations are only in trying to make you sin or to murmur against the Lord. He cannot do anything in himself against you or your destiny. You have the duty to resist those temptations.

*The Lord alone guided him,
And there was no foreign god with him. Deut 32:12*

So, give God thanks and focus on the hand of God around you all the time. It is a deliberate exercise of faith.

Do not give anyone power over your life by giving them the glory for the effect of the things they did against you. Joseph would have given his brothers power over him if he did not consciously see the hand of God in his life. His faith weakened the hands of his brothers further. Learn to forgive people because of this understanding. It is an exercise in faith.

When the Lord Jesus was being beaten and crucified, He saw the eternal purpose of God being fulfilled, even though through the hands of wicked men; He cried, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing." Stephen borrowed a leaf from that, and when he too was being martyred, he said, "Do not hold this sin against them."* So why can't the rest of us forgive lesser sins against us. Forgiveness is easy when we realize that the power belongs to God.

*Acts 7:40

Physical things are actually controlled by the forces of the spirit, but we must be deliberate in invoking the power of God into situations by faith. Our faith is to ascribe greatness to our Lord. We must bear in mind that indeed, God is working.

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. Rom 8:28

You may have suffered losses, but God is causing it to work for your good and for His purpose. You may have suffered disappointments, but God is still working.

When God was going to appoint Saul king in Israel, it was the loss of the father's donkeys that He used to send him to Samuel. It initially appeared like loss, but it was the way of the Lord to lead him to Samuel. James said,

When troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed,

you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.
James 1:2-4 NLT

When good things also come your way, remember it is a blessing from God, and not a chance or an *I-planned-it-myself* occurrence. That is why we give thanks before we eat. We recognize that every plate of food and each cup of water was specially ordered and delivered to us by the Lord.

No matter how rich you are, never forget to give thanks for the food you are about to eat. It is an exercise in faith. You are by that saying to God, “I recognize that you are the provider. I recognize that this good thing has not come to me by any strength resident in myself. All the good that I experience are manifestations of Your goodness towards me.”

When doors open for you, recognize that it is God. No man should be able to take glory in your life. Give all the praise to the Father. He uses people, but He is the one working in your life. Think of how David became king; he had much help from many people, but it was God that was making him king. Never forget it—it is God that is making you king.

2. *Building our precepts for life with the word of God.*

Another important area in which we deliberately walk by faith is in building the precepts of our lives. This refers to the principles by which we live. We have come to understand that faith is not trying to stiffen our hearts against doubt so as to receive something from God. Faith is actually choosing to live by divine precepts. The exercise of faith here is in searching out those precepts.

Let's take an example. As a business person, search out divine precepts on how to run your business. Check for what God says about buying and selling, how to advertise your products, how to pay your staff, how to settle disputes, etc. Many Christians do not realize they are not allowed to tell even the smallest lie when advertising. Some do not know that God forbids them from changing an arrangement once agreement has been made on it.

(They) keep their promises even when it hurts.

Ps 15:4 NLT

God has His precepts concerning how businesses should be run, and faith in the business area is to

search them out and operate in business according to them. It is not just to claim business growth.

Another example is in marriage and the home. Faith is not just to claim that we are believing God for joy and satisfaction here; faith is rather to deliberately search out how to do everything according to what pleases God. We start from the issue of making the choice of a marriage partner and extend to every aspect of the married life.

It is important we realize that the things we know naturally are *not* the precepts of God. Most of what we know are usually just the norms and standards of the society. The precepts of God are not natural; they are rather to be deliberately learnt. As we learn divine precepts, we reject what we knew before. As an example, what qualities the average heart appreciates in a potential wife or husband may be lightly esteemed in the eyes of God. God says physical beauty is vain; it is not an important consideration in choice making. He even says being a very nice person can be deceitful. The thing that matters as far as God is concerned is that the person fears the Lord. Every person seeking to walk by

faith must deliberately hold this opinion.

