

WHAT FAITH IS — Part 3 by Jan van Rooyen

(Continued from the November issue of Kingdom Lifestyle)

On our journey towards understanding what faith is and how the "unreal" becomes the "real", it is firstly important to accept and believe in the reality and existence of our God:



But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)

GOD is REAL !

There is no point in us pursuing a walk of faith in order to manifest the "unreal" or "unseen" if we do not believe and in fact know that God is our Originator and Source for everything.

From my own relationship and interaction with God I have learned the importance of making a quality decision to accept Who God Is and submit to and implicitly obey His Word, no matter what. This means I make God and His Word the final Authority for my entire existence and this includes the way I conduct my everyday life. I accept the reality and existence of God once and for all!

It is this same quality decision that provides me with an accurate plumbline with which to measure everything I encounter in life against the Authority of God and His Word. I do so in spite of my own opinions, the opinions of others or the input of the world and its systems of thought. For me, it is only God's Opinion that counts!

Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other

side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods. Joshua 24:14-16 (KJV)

AVOID an ANTI FAITH LAODICEAN MINDSET !

In Revelation 3:14-22 the Bible gives an account of God's dealings with the church in Laodicea. In essence He exposes their self-righteous opinions of complete self-reliance and need of nothing - they were basically saying they were perfect (verse 17).

To me this means they drifted away from active faith in the reality and existence of God. This action was the catalyst which caused their faith to become redundant and a bothersome annoyance in their walk and relationship with God. He was certainly not happy with this since it clearly states in Hebrews 11:6 that it is faith that pleases Him!

The tragedy is that in today's modern world, many Born-again Believers have become just as self-reliant and self-absorbed. They live lives void of faith in the Power and Demonstration of the Presence of God. It is imperative that we return to an active and practical Kingdom Lifestyle of faith based on obedience to God's Word and nothing else.

LET US DO THE WORD AND BUILD ON THE ROCK

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great. Luke 6:46 - 49 (KJV)

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PERMIT THE SUBSTANCE of FAITH to MANIFEST

The only sure way to live above the effects and influences of the storms of life is by permitting the Substance of Faith to manifest in our lives by believing and ***doing the Word of God***. ***Doing the Word of God*** is allowing the Lord Jesus to live His life in and through us and manifesting the "unseen" in the "seen", or making the unreal real. Living a life of faith in this way will manifest the Presence, Power and Reality of God in our lives and the lives of others.

The Apostle Paul maintained this practical "*doing*" of faith throughout his life and ministry. He clearly understood the meaning of walking in the authentic manifestation and demonstration of God's Power:

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. 1 Corinthians 2:4-5

FAITH MUST BE FIRMLY GROUNDED ON THE ROCK !

Paul clearly exhorts us here to move from a faith reliant and based on our own human wisdom to a faith firmly and actively grounded in and on the Rock of the Word of God (1 Corinthians 10:4).

With reference to Luke 6:46-49, we see the need to "dig through" that which is flesh (*digged deep*) in order to find the Rock, Jesus Christ. Once we have discovered the Reality of our Rock, our faith will be steady and unwavering, even in great adversity. If we are not focused in our faith, we will become double-minded and this will cause us not to receive:

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. James 1:6-8

Faith can only be as real as the object or person we place our faith in. When we place our faith in fallible people, temporal goods, changing circumstances and the like, our faith WILL waiver and we WILL crash. Placing our faith in Christ and His Word will have Substance and Reality, causing us to succeed in life:

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck. 1 Timothy 1:19

HUMILITY BRINGS GRACE WHICH ACTIVATES FAITH

Before the unrealities of faith will again become real in our lives, it is necessary for us to have a change of heart and mind (repentance) and humble ourselves before the Lord.

When we humble ourselves before the Lord, He gives His Grace to us (1 Peter 5:5), and when we receive His Grace, our faith comes alive again.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

Do you still remember how faith came into your heart originally? It came by hearing the Word of God and you submitting (humbling) yourself to that Word. When you humbled yourself to receive the Word, Grace was released and faith came alive in your heart. This is also the point where we experience Him living His faith in and through us:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Galatians 2:20 (KJV)



Jan van Rooyen teaching Principles of Faith to Business Men & Women in Edenvale, South Africa

This place of abiding in Christ and His Word has eluded the Body of Christ for centuries, and appears to have been reserved for a "select" few. More about this in the January issue of ***Kingdom Lifestyle***.

Message continued in our January issue...