

WHAT FAITH IS *by Jan van Rooyen*

Have you ever wondered about that?
What Faith really is?

Both Annika and I have been at that place, and all true Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ have been, and will again come to a place or situation in life where we must ask this same question.



I remember a specific time and place where I gave my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and He washed my sins away - the time I was born-again by the Spirit of God. That was the time my Dad asked me, as he put me to bed one evening, whether I would like to accept the Lord Jesus Christ into my heart.

I was only about three or four years old then, and all I knew about Jesus was what my father had told me. The Bible stories my father shared with me painted a picture of such a wonderful Saviour that I found it impossible to resist Him coming into my heart.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD WITHOUT FAITH

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)

Did I have faith that pleased God when my Dad ministered to me? *Yes, I did!* It was a very simple and childlike faith, and *it fulfilled all the conditions of Hebrews 11:6.* There was faith in my heart because my father spoke many wonderful things about Jesus to me, and somehow I knew in my heart of hearts that God existed and the importance for me to seek Him.

The result was that *my faith pleased God* and the proof is the fact that I am still serving Him with all my heart more than fifty years later.

Did I at times lose my way as I ventured further forward into my future? I definitely did, yet this

soon brought me to the place and time where I again had to ask *what Faith is.*

1978 WAS A SIGNIFICANT YEAR FOR ME!

I had wandered away from faith in God, and one day after an almost fatal accident with an aeroplane, I decided to accept the invitation of an Air Force friend to visit the Brixton AFM Church in Johannesburg, South Africa.

To this day I cannot remember the message Pastor Johan Uys preached, however, when he gave the inevitable Altar Call, I was drawn to the front of that church as if by a magnet. The Altar Worker, who I discovered was an old schoolfriend of mine, prayed with me and *I again discovered what faith is!*

I was born-again "again" on that day and so began the greatest adventure of my life.

NOT ONLY SAVING FAITH

"Saving Faith" is only the beginning, and this faith gets us into "the door" of the Kingdom of God. There is, however, so much more that awaits those of us who have entered the Kingdom through the Door, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many Believers never venture any further forward in their walk of faith - they remain at the "door". The "measure" of faith Jesus paid such a dear price for must be developed and used for the purposes of the Kingdom.

... God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3 (KJV)

Christian Believers who say they have no faith have never fully realized and understood the meaning of Romans 12:3. I believe, in fact I know, that *each Born-again Believer* in the Lord Jesus Christ *has this Measure of Faith* residing within their spirit man.

To say we have no faith is an insult to the work of the Cross, and denies God's complete provision not only for Eternity, but also our entire existence on Planet Earth.

THE SECRET OF A LIFE LIVED BY FAITH

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)

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Hebrews 10:38 (KJV)

I made the greatest discovery of my life the day I again asked myself what faith is. *This discovery set the course for my future*, and I am eternally thankful to God for opening my eyes to this revelation.

The discovery I made still remains *an undisclosed secret to many in the Body of Christ*, however, it changed my life and continues to do so every day.

The just shall live by faith and I am the just. The word "just" is the root of the word "justified", and it means "to be made righteous". An easy way to remember is, *just-as-if-id-not-sinned*.

That's the secret! The just shall live by faith. This is a secret that's not really a secret since anyone who reads the Bible will see that it is everywhere in Scripture. Everywhere! Neither God nor any of the powerful giants of faith we read about did anything worthwhile outside of faith.

To do mighty exploits for God we must start with faith, and to walk by faith we must know God and His Word.

... the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. Daniel 11:32 (KJV)

SIGNS THAT FOLLOW

I have walked by faith for almost thirty-two years now, and I have seen signs and wonders performed by God in almost every sphere of life. I am convinced that had I not made *the decision to walk by faith*, any signs and wonders in my life and ministry would have been God's Grace more than anything else.

And, this brings me to another important point in our quest to discover what faith is. It says in *Mark 16:20* the following about the disciples:

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Mark 16:20 (KJV)

Do you notice that? The Lord worked with them and *He confirmed the preaching of the Word with signs following!*

Wow! How awesome is that? There must be a definite key locked up in these verses. Let's dig a little deeper.

To have preaching, there must be someone listening. *When someone is listening and they listen long enough* and the information is repeated often enough, something is sure to happen. *The thing that happens is that faith comes!*



Jan & Annika van Rooyen praying the Prayer of Faith with Pastor Abraham Ngoy of Christhood Church in Pretoria for Pastors being released into Ministry

FAITH ALWAYS COMES!

The Apostle Paul explains it this way in Romans 10:14 - 17:

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (KJV)

Message continued in our November issue...