



Your
FAITH
Is Your
HEIGHT



Rev. Chibuko B Okafor

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Chapter
1



What is Christian Faith?

Background and definition of faith

Faith is belief in the existence of an entity without physical proof of its origin. Christian Faith evolved from around AD70 through the writings and testimonies of the disciples of Jesus. The Bible is the reference book of Christian Faith. It has two basic parts, the New Testament and the Old Testament. The New Testament is the reference mostly relative to Faith. Christian Faith requires a belief in Jesus' resurrection from the dead by the power of God, the Father, through the Holy Spirit.

Faith in Jesus lies at the center of the Christian tradition and this Faith is a key requirement of being a Christian. Faith in Christianity is a central notion taught by Jesus Christ Himself. Real Faith is acted upon hence it brings about different behaviors and does not merely consist of mental belief, trust or confidence. The principal acts of saving faith are accepting, receiving and relying upon Christ alone for justification, sanctification and for everlasting life. Having Faith in Jesus leads to changes in how one thinks and lives. Faith is a gift from God; it is one of God's supernatural gifts, just like grace.



Chapter
2



Origin of Faith

HEBREWS 11: 1, “Now Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”{NIV}

This passage describes the meaning and practical role of faith: without Faith, it is impossible to please God. He who comes to God must first believe that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

John 3: 16 ---- “For God so loved the World that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”{NIV}

John 3: 16 is often used as a standard scripture for explaining the Christian Faith. Faith is a spiritual act performed by Divine Grace. Divine Grace cannot be acquired by physical effort but by God's intervention when you genuinely seek His face.

“Matthew 7: 7, Ask and you shall receive...”{NIV}

Faith in Jesus' understanding, “ was an act of trust and of self- sacrifice by which people no longer rely on their own strength and aims or plans but commit themselves to the intervention of Him in whom they believe.”

“Faith directs Grace; grace is the channel through which faith flows. We receive grace through faith and this grace is for our salvation {Romans 11:6}”. And if this is so, then our ability to receive God's grace cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.



Chapter
3



The Works of Faith

Abraham is an example of a man who relied totally on God's guidance and intervention. Abraham had faith in God. Because of his faith, Paul the Apostle points him out as a father of the Christian Faith.

In Genesis 17: 1, God appeared to Abram The Bible records that, "When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, *"I am the God Almighty, walk before me faithfully and be blameless. No longer will you be called Abram, your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations."*

{Romans 4: 2, 17} "If in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about but not before God....[17] As it is written: I have made you a father of many nations. He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed - the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not."{NIV}

Thus, if a man has faith, he is a friend of God as Abraham was. God gave Abraham a son through his barren wife Sarah in order to fulfill His promise of blessings {Genesis 12;1-3}. Abraham laughed when told that Sarah would bear him a child. But when the child was born, he knew that the promises of God would be fulfilled. God told Abraham to kill Isaac, to offer him as a sacrifice to Him. Abraham loved his son Isaac so much, a son who would fulfill the promises of God, one of which was that nations would be born through him. So, how could that happen if Isaac was dead? The promises God had made to Abraham were to be fulfilled through Isaac, so how then could God command Abraham to kill his only son? Was it to test his faith? If Isaac were to die how then would God fulfill His promises? Without Isaac there would be no Israel, no salvation and no church.

Abraham worked all this out in his mind through the faith that he had. He reasoned that God was planning to raise Isaac from the dead {Hebrews 11:19}. This reasoning was borne out of his faith in God.

The thought of killing his only son must have been devastat-

ing to Abraham, the blood of his only son in his hands! But because of his unfailing faith in God, he was willing to put his trust in God.

Faith is what God is looking for in His people in order to bless them. Faith will determine the amount of blessings God will bestow upon you. Without faith, you cannot please God. By faith you can change your situation, you can be the head and not the tail. By faith, you will not accept defeat. Anywhere faith rules, Satan, disappointment, poverty, frustration and sickness will have no place there, for by faith, God will set you free. He will be your shield, your protector through all trying times.

Faith moves the hand of God.

By faith God Blessed Abel {Genesis 4: 1- 16}. Abel was killed by his brother, Cain, for being just and having his offering accepted by God. God had blessed Abel with a good yield. By faith God took back Enoch.

In Genesis 5: 18- 24, Enoch fellowshiped and walked with God and he never died but was taken up by God at the age of 365 years. This means that the way you believe (the level of your faith) will determine how God will bless you. By Faith you can change the story of your family, your business and all other areas of your life.

God created His word by Faith. He spoke life into situations by faith. Whatever you do, believe and trust in God, do not have doubts because doubts will cause a set-back in your endeavors and aspirations.

Christianity teaches that the human race is only reconciled to God through a person's acceptance of his sinful nature and an acknowledgement that he can only be brought back into the fold of God through faith in Christ Jesus. The life and teachings of Jesus are the basis of the faith. According to the Christian Faith, Jesus came to fulfill the promises of God made to the Jewish nation from their genesis. He is the cornerstone of this faith.

*Mark 11: 22- "Have faith in God, Jesus answered."
{NIV}*

Any Christian without faith cannot please God. The difference between Christians and non-believers is faith. Faith without doubt can move mountains; by faith you can command anything and it will happen for you in Jesus Name. Peter walked on water by the strength of his faith in Jesus, but when doubt entered his mind, he suddenly began to drown.

{Matthew 14: 29 -30}, "Come He said. Then Peter got

down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. {30} But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" {NIV}

David proved to be a faithful servant of God when he was faced with fighting Goliath, the warrior. In 1 Samuel 17: 45, we see David's unflinching faith in God when he declared to the enemy facing him, the Philistine, "*You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied...*"(NIV)

Genuine faith must be free of doubt and believe that what God has said, will come to pass. A simple abiding faith will drive away fear and misgiving and deliver us from doubts. Faith is increased by being put to use; and it grows by reading and meditating upon the Word of God. As Christians we should thrive to have faith that keeps us in perfect peace about the things happening around us on earth and those of heaven. Faith is the backbone of our covenant with God Almighty; it is the road to our salvation.



