

## OUR SOURCE & SHIELD

Aren't We All In Faith?

- I. Faith is not automatic-It is not a given amongst Christians, it is not the default position of every Christian; If you're going to live by faith it's going to be because you purpose to and cultivate faith in your life**
- A. Is faith a non-issue amongst Christians?-People have this idea that we don't really need to talk about faith because we all are trusting God and faith/unbelief is really a non-issue; Isn't faith in God a given amongst Christians? Aren't we all trusting God? Don't we all have faith in Him?
1. Faith in God's existence is not an issue; Faith in God is-Faith in the sense of belief in the existence of God is not much of an issue amongst Christians; Faith in the sense of confident expectation and conviction that God will do what He said in His Word and living this way from situation to situation is a huge issue
  2. If you think we all are trusting God and living by faith you don't know what it is-Living by faith from situation to situation is not a commonality in the body of Christ
  3. Most Christians are walking in a very low, weak level of faith-Not in the sense of lacking faith in the existence reality of God, but in the sense of confidence that God will do what He said in His word
  4. This idea that all us Christians are in faith and trusting God is a falsehood-Most are hoping/wishing for the best, but that's not faith
- B. Real faith in God is rare-If you live from situation to situation with confident expectation and conviction that God will do what He said in His word and you're bold and fearless about it, you're in a very small minority
1. Great faith was so rare Jesus couldn't find any of it in Israel-*Mt8:10-When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel*
  2. There were times Jesus didn't find faith in His disciples-*Mk4:40-How is it that you have no faith; Mt14:31-O though of little faith, wherefore did you doubt*
- C. God tells us in His word to have faith in Him because it's not automatic-If every Christian trusted God by default, if faith were automatic, if it was pretty much a given that followers of Jesus trusted him, then there'd be no need for God to tell us in His Word to have faith in Him; *Mk11:22-Have faith in God; Jn14:1-Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God and believe in my also; 1Jn3:23-This is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his son Jesus Christ*
1. Why these verses if faith is automatic?-B/c it isn't automatic and any follower of Jesus can fall into unbelief-*Hb10:35-Cast not away your confidence which has great recompense of reward*
- D. Faith in God happens on purpose, not by default-If you don't purpose to have faith in God, from situation to situation you won't-*Ps56:3-What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee*
- E. Faith is a fight, not a given-The moment you decide to trust God devils in hell work day and night to get you to not trust God; There's contention from devils who don't want you in faith-*1Tim6:12-Fight the good fight of faith*
- II. Faith not abstract or obscure-It is not this indiscernible, undefined, hazy thing; Real faith-You know it when you see it, you know it when you hear it**
- A. Faith is definable and assessable-We can know clearly what faith is and then look at stuff in our lives and say that is faith and that is not faith-*2Co13:5-Examine yourselves whether you be in faith prove your own selves*
1. Faith can be examined-How can we test to see if we are in faith if faith is hazy and undefinable
  2. It's more obvious than most think who is in faith-Many pretend like faith is this obscure, indiscernible, gray thing and who really knows who is in faith, what faith is, who is trusting
- B. Faith has a look and you know it when you see it-You can see faith-*Mk2:5-When Jesus saw their faith*

- C. Faith has an attitude about it-**Rm15:13**-May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing
- D. Faith has a spirit about it-A disposition that says we're winning-**2Cor4:8**-We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed
- E. Faith talks a certain way-**Hb10:23**-Let us hold fast the provision of our faith without wavering; **Rm4:17**-Calls things that be not as though they were
- F. Faith has a distinct tone-**Mk5:27-28**-When she heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. For she said, If I may but touch his clothes I will be whole; **Dn3:17**-Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace and He will deliver us
- G. Faith has a look it's eye and bounce in it's step-**1Sm17:46-46** This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. <sup>47</sup> And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands. And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose and came and drew night to meet David that David hastened and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine
- H. Faith is not a put on-It's the result of my confidence in that what God has said to me will come to pass

### III. There are levels of faith or degrees of strength when it comes to faith—God expects us to be strong in faith

- A. There are levels of faith-Not every Christian is strong faith
  - 1. There's weak faith and strong faith-**Rm4:19**-Being not weak in faith he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred year old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not about the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God
  - 2. There's little faith and great faith-**Mt8:10**-When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel; **Mt14:31**-O thou of little faith, wherefore did you doubt
- B. God's expectation for us is that we would be strong in faith
  - 1. You've commanded by the head of the church to have faith in God-He didn't tell you to try, he told you to do it; Anything less is unacceptable-**Mk11:22**-Have faith in God; **Jn14:1**- You believe in God and believe in my also; **1Jn3:23**-This is his commandment, that we should believe on the name of his son Jesus Christ
    - a. Have faith in God is as strong and as real to me as *thou shalt not steal*; Trying isn't acceptable on either
  - 2. Jesus was not understanding and acceptant of unbelief-He'll help you get out of unbelief, but he won't coddle you in it-**Mk16:14**-He appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided (reprove with severity) them with their unbelief (weakness of faith) and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen; **NIRV**-Spoke firmly; **MSG**-Too them to task most severely
    - a. Jesus corrected Thomas in front of everybody for his unbelief; He didn't say try, He didn't compliment him first, He was forward and firm-**Jn20:25**-Be not faithless; **GNT**-Stop your doubting and believe
    - b. Jesus corrected Peter in front of everybody-He's pulling him out of the water and correcting him at the same time; Peter could have made excuses but none were acceptable to Jesus-**YL**-Jesus having stretched forth the hand, laid hold of him and saith to him, "Little faith! For what didst thou waver?"
    - c. Jesus corrected his disciples about their unbelief-This is a hurricane, the boat is filling up with water and yet according to Jesus none of these are viable excuses for being unbelief; He expects you to take his word over everything else; **Mk4:40**-Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?
- C. Unbelief has to become unacceptable to you if you're going to be strong in faith-You have to be unwilling to tolerate or accept unbelief of any kind; You have to come to the reality that *I'm supposed to be strong in faith*

1. There's a lot of preaching out there now that coddles people in the weakness of their faith; People have the attitude that it's hard to trust God and so we try and do our best, but we are only human and we waver and are weak in faith, but we can't really help it and God understands that sometimes it's hard to trust Him; Many act like being weak in faith is just part of the human existence and not really something that can be changed; It's a weak and struggling doctrine that identifies as the old sinner and not the new creation; It's a failure to put on the new man and act like the new birth is a reality; It identifies more with the old flesh than the new spirit, than with my humanity and not my divinity; It magnifies my feelings and the struggles of life over the Word; It's self-help with a little Jesus sprinkled in; It fails to acknowledge the present reality that because I'm born again I'm in Christ Jesus and in him I'm strong, I'm holy, I'm righteous, I'm redeemed, I'm free and the greater one lives on the inside of me