*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain,
But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised.
Prov 31:30*

Charm, in this context, refers to all those natural qualities that most people appreciate in a woman. The word of God says that even though it is a good thing, it can mislead. The thing that is excellent is that the woman, and the man too, fears the Lord. It is amazing how many Christians are willing to marry that supposedly very nice man or woman who they know cannot concentrate when the word of God is being preached, and who does not have a dedicated attitude to the word of God. For them, being such a nice person who is a church member is good enough, but God says it is not. We must learn His ways.

If you want to walk by faith in marriage, it is not just to claim the promises of peace and prosperity in it alone, but to search out how God says a man should relate with his wife, and how a woman should relate with her husband. That is the real faith –

walking by the precepts of God in the institution.

God has precepts concerning how to raise children. He has precepts concerning how to invest our money. He has precepts concerning how to relate with the government. He has precepts on every part of life.

The point I'm making is that the person who wants to walk by faith will take time to learn divine precepts concerning every aspect of life. Faith is built when we grab hold of divine precepts to live our lives by. How does God say I should handle my money? How should I handle my plans for tomorrow? The Lord has a principle that governs every activity we engage in, and for each part of life we must seek it out; that is the practice of faith.

■ WE WALK BY FAITH

chapter 12

Expectations for Everything

3. *Expectations for everything*

A crucial area where we also practice our faith is how we build expectations for everything. This includes our personal lives, the earth, the future, the destiny of our children, our health, etc. Everything. Just like we learnt deliberately to walk by divine precepts, we must also learn what the word of God says about what is to come and live in expectation of those things. That is the hope that the Bible talks about.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Heb 11:1 KJV

Like we have already seen, hope is that which we expect, and faith is the basis for that expectation.

We discussed about this earlier, but what I want to bring out here is that the generation of our expectations is an exercise of faith; we must build our hope concerning everything from the word of God.

What do you think your life will be like in the future? Study the scriptures and build your hope from there. He said all the days of your life have been written in the book of the Lord even before there was one of them.* Keep looking into the general book, which is the Bible, and eventually, the Holy Spirit will guide you into understanding the contents of your own book in the heavens. He will do this through experiences and special manifestations.

From certain words of the Lord Jesus, it is clear that He understood what laid ahead for Him as written in His book, and so no one could scare or threaten Him. For example, at a time when some Pharisees advised Him to run away because Herod wanted to kill Him, His response was:

*Ps 139:16

“Go and tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.’ ”Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem. Luke 13:32-33

He understood the way His life was going and was meant to be. Herod could not scare Him. He knew that as a prophet in Israel in that dispensation, He had to die in Jerusalem. These things were written in the book of God concerning Him, and that created His expectation for life.

Sometimes I see Christians turn to rebel against the word of God, and I am amazed. One outstanding example is in the number of children couples may have. The world taught us that having any number greater than two or three is poor family planning, and Christians will argue that *that* is the way it is. They often hold that worldly position, even when you give them the express word of God which says,

*Behold, children are a gift of the Lord,
The fruit of the womb is a reward.*

How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

Ps 127:3,5

What the world taught us to believe is that “children are a burden from the Lord, and it is a problem to have a good number of them.” Many times Christians begin to argue with points like, “it depends on the size of your quiver,” and thereby deliberately refusing to get the sense in the word of God that is so clear. I always tell people that you can argue anything else but *don't touch that scripture*. If you don't understand it or don't have the faith to claim it yet, just leave it alone. *Never argue against the word of God*. Even if you don't understand, say like Mary, “Be it unto me according to your word.” It is safer that way.

Just Say Amen

Our expectations must be built on the word of God. If the Word says, “With long life I will satisfy you and let you see My salvation,” just say amen. Say, “Long life is my portion.” If the word says that, “Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,” just say amen. The same word says that even though in this world you may have

tribulation, but in Christ you will have peace; He said, "Be of good cheer because in Him you are an overcomer."*

God knows us more than we know ourselves; He sees our future, and He knows what He has planned for that future.