Chapter
4



Faith in Prayer

Anything that comes without faith does not last, does not endure times and seasons. When faith is in place, miracles and breakthroughs prevail in abundance. As a Christian, it's important that you live your life by faith, and you will rise from one level of grace to the next. When you live by faith, people may reject you, but God will always be by your side; he will be your comforter. When you pray by faith, God will hear your supplication and bring answers to your prayers; but prayer without faith, it is useless. When your mouth utters words of prayer, open your heart and receive God's Blessings by faith for "weeping may endure for a

night, but joy will come in the morning...”

Mark 4: 40 - “He said to His disciples, why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” {NIV}

Your faith will make you to walk on top of your problems; by faith your problems will not swallow you. As a Christian you should believe before you see because if you see before you believe, then you are operating in the physical realm and not in the spiritual realm. Those who believe will humble themselves and if you humble yourself, God will lift you up. If your faith is deeply rooted, you will attract and enjoy all kinds of Blessings. If a man prays by faith, God will answer but if a man remains silent then God will also remain silent until you seek His face in faith.

Our prayers are not answered because we have been or have done well but because we believe in Christ and because we are recipients of grace through our faith. Our prayer life is not only dependent on our performance but on our believing in God and His only son, Jesus Christ.

We are God’s servants hence we should pray in faith and learn to adjust our plans, hopes and agendas to match God’s plans and agenda for us. When we pray, we must have a strong conviction of what God can do for and through us. When we have a definite idea of what we are praying for, then we must

hold onto our faith and pray persistently to God until we see our prayers come true.

Prayer should never be made in doubt or with an attitude of ‘maybe God will answer, or maybe He will not’ but we should pray with certainty that He will answer. Faith is the conviction that God has heard us and that He will answer.

{1 John 5: 15}. 14 - “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”{15}”and if we know that He hears us -whatever we ask - we know that we have what we asked of Him.”

The only way we can receive God’s grace is by praying in faith. Below we see some people in the Scriptures who prayed by Faith and received their answers.

1. Hannah’s prayer

Hannah prayed to God for a son. She prayed in her heart, silently even though her lips moved. By her faith, God remembered her and blessed her with a son. She named her son Samuel {1 Samuel 1: 20}.

“So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying because I asked the Lord for him.”

Hannah also prayed to God thanking Him for the wonderful gift of a son (1 Samuel 2: 1-11) {NIV}.

2. Samson's prayer

Samson prayed faithfully to God after he had been betrayed by Delilah. He asked God to strengthen him one more time so as to take revenge on the Philistines for removing his eyes.

“Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes “{Judges 16: 28 NIV}.

We must not live by sight but by faith. When we live by faith, we enter the spiritual or supernatural realm. Our faith then goes ahead to bring forth all that we desire from the supernatural realm according to the Will of God. Any blessing you receive from God is by the depth of your faith. It is by grace that we are saved and by that faith we are able to accept Christ as our Lord and Savior.

{Romans 10: 8-10}, “For it is with you heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth and in your heart, “that is the message concerning faith that we proclaim. {9} if you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart

that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.” {NIV}

Prayer is entirely dependent on faith; faith is the one inseparable condition to a successful prayer. Faith activates prayer to work and it is prayer that turns the asking into obtaining. We ought to always ask God for more faith as we live a life that is worthy of our being called the true believers of Christ.

Faith is like a mustard seed. It grows in strength and might, in glory and perfection.

{Matthew 17:20}, “And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief; for verily I say unto you, if ye have Faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

As Christians, we ought to pray for every situation that we encounter in our lives, whether good or bad.

{Philippians 4:6}, “Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanks-giving let your requests be made known unto God.”

As long we as pray by faith, God will hear us and respond to our call for help.

{Psalms 62:8} “Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.”

We should also learn to persevere in prayer, or else the answer that would have surely come will not come.

{Thessalonians 5:17}, “Pray without ceasing.” (NIV)

3. Jabez’s prayer

Jabez was a very honorable and faithful man. His mother named him Jabez because she had given birth to him while under a lot of pain. Jabez called out to the God of Israel at a time when he desperately needed God’s intervention. God in turn granted him what he had requested for.

{1 Chronicles 4:10}, “Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, ‘Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain. ‘And God granted his wish).’ (NIV).

God heard Jabez’s prayer because he prayed by faith; he believed that God would help him; he believed without doubt. And God responded by granting him his request of a larger territory. Whenever we pray, we must pray not only by faith but also with sincerity and earnestness.

{Jeremiah 29:12-13}, “Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. {13} You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

4. The Prayer of Elisha

Elisha prayed by faith to God to strike the army of Aram with blindness when they had surrounded the city of Israel in a bid to capture him. God granted him his request and the army of Aram were all blinded and Elisha carried out his plan of leading them into Samaria. He then prayed to God to open their eyes so that they could see again. By his faith, Elisha’s prayers were answered by God. Even though Elisha had captured the army of Aram he would not have them killed but instead gave them food and drink. When they had eaten to their fill, he released them and ordered them to go back to their land. Since that day, the bands of Aram stopped raiding Israel’s territory.

God answered Elisha’s prayer because it was made in humility and respect, and above all, Elisha believed that God would answer him. This was faith without question.

{2 Chronicles 7:14} “if my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from

heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”(NIV).

5. Elijah’s prayer of faith

Elijah was a faithful man whose belief was deeply embedded in God’s promises and that God would never forsake those who diligently seek him. He prayed to God to stop the rains from falling for three and a half years. God heard his prayer and stopped the rains from falling for three and a half years. After these years, Elijah then requested for God to bring back the rains. God answered again by releasing the rain again and the parched earth became fertile once more and the earth produced its crops.

{James 5:17-18}, “Elijah was a human being even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. {18} Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.”(NIV)

6. Jonah’s prayer of faith

God sent a large fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah was in the fish’s belly for three days and three nights. It was while he was in the belly of the fish that Jonah began to pray to God in atonement for his sins. Jonah had defied God’s instructions to go and preach in the great city of Nineveh. He prayed faithfully and with repentance for his sin. God heard his pleas and sor-

rowful words of prayer and allowed the fish to vomit him.

