

WHAT FAITH IS — Part 2 by Jan van Rooyen

(Continued from the October issue of Kingdom Lifestyle)

Last month I closed off with Romans 10:14 – 17, emphasizing the phrase, **"faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"**.

I stated that ***faith always comes***, and it comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God. I deliberately put ***"hearing and hearing"*** in there so you can hear clearly and undeniably with your spiritual ears!

Your faith will only grow to the extent that you hear the Word of God and then act upon it. You hear it in your head and heart when you read and meditate the Word. You hear it when you speak it out in faith. You hear it when a Preacher speaks the Word in your Church. You hear the Word while listening to CD's over and over again. You hear it while fellowshipping with other sons of God and when you discuss your discoveries and revelations from the Word with one another!

The Word is very clear on this point...

FAITH HAS DEFINITE SUBSTANCE TO IT !

It is important to realize that ***this faith we build up in our hearts has substance to it.*** Remember, we saw in Romans 12:3 that God has given each one of us ***"the measure of faith"***. Now we will see that there is substance to this measure – ***a definite consistency and substance.***

Before we delve into a deeper explanation of this substance, let us think about it for a while. Faith must have some kind of "substance" for it to be able to build up and accumulate in our hearts. The question is, ***what kind of substance does it have?***

I believe the answer is quite simple and straight-forward. ***Faith has spiritual substance.*** It cannot be anything else in view of the fact that faith comes from God Who is Spirit, and faith must therefore have a spiritual consistency and substance to it.



God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24 (KJV)

Why is it important for us to know that faith has spiritual substance to it? Again, the answer is straight-forward. God designed the human spirit to respond to faith and it is through our Born-again human spirit that we exercise this faith. We do not exercise faith via the mind or the emotions - ***faith is a spiritual force and it is designed by God for use by and through the human spirit.***



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FAITH IS ALWAYS CONNECTED TO GOD'S WORD !

Most Believers do not understand this simple fact about faith. They try to walk by faith using "mental assent", or they try to "feel" something with their natural senses or emotions.

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Some Believers even fast and pray to try and get their faith to work. This is not to say that we should not fast and pray, however, we must do so for the right reasons (a topic for another lesson).

Faith is and always will be connected to God and His Word. The thing we cannot neglect to do with His Word is to listen to it, study it, meditate on it, think about it, speak it, renew our minds with it and fill our spirit man with it. Faith is sure to come when we are diligent to do this every day of our lives.

Blessed is the man... his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so... Psalm 1:1-3 (KJV)

Does your heart long to bear much fruit for God in your life? Well, then let faith arise in your heart as you continuously think about His Word, listen to it, speak it and ***simply immerse yourself in the Word:***

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Joshua 1:8 (KJV)

THE SUBSTANCE of FAITH IS THE CURRENCY of HEAVEN

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

Do you remember how Hebrews 11:6 explained to us that without faith it is impossible to please God? I believe God is grieved when we're unable to manifest His Kingdom in the natural, and to do so we need His faith in operation and manifestation.

Imagine this:

You decide to book a wonderful and well deserved holiday for you and your loved ones in a foreign country. You plan everything to the last detail; hotel bookings, travel arrangements, etc. - everything is set in order. During the last minute rush, however, you forget to convert your holiday money into the currency of the country you're about to visit.

After arriving at your holiday destination you try to pay for accommodation, food and drinks and everyone refuses to accept your money, seeing that it is in the wrong currency. Suddenly you discover the wonders of the Foreign Currency Exchange Office.

You sheepishly wander over to Foreign Exchange and they kindly "swap" or "convert" your money into the currency you now require. Holiday saved!

It is the same spiritually! Jesus exchanges our sinful nature for His Righteousness and we are "converted" from living in the flesh and the emotions into living by faith. ***Faith is the currency of the Kingdom of Heaven and without it we will never ever appropriate the Inheritance Jesus provided for us.***

FAITH IS POWERFUL !

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Mark 9:23 (KJV)

Do you recollect the story of the withered Fig Tree?

Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:21 - 22 (KJV)

And, do you remember the Roman Centurion?

Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Matthew 8:6 - 10, 13 (KJV)

These few verses describe just two instances from the Bible where the power of faith is demonstrated. Every Born-again Believer has the measure of faith residing within their spirit-man and can exercise faith powerfully in the same way!

In the December issue of *Kingdom Lifestyle* I will discuss with you how ***the unreal becomes the real.***

Message continued in our December issue...