'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.' Jer 29:11

All God's provisions for our lives are in His promises; so we have a duty to study those promises and expect those things to happen to us.

He will cause us to live in health because Jesus took our infirmities on the cross.

He has made provision for prosperity for us. *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."*

He has made provision for peace and long life to be our portion. We just need to look beyond the circumstances around and say amen to what He has

*Jn 16:33

promised. It is first about agreeing with Him.

What God wants is for our lives to be a platform where He fulfils His promises. He wants us to build a life that is based on His promises. Abraham is our father in the faith; we read of the Lord coming to him again and again to give him promises: "I will make your name great." "Your descendants will inherit this land."

Now lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward; for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever. I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered. Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you. Gen 13:14-17

Then one day, the Lord came to Abraham and said, "Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac." This man's life was all about the promises of God; it was not about his abilities or his desires, but only about the promises of God. All he had to do was to agree with God, and God would

by Himself bring those things to pass over time. Every single one of the promises which the Lord made to Abraham was fulfilled. The Lord was so proud to be his God.

That is what the Lord wants for you and for me—for our lives to be a theatre of the fulfilment of His promises. But we have our part to play, and that is to locate those promises and say amen to them. We are to build expectations on them, and God will fulfil every single one of them in our lives, just as He did in the life of Abraham.

Declare with me: *I am a demonstration of the faithfulness of God. My life shows forth His righteousness and His faithfulness. Hallelujah!*

All Expectations

It is *all* our expectations that we are to build on the word of God, not just things about our personal lives. As an example, what do you think will happen to the earth? Every day we are bombarded with the predictions of climate change ‘experts’ as they tell us where the globe is supposedly heading. They tell us how we can turn things around, but it is all half-science at best. What do you think of how

the globe will end? Where are we headed eventually? The word of God has told us:

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:10-13

That is the destiny of the earth. I expect that. But before this ultimate end, the Bible has given us insight into how the earth will be.

*While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
And cold and heat,
And summer and winter,
And day and night
Shall not cease. Gen 8:22*

The earth will not remain forever, but while it remains, everything is in a perfect cycle. There are short cycles, which are measured in days or months, or even a few years, but there are also cycles measured in centuries and in millennia. No one will succeed in confusing me. I build my expectation on the things that will happen to the earth on the word of God, and it is a deliberate act. It is called walking by faith.

Death and the New Body

What is the expectation of believers on the matter of death?

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. 1 Thess 4:13, 14

If a loved one dies, yes we will miss the person for a period of time, but we know for sure that they are not gone forever, but have rather only been translated from one realm of existence to another. We know for sure that we will see and recognize

them again. Our separation is only for a while. Without a shadow of doubt, we understand that the death of the believer in Christ is only temporary. That is the reason we do not grieve like others. Whether we feel like it or not, and truly it is sometimes hard to accept the temporary loss, we have come to know and accept this truth.

Now, how do we approach our own death as individual believers?

Apart from the fact that we know that death is only a translation to another place, we also know that one day we will each have a new body. The new body is one that does not age; it can interact with this physical world but is not limited by it. It is one that was born in immortality and has the power of an endless life. A body that is a form of flesh but which does not need blood to flow through it, because the life of God is in every cell. It is a body that cannot be broken, that cannot be afflicted and which is not limited by natural forces. It is a body in which the full potentials of the spirit of the believer can be released both in worship and in knowledge. A body in which we can serve God more than ever

before. Thinking of this makes one 'sick' with longing. Paul explained it like this:

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. 2 Cor 5:1, 2 NLT

So we understand that this current flesh is not our last chance at having a body and enjoying life. What we have now is to serve the purpose of God at this time. So we take care of it and trust the Lord to keep it healthy. However, one day we will have new bodies. Death for us is only the exiting of this body and a preparation to put on the new. Those who have seen and experienced it say of it that it is something we can hardly wait to receive. This is one reason why we are not afraid of those that threaten us with death, since the death they speak of is transient and a transition to something more glorious. So the Lord says,

"I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who

kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. "But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him! Luke 12:4, 5

So we see that the Christian martyrs of old, and even the ones of modern times, were not gluttons for punishment; they only knew these facts and walked in the light of them. They would rather get rid of this flesh while pleasing the Lord than preserve it and displease the Lord. When Stephen was being stoned, he saw into heaven and so could not bear any grudge against those who were 'transporting' him there. He prayed for them that the Lord would not hold the sin against them.