{Jonah 2:1-10}, "...And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land." (NIV).

When we pray faithfully to God, calling upon the name of Jesus Christ His only begotten son, He hears our supplications and has mercy upon us; He forgives us our trespasses and comes to our aid.

Chapter
5

How do we live by faith?

Living by faith is what the Christian life is all about.

{Matthew 17:20} “And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place: and it shall remove: and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”(NIV)

{Luke 17:5-6} “And the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith. {6} And the Lord said, if ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore

tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea: and it should obey you.” (NIV)

Our Lord was teaching His disciples that they did not need more faith but that they needed to exercise the faith they already had. Then their faith would grow. But faith to move a mountain does not come overnight. It involves learning to trust God for great and small things alike.

{2 Corinthians 5:7} “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” (NIV).

Living by faith means to develop a confident expectation in God.

{Matthew 7:7} “Ask, and it shall be given you: seek, and ye shall find: knock and it shall be opened unto you.” (NIV).

{John 14:14} “If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.” (NIV).

These are sure-fire promises upon which we can build a life of faith. James also tells us to ask anything in faith.

{James 1:6} “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.” (NIV).

For us to experience a life of faith, we must:

1. Stop saying, “I can’t” and start believing that “God can!”
2. Stop doubting and start trusting God.
3. Put our faith into action.
4. Believe that God is working for us and preparing things for us in advance because of his love for us.
5. Wait patiently for God’s time and fulfillment in all that we encounter. Faith is patient.
6. Perceive our mountainous problems as being little in God’s presence and sight.
7. Believe without seeing.
8. Realize that Faith focuses on the future.
9. Believe that all things are possible with God.
10. Learn that Faith is uncorrupted by worldly ambitions.
11. Realize that Faith does not submit to circumstances.
12. Learn that Faith is all for trusting and believing in God or NOTHING.



Chapter
6



Day-to-day examples of faith

{James 2:18} “Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works.” (NIV).

In the above scripture, James urges us to show our faith by our works. Furthermore, the following are crucial to James’ words above:

1. He does not mean that we are saved by works. He means that an empty profession of faith cannot save anyone.
2. Real faith will express itself in works of righteousness.

3. He boldly declares that faith without works is dead. {James 2:26}.
4. Genuine faith will show itself in evidences of faith.

Biblical examples of genuine faith are given in Hebrews 11. Faith is described in verse 1 as ‘substance’ and ‘evidence’. Faith is not a blind leap into the dark: it is substance through the word of God and evidence through the blessings we receive from our Father. We can depend on it and we can build our lives on it.

To walk in the Spirit, you must live by God’s promise, and trusting in the integrity of God. Faith must have an object and the object of our faith is God; this is made known to us through His word. When God says something, you can stake your life on it because He will never fail you. In Romans 8:28, Paul writes that *“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”* (NIV).

It’s important that we have to remember and live by God’s promise in all that we encounter in our lives. We must be steadfast in our belief and trust in God’s promises and His love that has been bestowed unconditionally upon us. We should also remember to give thanks to God for our lives and all that He continues to do for us for He is our Helper in all difficult times. He will always be with us, no matter

how daunting the challenges we encounter in our day-to-day lives. He calls Himself our Redeemer which means that He is our Liberator.

- He shall liberate us or set us free from the shackles or chains of evil.
- He shall rescue us from the jaws of the lion like Daniel in the lions' den.
- He shall clear our lives of any shame or disgrace.
- He shall atone for our sins.
- He shall restore all that the enemies have taken.
- He shall restore all dead situations in our lives.

He shall reform us from being beggars to being kings. Our God loves us so much that He has given us authority over all things if only we can believe in His word and be faithful and wait upon Him.

{1 Thessalonians 5:18} "Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (NIV).

Even when your heart is heavy with despair, your body wracked with pain, when you have financial reverses, when your marriage is falling apart, when you fail an exam or when you seek for employment in vain, you should remember to thank God. It may be difficult to give thanks to God under these circumstances, but we should always remember that,

“in all things God works for the good of those who love Him.” We must thank God even when things go wrong or even when the whole world seems to be crumbling around us because our God is Sovereign and Omnipotent; He is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He is a God of Love so we can trust Him for He promises to fight for us. What we need in order to make a difference in our lives is the hand of God. When the hand of God is upon us, His favor will be with us and no hardship will bring us down; our lives will change for the better, and we will no longer suffer.

God through His Son Jesus Christ came to this world and took our sins upon Him. He is waiting to bless you, but He will not bless you if you are worried and unbelieving or continue to criticize and find fault in His ways. God looks inside your heart before He can bless you or deliver you. As long as you humble yourself before God, He will forgive you for no sin is greater than God and for as long as you are a faithful child of God, no one can condemn you.

If you desire to walk each and every day in the power of God you must:

1. Be filled with the Spirit, by faith and by claiming His promise that if you ask according to His will, He will hear and answer you.
2. Be prepared for spiritual conflict with the world, the flesh and the devil.

3. As a child of God, your strength must come from the Lord. You must abide in Him.
4. You must live by faith, drawing strength from our lord each and every day, upon his love and wisdom and giving thanks in all circumstances of life.

Chapter
7

What can be done by faith?

As Christians, we have the grace to do and achieve a lot by Faith. We can do so much by faith. Many people in the Bible and the steps of faith they took, teach us just how we can learn to apply our faith in our everyday life and in various situations. We take a look at some examples from the Scriptures:

{1} By faith Noah built an ark

“By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark” {Hebrews 11:7} (NIV).

The author of Hebrews takes note that Noah was acting on things he could not see. Noah's faith is firmly established in that he devoted about 120 years to building an ark in preparation for something he had no evidence was going to happen. It was purely in response to God's word, which he believed against everything his eyes could see. Noah's building of the ark was an act of preaching (Hebrews 11:7) for Peter calls him a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5).

Noah is an example of a man who lived by faith, believing without seeing. Christians have a challenge, that is, to live by faith as Noah did. No one ever said that Christians will never be tempted or that Christians should be perfect or without sin but what is important is to realize that God the Father loves us unconditionally and is willing to forgive all our sins for as long as we seek His face.

