

# THE IMPORTANCE OF FAITH

by Larry R. Blackburn

## Hebrews 11:6

*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.*

If I desire to please God, and it is impossible to please God without faith, then it seems to me that I should acquire all I can on the subject of faith. What does the Bible say about faith? Is it important? And if it is important, we need to ask ourselves: Is it important to me?

So, in looking at faith, we need to find out: What is Faith? How does Faith come? Who has Faith? How is Faith Developed? Who can use Faith? How is Faith released? Are there Hindrances to Faith, and if so, what are they? Is there an enemy to Faith?

I would like to examine this last question, *Is there an enemy to faith?* with you. I've learned that there is an enemy to faith, and his name is Satan. He uses 5 main ways of attacking us as listed in the Gospel of Mark, chapter 4 verses 17 through 19. These 5 ways are: affliction, persecution, cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things.

Turn with me Mark, chapter 4. Let's look at verses 34 through 41.

*<sup>34</sup> But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples. <sup>35</sup> And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. <sup>36</sup> And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. <sup>37</sup> And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. <sup>38</sup> And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? <sup>39</sup> And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? <sup>41</sup> And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?*

In verse 40, Jesus said, "Why are you so fearful? how is it that you have no faith?" Could Jesus ask or rebuke them with such a question IF they were not capable of having the faith to rebuke that storm themselves? Remember, just prior to this event (v. 34), Jesus taught and explained the parables to them – including the one on the Sower sows the seed. Yet they didn't 'get it' and consequently, fear gripped them, and faith was abandoned. They could have, should have rebuked the storm themselves and it would have obeyed them.

How many times has this happened to us? A lot of the time, we speak to God about the storm, when all along we have the Word of Faith in our hearts and in our mouths (Romans 10:8) and am told to speak to the mountains in our lives, ourselves (Mark 11:23).

In this story, the other side represents you trying to get to the other side in your:

- Health
- Finances
- Relationships
- Job – Promotions

Understand this: Satan's agenda is to keep you from getting to the other side. Why? To stop you from receiving the reward of your faith and, thereby, stop you from fulfilling your assignment, or the receiving of your inheritance. He's trying to stop the Word from coming to pass in your life!

Look at verse 14 & 15 of this same chapter... (Romans 4)

<sup>14</sup> *The sower soweth the word.* <sup>15</sup> *And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts*

From this we see a few things. First, the seed that the sower is sowing is the Word (Matthew 13:19 says the seed is “the Word of the Kingdom”; and Luke 8:11, calls it “The Word of God”); secondly, we see that Satan comes immediately – *when?* immediately; and thirdly, the purpose he comes: to take away the Word sown.

Why does Satan come after the Seed – the Word of God? Let me ask you:

- How do we please God? – by our faith. (Hebrews 11:6)
- What comes by the hearing of the Word? – faith. (Romans 10:17)
- What is it that Satan cannot stop? – faith. (Ephesians 6:16)
- What fight are we to fight? – faith. (1 Timothy 6:12)
- What gives us the victory to overcome the world? – faith. (1 John 5:4)

Satan knows he has got to separate you from your faith – if he doesn’t separate you from your faith, your marriage will be healed; if he doesn’t separate you from your faith, your body will be healed; if he doesn’t separate you from your faith, your business will prosper – or, whatever else you’re exercising faith for.

Do you follow what I’m saying?

He is after YOUR FAITH! It is faith that appropriates the promises of God and ALL the promises of God are YES and AMEN! The Grace of God through the Righteousness of God, appropriated by the Faith of God is yours... ***IF YOU KEEP THAT WORD*** in your heart! He’s after the Word, because it contains the Faith of God (Romans 10:17) and will take you to the other side every time.

Your faith overcomes the world... not just one time; but every time!

Satan comes immediately to take away the Word that was sown in your heart. He isn’t coming after you, per se, because without the Word, you’re no threat to him. It’s the power of that Word in your heart that makes you dangerous to Satan. He’s not interested in you – but, after you come out of *Oasis of Life Church* hearing the Word... he knows that NOW you are a threat to him! He knows that what *Oasis of Life* is putting out is going to bring faith – why? because we’re preaching the Word of Faith! When it brings fruition in your life, others will see it, others will desire it; and then we can be teach them in the things of God so that they reap the same results! Amen.

Here’s some information we need to know and understand about the storm that came: it was NOT from God to test them – it was from the enemy to stop them fulfilling their assignment: getting to the other side. We know that this storm was not from God, nor God’s will, because Jesus rebuked it, and Jesus would not go about rebuking something from the Father.

The Principles of Faith – regardless of the situation we find ourselves in, will work, but only work when and if we put them to work and keeping them working in our life. Stay focused!

Look with me at 1 Timothy 1:19... “*Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck...*” Notice, it says “*which some have put away concerning faith have made shipwreck*”. Lives were made shipwrecked – how? by putting away their faith. Healings were made shipwrecked by disregarding the faith that was delivered to them. Marriages were made shipwrecked by allowing their faith for that marriage to be taken away. Businesses went under due to the putting away of the faith to keep that business prosperous.

Let's look at 1 Peter 5:8 & 9...

*<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: <sup>9</sup> Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.*

Notice, Peter tells us that Satan seeks “*whom he may devour*” (verse 8), meaning he can't devour everyone. Why is it that some he devours and some he doesn't? Simple – some refuse to let their shield of faith down – which Ephesians 6 tells us quenches every fiery dart from the evil one... indicating, ***we can win them all!***

From verse 9, we understand, we're not alone in the situations we find ourselves – it's not some unique situation we're in. Satan doesn't have new tricks to get us to back off. They might be new tactics to us, but we are not alone. That's why we need one another. I might have gone through that storm you are now facing, and by me giving my testimony on how God brought me through that storm... might be the very thing that you need to hear, thereby stirring up your faith. Even if you don't hear of another that has gone through that storm, you still can get help from God: “*If any of you lack wisdom, ask and it shall be given to you.*” (James 1:5) Jesus told us that if we ask it would be given to us, if we would seek, we would find; and if we knocked it would be opened unto us (Matthew 7:7 & 8). So we can ask, seek, or knock for the answer and that answer will be provided unto us. Praise God!

The only thing that'll stop you is YOU. If you stop the force of faith, you'll go down, go under, and fail. If this is the case, you have allowed the Word to depart from your mouth (Joshua 1:8) and as you did, you limited God's power in your life and gave Satan the right to steal that Word that was sown in your heart. No seed, no harvest, no going to the other side.

But if you will keep, and maintain that word in your life (how? by keep speaking it), you will build that bridge to cross over to the other side....

- from lack to abundance
- from sickness to wellness
- from failure to success
- from death to life

The Law of Life in Christ Jesus will supersede (or, TRUMP) the Law of sin and death EVERY time... (Romans 8:2)

Satan knows that your faith is no match to him. As you resist his deceptions, lies, and tricks – you will cross over and reap the reward of your faith and at the same time, put him to flight. I like what I found in another version; it read: “***He'll run from you in stark terror!***”

In closing, remember this: “*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*” (1 John 4:4) You have world overcoming faith – **NOW!**

Hold fast to the confession of your faith (Hebrews 10:23) – why? Because it has a great recompense of reward. What reward? the manifestation of your faith.

Be Blessed!