So we face our assignments as given to us by the Lord; we are not afraid. We are not eager to preserve this flesh because we know something bigger is waiting for us. How come we are convinced of all these things?

...for we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor 5:7

Our faith shapes our expectation for life after this one.

chapter 13

Word Control

4. The words we speak

When training ourselves in faith, one of the most important areas in which we must be disciplined is in the words we speak. As a matter of fact, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. What we think much about eventually spills out of our mouths. Our words portray our feelings about situations. Also, sometimes people speak just to align with others around. A major discipline of faith, however, is to ensure that our words are always pleasing to God. Indeed, it is a discipline of faith.

*Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart*

*Be acceptable in Your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer. Ps 19:14*

We are to guard our hearts so that it does not overflow with words that are not acceptable to the Lord. Take a man like Job, it is interesting to note that the aim of the pressure from Satan was to get him to say something. What he would do was of less concern than what he would say. The comment at the end of it all was on what he said or did not say.

*In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God. Job 1:22
NLT*

In all this Job did not sin with his lips. Job 2:10

Life is always tempting us to say something, and most times what people say in response to the pressures of life are not the things that are pleasing to God, and this even among Christians. We have a habit of allowing the flesh to take over our lips. We complain. O, we complain.

Neither Murmur Ye

Let me quickly emphasize that complaining is a major sin in the eyes of the Lord. We tend to think

that because we have justification for complaining, it makes it alright, but this is not so.

One day I meditated on the experiences of the people of Israel in the wilderness after they left Egypt. I realized that they usually would have a 'genuine' cause to complain each time. They were not lying when they said they were thirsty. Imagine a man with a wife and a number of children not having food or water to give to the children. There was *apparent* justification for complaining. But the Lord still called it murmuring, and He judged them for it. It is clear therefore that the fact that there are apparent reasons to murmur does not make it acceptable.

Murmuring is telling God He is not good and that He doesn't care about you. Murmuring is to forget the things that He has done. The truth is that Israel was good at quickly forgetting, and most of us are too.

*They quickly forgot His works;
They did not wait for His counsel.* Ps 106:13

They should have remembered they were slaves in Egypt, harshly treated by their taskmasters.

They should have remembered how He sent Moses to deliver them, and how He delivered them by His mighty miracles.

They should have remembered how He kept the plagues away from Goshen where they lived while the Egyptians were afflicted.

They should have remembered how the blood on the doorposts saved their firstborns while the firstborns of Egypt died.

But they quickly forgot, so that as soon as difficulty arose, they murmured against God. They did not do this once, but did it again and again. It was their habit, until they provoked Him to anger.

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. 1 Cor 10:10 KJV

We should take a lesson from their lives. They grumbled until God declared that none of the adults there would enter into the Promised Land.

Many of us are murmurers like them. We complain

about every little thing that is wrong with the country. We complain about the weather. We complain about our jobs, money, the economy, etc. The truth is that we also, like those children of Israel, have forgotten or simply refused to call to mind the things which the Lord has done for us before.

Give Thanks Always

A major problem with murmuring, grumbling, complaining, or whichever word we choose to call it, is that it takes the place of thanksgiving. The children of Israel should have been full of thanksgiving, and so should we be today. We should call to mind many things which the Lord has done for us.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, bless His holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget none of His benefits. Ps 103:1-2*

That is one discipline in the use of our lips. There must be constant recalling to mind of the goodness of the Lord and a constant flow of thanksgiving from the lips.