Living by faith is not easy but what is required of us is to remember God's promise to us and to trust Him in all that we encounter in our day-to-day lives. We must remember that He will always be there for us, through all our trials and tribulations. Hardships in our lives are there to test and strengthen our faith in order to await God's intervention as per His promise. We grow in our faith through hardships like poverty, financial distress, unemployment, sickness, failed marriages, death and other life's challenges. As Christians we should not give up on life because of these problems but

instead, we can turn to God for He alone is our redeemer, protector and comforter.

We must remember that with God by our side, we will emerge as conquerors, for He is a God of impossibilities. When God say “yes” no one can say no; and when God opens doors, no one can close them. We must always call upon the name of Jesus Christ in all we do because by His name, we can change our situations, we can be raised from grass to grace as long as we believe in His word and have unshakeable faith. It is by our faith that we put the devil to shame and live in God’s Grace and Glory for it is by His Grace and Glory that we are saved.

The greatest thing we can do to cope with life is by learning to trust God and how to walk by faith. Walking with God is an awesome experience knowing that He is there to guide you through every step of the way, from morning when we wake up to night time when we go to sleep. We can rest assured knowing that we are safe in the bosom of God’s arms and that no evil can have power over us for we are covered by the blood of Jesus. As we walk with Christ, we must also share Christ with others as an expression of gratitude and as an act of obedience to the Lord.

{2} The thief on the cross received salvation by faith

The thief on the cross became a believer just hours before

his death {Luke 23:39-43}. In verse 42, the thief said, “Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (NIV). These words could only be uttered by a person with faith that utterly ignores the visible and trusts completely in the impossible.

In Deuteronomy 21:23 the Bible suggests that it was impossible for a man hanging on a cross to be the Messiah, anyone hanging on a cross is under God’s curse, this was the point the enemies of Jesus were trying to make. By having Him crucified, they eliminated any claim that He could be blessed by God.

The thief on the cross was the last man anyone would expect to have faith; but he believed in a dying man, a man who looked nothing like the Messiah Israel was looking for. From this story, we learn that the faith that works or that bears fruit is the faith that believes. The thief believed at a time when Israel and even the disciples did not believe; they were taught that the Messiah lives forever.

The thief was a sinner who had been condemned to death, but he had the faith that would secure him a place in the Kingdom of God. We may be sinners but as long as we believe and have faith in Jesus Christ, we will surely be redeemed. All we have to do is confess our sins and seek the face of God and we will be saved. We must remember that God has a purpose for all of us regardless of the challenges we may be passing

through. Our destinies are in the hands of Jehovah God; He has made promises to us and His word can never be broken.

{3} Gideon defeated an army with his 300 crack pots

Gideon used clay pots and ram's horns to defeat an army that outnumbered his men (300 – 135 000 men) armed with swords (Judges 6-7). It took a lot of faith to obey such an order from God. Gideon is praised in the Hebrews Hall of Faith for conquering kingdoms through faith, {Hebrews 11:32-33}.

Gideon's act of bravery was one of the most extreme acts of faith ever performed. It was unprecedented to use only clay pots, torches and trumpets in battle and trust God to bring about the victory over the Midianites.

Gideon was a fearful farmer, hiding from the Midianites when God sought him out. God chose the least in Israel to surprise and puzzle the wisest and strongest, demonstrating that He, not man is the source of victory. God dwindled Gideon's army from 23 000 to 300 men. This must have caused fear in him but at the same time, it gave rise to his faith in God. Gideon believed and God brought about a great victory in favor of Gideon's small army. God works in mysterious ways, therefore there is a need for us to trust in Him explicitly and without doubt no matter the circumstances we meet in our day-to-day lives. No matter how painful, hurtful and heart-

breaking the situation we find ourselves in, we must trust in the loving kindness of our Lord.

{4} Joshua won the battle of Jericho

After the death of Moses, God chose Joshua son of Nun to be the leader of the Israelites. Under the Lord's guidance, they planned to conquer the land of Canaan "Do not be afraid terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." {Joshua 1:9} [NIV]. Spies from the Israelites sneaked into the walled city of Jericho where they were sheltered by a prostitute called Rahab. By her faith, Rahab hid the spies from the Kings soldiers, when the time was right; she helped them out of the city of Jericho by throwing a rope out of her window since her house was built into the city wall. Rahab made the spies swear an oath that when the time came, the Israelites would spare her life and that of her family. She also promised not to expose the plans of the Israelites.

God commanded the Israelite priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant into the centre of the Jordan River which was in flood at the time. As soon as the priests stepped into the river, the river stopped flowing and divided so that the people of Israel would cross on dry ground. God performed a miracle for Joshua just as He had done for Moses by parting the Red Sea.

God commanded Joshua to have the armed men march around the city once each day for six days. The priests were to carry the Ark of the Covenant, blow trumpets but the armed men were to remain silent. On the seventh day, the armed men and priests marched around the City of Jericho seven times. At Joshua's command, the men and priests gave a loud shout and the walls of Jericho crumbled, they fell down flat. The Israelite army rushed in and conquered the city; everyone in the city had been destroyed except Rahab and her family. All the articles in the city, gold, bronze, silver and iron were to be kept in the Lord's treasury.

By faith, Joshua followed all of God's instructions. He believed in God's promise that He would be there for him. Joshua believed without any doubt because he knew that God would take care of him and the people of Israel just as He had taken care of Moses and the Israelites. We as Christians must put our trust in God no matter how big our problems are. He alone can guide us aright and part the sea of your problems and challenges for us to pass through to dry land, to another level of life. All our actions as Christians should be justified by our faith, we will be bombarded by so many trials and tribulations but as long as we give God the Glory and lay our troubles at His feet, God will shield us, protect us and elevate us from grass to grace.

When we seek God's face and lay down our lives at His feet and have faith in Him, He promised to wipe away the shame from our lives and cover us with His Grace and Glory. Rahab

the prostitute made the right choice in assisting the Israeli spies – by faith she chose God instead of the evil people of Jericho. In the New Testament, Rahab was recorded as one of the ancestors of Jesus Christ.

{5} By faith Joseph surmounted all the challenges he faced

Joseph was hated by his older brothers and they had nothing good to say about him. Their father favoured Joseph and his younger brother, Benjamin. This gave his brothers the more reason to despise him. Joseph's faith helped him see his future through God's visions. In Genesis 37:5-7 Joseph dreamt that he and his brothers were binding sheaves of grain when suddenly Joseph's sheaf stood upright, and his brother's sheaves suddenly bowed down to his own. When Joseph told his brothers his dream, they hated him the more.

Then, God gave Joseph another dream. This time, the sun, the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to him {Genesis 37:9}. Joseph's brothers were infuriated; this exacerbated the hatred they already had for him. By his faith, God showed Joseph his future through his visions or dreams. Although his brothers hated him with such intensity, Joseph never changed his attitude towards his brothers. He continued to love them; they were his family and family should support and love each other.

Joseph's brothers hated him to the extent of planning to kill him, but one of his brothers, Rueben persuaded the others to not kill him. Instead they threw him into a pit and later sold him to merchants who were passing by en-route Egypt. We might think that Joseph was angry at his brothers for their betrayal, but we find that Joseph served his master Potiphar faithfully and obediently, without grudges or holding on to the past. Joseph trusted in God explicitly although he did not know what his fate would be in the future. Joseph proved his faith in God once again; he was not embittered at his brothers for betraying him, selling him off into slavery in a foreign country. Joseph simply surrendered his life into the hands of God who promised to be there for us through all the challenges we might meet in life no matter how painful they are. For Joseph, the pain could have been worse since he had been betrayed by his own family, but Joseph stood steadfast in the light and love of God.

As life went on in Egypt, Joseph became successful at everything he did, and God blessed Potiphar because of Joseph. Because of this, Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his household and everything that he owned {Genesis 39:1-6}. Unfortunately for Joseph, Potiphar's wife lusted after him –Joseph was a very handsome and virile young man. Potiphar's wife tried to lure Joseph to go to bed with her, but he rejected sexual her advances, and this infuriated her {Genesis 39:6-10}. One day when Joseph went into the house to at-

tend to his duties, he found that none of the servants were around. Potiphar's wife had sent them all away and tried to seduce Joseph, but Joseph ran out, leaving behind his cloak. Potiphar's wife laid allegations of attempted rape against him to her husband. This resulted in Potiphar throwing Joseph into prison. It was by his faith that Joseph managed to flee the temptation presented by Potiphar's wife. When we face temptation like Joseph did, God will give us the strength and wisdom to overcome.

{1 Corinthians 10:13} "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." (NIV).

God has a purpose for everything that comes our way even heart-breaking situations. This is why He promises to be there just waiting to embrace us and comfort us and show us that our problems do not define who we are.

Joseph continued to be faithful even in prison. He continued to trust God even though there was no hope for him to get a fair trial or parole. While in prison, the warden showed Joseph kindness by making him the leader of the other prisoners. Two years passed, Pharaoh had two dreams that none of his magicians and Wiseman could interpret the baker

whose dream Joseph had interpreted years before remembered Joseph. He told Pharaoh about Joseph. Pharaoh summoned Joseph, and God gave Joseph the interpretation of Pharaohs' dreams which foretold of seven years of plentiful harvests followed by seven years of severe famine {Genesis 41:25-35}. God also gave Joseph the wisdom to suggest to Pharaoh that he should appoint someone to supervise the collection and storage of food during the years of abundance so that during the years of famine Egypt would have plenty of food. Pharaoh appointed Joseph which was a wise decision as Joseph had proved to be a very loyal and hard worker. Joseph became the overseer of the whole of the land of Egypt and also became Pharaoh's right-hand man.

{Genesis 41:41-43}. "So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." {42} then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck. {43} He had him ride in a chariot as his second-in-command, and people shouted before him, Make way!" Thus, he put him in charge of the whole land of Egypt." (NIV).

Joseph was one of the most notable people in the Bible who went through so much pain, suffering and affliction but who did not give up on God and on His promises. He continued to trust and believe in God; he knew that God would see

him through all the challenges that he encountered in his life. He knew that God would fulfil all His promises he had made. Joseph believed without any doubt.

When Joseph's brothers went to Egypt during the time of famine to buy food, Joseph recognised them. Joseph had ample opportunity to avenge all that his brothers had done to him if he wanted to – he was a powerful man and he controlled the food supply in Egypt. Joseph however did not harbour any thoughts of revenge against his brothers; instead he taught them that God had allowed his brothers' actions against him for a purpose.

Despite his brothers' hatred towards him all those years back, he forgave them and held nothing against them {Genesis 45:7-9}. Joseph commanded his brothers to go back to the land of Canaan and inform his father that God had made him great, that they should return as quickly as they could with his father. When Pharaoh heard that Joseph's brothers came visiting, he too was elated and gave them plenty of food to take to Canaan. He also commanded them to return as soon as possible with their father. Once again, by faith, Joseph forgave his brothers and was happy to see them after so many years. He wept so loudly with joy and happiness as he realised that God had brought his family back to him.

Joseph's story teaches us that through all the pain, hatred and

despair he suffered at the hands of his brothers, Joseph never turned his back on God, he never questioned God. By faith, Joseph believed and completely trusted in God's plans for him and his future.

Through all the temptation, Joseph stood steadfast in the belief that one day the storm would be over, and that sunshine would come into his life. His faith carried him through. As Joseph stood taller than all the temptations and persecutions he had encountered, so should we stand taller than all the challenges we meet in our lives. By the faith of Joseph, we too will prevail over all our problems trusting that after every storm, our turning point will surely come.

{6} The three Jewish men were saved from the blazing furnace

Three young Hebrew men, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego put their lives on the line when they chose not to bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden idol. Rather than violate their commitment to God, they chose instead to lay their lives in God's capable hands. They stood faithfully in the loving presence of God though they had no way of knowing if God would come to their aid. By faith, they defied King Nebuchadnezzar's command to bow before an idol. In Daniel 3:16-18, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied him:

"King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend our-

selves before you in this matter. {17}, If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up." (NIV).