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Heb 13:15 KJV

To walk by faith, we train our tongues to speak words that are pleasing to God only. Thanksgiving is pleasing to God. That is one easy way to go about speaking right. It is possible to give thanks to God all the time. Anytime you have to comment on anything you have observed, simply start with thanksgiving.

Like I mentioned earlier, a major area that even Christians murmur against God, and they do not realize it, is with the condition of their countries and the leaders thereof. We like to speak of every single thing that is bad as if *everything* is bad. We blame whoever the current head of state is for all the woes which we have murmured about. It is a habit with most people. However, notice how Paul instructed us to handle such a situation:

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we

may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior. 1 Tim 2:1-3

Can you see giving of thanks in there? We should pray with thanksgiving for these people in authority. It does not mean we like them or agree with them, or even that they are doing everything right. It just means we recognize that the Lord is the governor among the nations, and that He is the one who gives the kingdoms over to whoever He chooses.* It is not a game of chance or an outcome of democracy. We recognize that our blessing is ultimately in His hands, and if the right number of us are right in our hearts, then the ruler who will not do righteousness or the will of God will be dethroned by Him. Until then, we pray for all rulers with thanksgiving.

*Ps 22:28, Dan 4:17

■ WE WALK BY FAITH

chapter 14

To The Testimony

Beyond thanksgiving, a discipline required for walking in faith is that every word we speak must be in line with the word of God — these are the words that are pleasing in His sight. The words are found in the scriptures. They are also words that are derived from what we have learnt about the will and plan of God for us. The Lord has something to say about everything in life, and we must train ourselves with His words so that we can speak them too. It is something we do deliberately.

You see, in a huge portion of the world today, especially in the western world, there is this term '*progressive*' that is often used to describe people. To be progressive means you believe in the killing of

unborn babies if the mother finds the pregnancy inconvenient—the fancy name is *choice*. Being progressive also means that you do your best to obscure the line of separation between male and female, that you recognize LGBTQIA* lifestyles as normal, being either the genetic make-up of the people or their free and valid choice. That is a huge part of what it means to be progressive.

Now, this godless ideology has taken over so much of the world that Christians are often put on the spot to make their opinion known. Christians often do not know what to say under such circumstances because they are afraid to offend the multitude out there. I have seen some pastors being put into such a corner by an interviewer on CNN.** I also once watched Oprah Winfrey, on live international TV, asking a pastor to clarify if Jesus is actually the *only* way to God. The world usually tries to embarrass you by painting you as being ridiculous for making your faith exclusive as the way to God. “Think of the number of Muslims and Hindus in the

*Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, Asexual. The list is now longer than this and seems to keep growing.

**US news network, Cable News Network

world—billions of them; are you saying God will reject such a number of worshippers?” It can be a tight situation if you do not know how to respond.

Now, this is where I am headed: if you find yourself under those circumstances, do not try to make sense or argue with them. If the Lord does not bring any special manifestation of wisdom, just speak the word of God and leave it there. Don't ever be so afraid of people that you will say what pleases the world. You should be more afraid of God.

No Opinion of My Own

When he was questioned about homosexuality, I like the way one of those pastors being ‘cornered’ on CNN answered. He said, “I don't know, but if God says it is wrong, then it is wrong.” That was all he had to say about it. The interviewer could not push him further. He had said in essence, “I have no opinion of my own; as I hear my Master say, so I repeat to you.”

To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them. Isa 8:20 KJV

As a Christian I can only give you the opinion of the Lord. It has nothing to do with how I feel or what I think. I must not be caught speaking against the Lord. In the military, it is mutiny to speak contrary to the commanding officer.