As an example of His Power, God intervened to spare their lives. Though he allowed them to be bound and thrown into the furnace, the blazing fire did no harm to them, neither did their robes and their bodies get scorched. They remained completely unharmed by the fire. The King had witnessed a fourth man in the fire; he was so amazed at what he saw. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego walked out of the fire unharmed.

The fourth man in the fire had been an Angel sent by God to rescue the three men and to prove to King Nebuchadnezzar and his servants that the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego was a living God, a God of impossibilities and a faithful God to those who are faithful to Him. The faith of the three men proves to us that God will intervene in the lives of those who have trust in Him and believe sincerely that He is a capable God, a God of miracles.

{Psalms 37:4-7}, "take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. {5}. Commit your way

to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: {6} He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.” (NIV).

We must trust in God for our every need, God is ready to protect us and provide for us; but He needs for us to seek his face in truth and in honesty. God empowers us to have faith through His Holy Spirit and He will be with us step by step in our journey towards our salvation and in the development of our faith. God loves us. He does not show partiality as long as we come to Him in humility and supplication.

When everything seems to be so overwhelming, all we need is one more prayer that will bring us closer to God. Giving up is not an option; we must forge ahead and always remember that our God will not forsake us. Every challenge that we encounter in our lives is not meant to break us but are there to strengthen us; today's pain and heart-break is tomorrow's testimony. All we have to do is always remember that God loves us so much that He gave His only son Jesus Christ, to die on the cross at Calvary for our salvation. By the blood of His only son, we are saved from eternal damnation.

{7} The mouth of lions was shut

Daniel was honest and hard-working so much so that the other government officials became envious of him, but they could not find any way of removing him from office. At this

time, Daniel was about 80 years of age. These envious government officials then devised a plan to use his faith in God against him. They tricked their King Darius into making a decree that during a 30-day period anyone who prayed to another god or man besides the king would be thrown into the den of lions. They knew that Daniel prayed every day to God, so they laid their trap. Daniel heard of the decree but did not change his habit instead he went home and knelt in prayer facing Jerusalem and prayed to God.

The wicked officials saw him praying him and reported him to the king. King Darius loved Daniel so much that he tried to save him, but the decree could not be revoked. At sundown, Daniel was thrown into the lion's den. The king was devastated, he could not eat or sleep for he loved Daniel a lot and was very worried that the lions would devour him.

At day-break the king ran to the lion's den to check on Daniel. He asked Daniel if his God had managed to protect him from the jaws of the lions.

Daniel 4:22, "My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight, nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

The king was overjoyed and he ordered Daniel to be brought

out of the lions' den and no wound was found on him because the Lord had protected him. He had trusted in God and his life had been saved. The king then issued a decree that:

"{26} ...in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.{27} He rescues and he saves: he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." (NIV).

Daniel was saved from the jaws of the lions by his trust in God. He trusted God without reservations; his faith saw him through the trials he faced at the hands of the other government officials. He had faith in God even when he knelt to pray; he knew that God was with him. Daniel knew that God would protect him from untimely and painful death at the hungry mouths of the lions in the den.

As human beings we all experience difficult times, we have our 'lions in the den' but it is not by our strength or might that we can overcome them; it is through the grace and mercy and intervention of God. God will always intervene and shut the mouths of lions that are seeking to make our lives difficult and seemingly unbearable.

"God will make a way, where there seems to be no way..."

Lyrics from a song that inspires us to not give up. Never give up for God loves you; He is always willing to embrace you and comfort you in times of need. As long as we have God's favour, as long as we abide in the shadow of His wings, we will live a life filled with joy, happiness, prosperity and good health. He is the God of our destiny, the God of miracles, the God of love; in Him we find a safe and peaceful haven.

Chapter
8

Faith Heals

“Worship the Lord your God and His blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.” {Exodus 23:25-26} (NIV).

God promises us that He will take away any illness in our lives; heal us. It is through the Holy Spirit that people are healed. God does not want us to be sick, depressed or afflicted by demons. If we can believe and have faith in Him, we can receive His healing and deliverance.

God gave us His only Son Jesus Christ to come to the earth to

help human-kind to seek the face of God and be saved. During Jesus' Ministry, he performed so many miracles, among which was healing of the sick. We are given examples of people in the Bible who were healed by Jesus through their faith and belief in Jesus' super-natural power. Jesus also healed the sick because He was compassionate like his Father.

{1} In Mark 2:3-5, When Jesus entered Capernaum, a large crowd had heard about him and gathered around him. It was while he was busy preaching that four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. When they realised they could not get the sick man in through the door because of the crowd, they carried him and lowered him in through the roof into the room where Jesus was. Their determination proved their faith and belief that their friend would be healed. The four friends by their faith made it possible for their friend to receive physical and spiritual healing. By their faith, belief and determination, their friend was healed. Our Saviour works where faith is present. {Luke 5:20}. God can perform miracles anywhere regardless of human faith, but He is often discouraged to act when people lack faith.

{Matthew 13:58} "And He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith." (NIV).

{2} In Mark 1:40-41, Jesus healed a man with leprosy. The man came to Jesus and went down on his knees and begged

Him to heal him of his disease. Jesus was filled with compassion for the man. Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man, and he was healed.

(Mark 1:40-41), "A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "if you are willing you can make me clean." {41} Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said." Be clean!" {42} immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed." (NIV).

People with leprosy were treated as outcasts, as unclean. They were treated like underdogs and were shunned by society. The man with leprosy asked Jesus if He was willing to heal him, he did this because he was used to living life as an unwanted and unclean person exiled from the society at large, but his faith led him to Jesus regardless of his unfortunate circumstance. Jesus was indignant when the man asked him if he was willing to heal him; Jesus was compassionate. He healed through the power of God Almighty, who is loving and kind. Before God, we are all equal and deserving of His love and mercy.

{3} In Matthew 9:20, a woman with the issue of blood went to Jesus to ask for healing. She had been suffering from excessive blood flow for 12 years. When she could not get close to Jesus as there were many people surrounding him, she fell to

the ground and crawled towards Jesus. She touched the hem of Jesus' garment. Jesus said to her, "*take heart, daughter, your faith has healed you.*" And the woman was healed at that moment." {Matthew 9:22} (NIV).

By faith, the woman was healed. She believed that if only she could touch the Saviour's garment then she would receive her healing. It was because of her faith that God healed her through His son, Jesus Christ. No matter how grave the illnesses and sicknesses we may have, we must remember that we Have God on our side. Jesus may not be physically here with us but so long as we believe in Him, then through our faith and prayer, we will be healed.

{4} In Matthew 9:28, two blind men went to Jesus for healing. The blind men followed Jesus begging for His mercy.

{28} "*When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he said them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes Lord, "they replied."* {29} *Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you {30} and their sight was restored."* (NIV).

The two blind men believed that their sight would be restored if only Jesus could lay his hands upon them. By faith, they were healed, and they received their sight. Jesus healed all kinds of sicknesses. God used Jesus to show that God

wants good health for his people; he does not want his people to be afflicted by all kinds of sicknesses. He healed these sicknesses through His son to prove to us that He is a God of love and that he is merciful.

{5} In Matthew 8:5-13, Jesus was amazed by the faith of a centurion who went to Him asking for help. The Centurion asked Jesus to heal his ailing servant whom he had left back home.

{7} *“Jesus said to him,” Shall I come and heal him?”*

{8} *“The Centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word and my servant will be healed.” The words of the Centurion amazed Jesus; He turned and told His followers that in the whole of Israel, He had not met a man with such faith.*

{13} *Then Jesus said to the Centurion,” Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.” (NIV).*

The Centurion had so much faith, he believed that if Jesus merely pronounced the words of healing then his servant would be healed. He was a great man in the army, used to giving orders and being obeyed but he humbled himself before Jesus. He interceded for his servant and through his deep faith, his servant was healed. This miracle also teaches us that by our faith, we can intercede on behalf of other people: our family, friends, acquaintances and loved ones. By

our faith we can change the lives of people around us, as they can be healed through our trust and belief in God's healing power.

These are just a few examples of healing by faith during Jesus' Ministry. Jesus' Ministry has continued until today; firstly, through the works of His disciples and now through Priests and other men of God who have received the gift to carry on with Jesus' Ministry. As Christians, we all have been anointed by the blood of Jesus that was shed during the time of His last days on earth and His death on the cross at Golgotha. We also have what it takes to continue in His Ministry of healing.



Chapter 9



Faith in Today's context

Once met a woman during one of my travels. She told me her life story; I was humbled. Never had I met such a strong woman, a woman whose faith never crumbled even when she was faced with daunting and life-threatening challenges. Her faith was remarkable and her steadfastness so unique and special. I understood then that in this life, none of us must ever think that our challenges are the worst. We must not make such conclusions until we hear other people's stories, walk in other people's shoes and live their lives. I will never forget this woman for she inspired me to be a better person, the best that I can ever be.

She is blessed with eight children; five girls and three boys. They are all grown now, very learned and educated. They are all independent and have never forgotten for one day the sacrifices their mother made for them to have such bright futures. At a younger age, her husband lost his job, their house and all the properties he had acquired, due to some unknown forces. Her first child lost her sight temporarily, her second child developed body sores that looked as if they had eyes, and her third child developed a boil on her cheek and out of that boil emerged a big, black and furry worm. Her fourth child developed arthritis on her knee, her fifth child developed chest problems, her sixth child developed a scabby rash all over her body, her seventh child became a drunkard and a smoker, while her eighth child was so docile and unresponsive.

These are just few examples of what this family had to endure. Through all these challenges, the church became her home, she constantly knelt and cried to the Lord until her knees got swollen and ached with pain, but she never gave up. Out of the church, she travelled very long distances to buy vegetables so she could sell them and take care of her children. She and her children would wake up at 4am to go to a bakery that was about 10km on foot to buy as much bread as possible in order to sell to people for breakfast. The hand of God was upon them. This was proven because walking on foot at 4am to a bakery 10km away had its hazards

– in the form of robbers, rapists and evil prowlers – but she and her family never experienced any such unfortunate incidents. This proved that although they suffered, God was with them, guiding them and protecting every single step of their way.

Ask yourself this question: could this be because of their prayers? Could this be because of their faith? The answer is YES! Their Faith and Prayers indeed touched the heart of God and He preserved them for greater things to come. He preserved them for their Testimony. He preserved them for His glory to shine through them when the time was right! Indeed, God takes care of His chosen ones, those who have faith in Him. If we can have faith in God in every circumstance, we will forever remain under the shadow of the Almighty.

Her children were so humble that they sold these vegetables and bread alongside their mother. They woke up at 4am to walk 10km to buy bread at the bakery with their mother. They suffered with their mother but in doing so, they never complained nor lost hope for a better tomorrow. They wore tattered clothes, ate whatever was available and never complained. They went to school in old and worn-out uniforms and sometimes on empty stomachs but continued to excel in school. The mother not only supported her children but also supported her husband through all the trials they encoun-

tered in their lives. Her husband moved to his birth town in a bid to make a living. He was treated like a nobody by his relatives. The little that he managed to make as a hustler, selling old furniture and household gadgets, the relatives he lived with would claim for one reason or the other. He endured all this and sometimes managed to send little money to his family. He would often go hungry and not a soul was willing to help him. He was instead insulted and reduced to nothing by those he called relatives. When he got sick for days, no one checked up on him. It was by the grace of God that the woman decided to travel to visit her husband at that particular time. She was shocked by the state her husband had been reduced to. She worked like a slave, tilling and cultivating people's farms. She saved all the money she made for her children. When she had saved enough, she and her husband returned to their children.

At some point they were evicted from the house they lived in due to unpaid and outstanding rentals. The family slept and lived under a tree for days, but this did not break their spirit. They continued to hope and pray for better days to come, living from hand to mouth. They were treated like outcasts and treated with spite, malice and ridicule. Somehow this woman kept her family together through prayer and extreme hard work. She never gave up and her strength became her family's strength. She worked hard in the church, most people castigating her because of the poverty in her family but

she continued to kneel and cry to The Lord. She often wept to the Lord, asking the Lord to remember her and her family. She gave offerings and sacrifices from the sales she made. She worked tirelessly in the House of God. She fasted until she looked as if she would collapse but the Lord was her strength. She lived for her family amidst all the insults and ridicule from the people around her and her family and husband's family. They were completely cut off from family and friends because of their condition.