Many people think they can only speak if their personal lives are in perfect conformity with the word of God in that area; they think it would be hypocrisy to do otherwise. But it is not so. The truth is that even if you are guilty of a sin, you cannot because of your experience speak against God. If you are committing adultery, which a Christian most certainly should not do, and someone asks you what you think of a married man having a girlfriend outside the home, please do not start giving excuses for such acts just because you are guilty too. No. You and the Lord will sort yourselves out, but in response to that question you must give the word of God. *"Marriage is to be held in honour among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge."** It is not what you feel or think; it is what

*Heb 13:4

you know as the revelation of the word of God. It does not mean you did not sin (you did not say you didn't do it); it only means you have refused to add sin to sin. Confess your sin before the Lord, and with the power of the open declaration of His word, you will be empowered to live above sin. It is adding sin to sin to try to justify an evil deed simply because you are guilty of it; you would by such behaviour be moving yourself farther away from deliverance.

The first Step to Deliverance

A while ago I saw a YouTube video of a Christian singer who 'came out', as they say, as being a homosexual. He spoke about his years of hiding his 'true identity'. In those years he was married and had children. He said one day, after many years of struggling and hiding, he had to come to himself and accept himself for who he was and *bla bla bla*. So, he announced to his family, his church and the whole world that he was a homosexual and that from that time on he intended to live openly as such. He divorced his wife and later started living with his 'partner'.

See, our struggles may be real. We are not denying that this man may have had real struggles with same-sex attraction (demons do drive people with intense obsessions and compulsions). We must never, however, subvert the word of God by lifting our personal struggles above what is written. What is written, which the Lord has spoken, is supreme. Even though a Christian may have same-sex attraction, his mouth must speak all the time that those attractions are an abomination before the Lord, and that they are not pleasing to Him.* Those words of affirmation of the will of God are very powerful; they are the first step to deliverance.

Sometimes people would argue that the man had struggled but didn't see results. To that I say, "So what?" The Bible says he should have maintained his confession until death. We think Christianity is always convenient, but it is not so.

You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin. Heb 12:4

We must be ready to speak in accordance with the

*Rom 1:27; Lev 18:22

word of God until we enter into the grave. It is not about our experiences; it is about speaking only the words that are pleasing to Him.

Job certainly had all the reasons to deny the goodness of God. Maybe we forget that all of his seven children died in one day. We seem to forget that with this came the loss of his entire business empire, together with the demise of most of his workers; this all happened in a single day. The Israelites saw nothing compared with this when they began to grumble against the Lord; and most of us have seen nothing yet, yet we speak against God. Job however was resolute. His words were “Blessed be the name of the Lord.” “I know my Redeemer lives.” “Though He slays me, yet I will trust Him.” No wonder God bragged on him and had his story recorded for us in the cannon of scriptures.

In All Things

We must learn to speak pleasing words as a habit, even when it comes to simple things such as how we greet each other and the jokes we crack. A time came I realized that many of our greetings are

queries and wishes; only a few are blessings. It is 'how are you', 'bye-bye', 'later now', 'see you', etc. I decided to change it to the way it is in the word of God. You see, in the word of God, greetings are blessings; what you see are words such as 'Grace to you', 'peace be upon you', etc. I realized that it is better to greet people and bid farewell with blessings: 'It is well with you', 'Have a safe journey', 'Go and return safely', 'Have a fruitful day' and such. Those are words pleasing to God. I, and the people around me too, have learnt to say amen to these blessings.

Don't Call Evil Good

Something that is quite common among young people is to turn bad words into 'cool' things. They have fun insulting and mocking one another. These things are all killers of faith because they corrupt the connection between the spirit and our words. The spirits get confused because of the kinds of words that we glorify. We speak to God in one language and the same language is corrupted when we leave the place of worship and prayer. Our spirits get confused and cannot rightfully connect with the things of the spirit. Faith is thereby

weakened. We must learn to use the right words in all circumstances.