Finally, because of her faith and hope in Christ, a breakthrough came into their lives in the form of their first child. The first child was enrolled in college, she passed and got a job. She too did all she could for her parents and siblings. Life became bearable to some extent. This was not all; God gave the father a job after so many years of being jobless. God finally smiled upon this God-fearing family. Both parents gave their lives completely to Christ; they continued to work in the House of the Lord. They renewed their marital vows in the church and dedicated their lives to serving God. Their children prospered in their different stations of life, although there were many more challenges along the way; they too never gave up their love for God and their unshakable faith.

Blessings upon blessings abounded in their lives. The rejected family had now become the chief cornerstone. What

amazed me the most about this family is that they continued to be humble even when their situation had changed from rags to riches and from grass to Grace. Their social status was elevated but their humility became their family's trademark. Those people who once rejected them were humbled and put to shame, but this family helped even those who had insulted, dehumanised and ridiculed them. They forgave all those who had called them worthless; the mouths of their tormentors were finally silenced. Indeed, their experience was their testimony. Their faith and hunger for God's intervention had indeed manifested the glory of God in their lives.

I was really amazed that people with such genuine and boundless faith still exist. Faith is not only what we read about in the word of God, faith is what keeps people like this family alive and steadfast. Faith is their life!

As Christians we must strive for such genuine faith. With such faith, we can command every mountain in our lives to move and they will move. Indeed, your faith determines what you will receive from God our Father in Heaven. And in all circumstances, we must wait on the Lord. His time is always the best.

Biblical statements on the importance of faith

- Romans 5:1-2 states that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Romans 4:20 states that faith without doubt glorifies God.
- 1 John 3:22 says that we should live a life of faith and we will receive from God.
- James 2:17 tells us that faith without works is dead.
- Galatians 5:22 says that faith is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit.
- Galatians 2:20 explains that we live by faith.
- Isaiah 38:3 reminds us that faith is shown through devotion and humility.
- Philippians 3:9 tells us that we must have the faith of Christ.
- Matthew 9:22 tells us that our faith can heal us.
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 reminds us that we should walk by faith and not by sight.
- Hebrews 11:6 explains that faith pleases God, and He is a rewarder of the faithful.
- 1 Peter 5:8-9 proves that we can resist the devil's advances by faith.

These are just a few of the biblical statements that explain and teach about the importance of faith. There are many more such statements in the bible that can help with more teachings and explanations on the importance of faith in our lives. Living by faith is a challenge to all Christians but we must remember that God is there to guide us in order for us to become better believers in Him through His word. Gods'

word is there to guide, explain and teach us about His ways. Let us not give up; rather, let's always remember that our faith is our height and that we should never let go of God's hand; no matter what we experience in our day-to-day lives. By faith, everything is possible.

Living by faith is what pleases God. Living by faith is possible when we do what God says is good and right. Living and saving faith is not something we work up on our own, it comes through God's Spirit; it is part of the fruit of the Holy Spirit which God gives us when we are baptised and when we repent and accept Him as our Lord and Saviour. The faith that God gives us should not be taken for granted but should be nurtured and developed.

Today, we experience so much pain, poverty and suffering but let us not be focussed on our situations and circumstances but rather on our Protector, God Almighty. When we are faithful to Him, we have His favour and no challenge can be too great for us to bear as long as we walk in the light of God. God will not give us challenges that we cannot bear, He knows our strengths and will-power. He knows how far we have come and how much we can endure. He is with us every step of the way; the challenges we face are meant to strengthen us, to test our faith and trust in God.

We must have hope in all life's situations because hope motivates us to manifest faith. Our faith should be wise, unconditional, loving, active, humble, steadfast, sacrificial and persistent. And by faith all things are possible.



Chapter
10



“Do not fear.”

The phrase ‘Do not be afraid’ is written so many times in the Bible. This is a daily reminder from God for us to live every day without fear. It is a reminder to live each and every day by faith; faith that moves mountains, faith that surpasses any obstacle, challenge and consequence. Faith that leads us into a fulfilled life with the knowledge that God is in control. The knowledge that God is our Redeemer, Sustainer, Saviour and our ever-present Help.

“Do not fear” – A few Biblical examples

- **Isaiah 35:4.** Say to those with fearful hearts’ “Be strong,

do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you.”{NIV}

- **John 14:27.** “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”{NIV}
- **Deuteronomy 31:6.** “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you or forsake you.”{NIV}
- **1 Chronicles 28:20.** David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, For the Lord God, my God, is with you...”{NIV}
- **Psalms 56:4.** “In God, whose word I praise - in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”{NIV}
- **Matthew 10:26.** “So, do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed or hidden that will not be made known.” {NIV}

Chapter
11

Day by Day Declarations of Faith

“You will also declare a thing and it will be established to you...” Job 22:28

1. I declare by faith that the desires of my heart are aligned with God's desires for me.
2. I declare an open heaven over my life.
3. I declare miraculous enlargement and increase in my life from today.
4. I declare that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
5. I declare that God has not given me a spirit of fear. He

gives me power, love and self-discipline.

6. I declare the perfect Will of God over my life today.
7. I declare that today I will walk according to the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus and not according to the Law of sin and death.
8. I ask You Gracious and Compassionate Lord to strengthen my faith. I choose to trust in the Lord with all my heart and to walk according to the Spirit of God, Amen.

Always remember that when Faith speaks, hopelessness is deleted from our lives. When Faith speaks, condemnation is reversed, and principalities are silenced. By Faith we will break down barriers and destroy every evil plan and attacks of the enemy from our lives and those of our families. Always make a declaration of faith upon your life. Allow the Will of God to lead you and expect a miraculous enlargement and increase in your life for God is faithful, compassionate and abounding in love.

Above all, remember your faith is your height!