Even Jokes Too

As many of us know, the first day of the month of April is called Fools' Day. I don't know where the tradition started from but I have known of it since I was a little boy. On this Fools' Day, people have fun by deceiving each other. In many instances, the person deceived does not realize what day it is until he has been fooled once. Some even fall for the deception several times in that single day, especially with skilful perpetrators. Unfortunately, many serious alerts have also been overlooked because they were assumed to be jokes, since it was a day for such. Deceiving each other on such a day is supposed to be fun, and I also participated in it, until the day that I stumbled into a verse from the book of Proverbs:

*Like a madman who throws
Firebrands, arrows and death,
So is the man who deceives his neighbor,
And says, " Was I not joking?"*
Prov 26:18-19

Oh! God had something to say about that tradition; He said we were acting like dangerous mad men. That was the end of April Fool for me. That was the end. I do not play it and I do not appreciate anyone playing the joke on me. Now, because I am surrounded much by students of the word, years pass without me encountering April Fool jokes. The tradition is against the word of God.

Even the jokes we laugh at must not go against the word of God. One day I observed that most jokes about marriage only mock the institution. Try and start checking them if you have not noticed that fact. Meanwhile, God said to us that marriage is to be held in honour by all.* We are not supposed to mock something that holy. So, I resolved within myself that I will cease to laugh at any joke that mocks and denigrates marriage, even though it might be funny; and I will not share such, even though forwarding through WhatsApp and such messaging apps is so easy. It was a decision I made and now I hardly find them funny. I see those jokes as an assault on a holy thing. It is not right.

*Heb 13:4

What About You?

Learn the word of God so that you can speak what He has spoken about you. When God made a promise to Abram, the man had to learn to call himself a new name, Abraham, in agreement with the promise of God. His new name meant '*father of many nations*'. That was what the Lord made him. Sarai had to learn to call herself *Sarah* for the same reason.

How are you referring to yourself? Are you speaking words of life, or words of defeat?

Say, in agreement with God, that you are forgiven. Old things have passed away in your life. Say, "I have a new life in Christ Jesus."

"Christ is in me; though my body was subject to death because of sin, now the Spirit is giving it life because of righteousness.

"I am a new creation in Christ Jesus, accepted before God the Father.

"All handwritings of ordinances written against me have been wiped away by the power of His blood. Now am I of the people of God.

"Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the

world.

“No curse can touch me; no magic has any power against me.

“I dwell in the secret place of the Most High and I abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

“I can walk above sin through Him who strengthens me.

“I can fulfil every bit of my destiny through Him who strengthens me.

“I shall live and not die and tell of the works of the Lord.”

chapter 15

Summary

Let us summarize what we have studied so far. Faith is a system of understanding in our hearts. Everyone has a way they view and understand life; we who have the faith of God see life from the spiritual realm. To us, the spiritual realm is just as real as the physical realm, and indeed it is more real.

We know that angels are real, and that the devil and demons are not figments of some superstitious imagination.

We understand that God is in charge, and that Jesus is alive. We know that He is the one upholding all things by the word of His power. We know that His power is above all.

We understand that His cross was necessary to reconcile us to the Father, and that now that we have been reconciled, we have peace with Him, and all the curses in our lives and lineages are broken. We understand that in Him we are new creatures.

We know that He created, can still create, and indeed is still creating.

We know that He heals diseases, restores body parts and raises the dead. Nothing is too difficult for Him.

We know that God our father is the God of the future as much as He is of the past. We understand that Jesus will be the same tomorrow as He is today. We understand that our future is in His hands, and so we have nothing to worry about.

We understand that He is the one that blesses or withholds blessings. We know that He also curses. We know that if He gives quietness, no one can give trouble, and if He withdraws peace, all human efforts are in vain.

We understand that He is the one that changes times and seasons.

We understand that kingdoms rise and fall at His command. We know that presidents and other heads of states and governments are chosen by Him.

We know these things and we walk by such knowledge all the time.

We walk by faith.



ABOUT

Kingdom-Word Ministries

The author ministers from the platform of Kingdom-Word Ministries, a non-denominational organization based in Enugu, Nigeria. Activities of the ministry include weekly Bible classes at the ministry office, publication of free teaching tracts, magazines and books, radio/TV broadcasts and organizing teaching seminars in various towns and cities.

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