

FUNDAMENTALS OF FAITH

The Vitalness Of Faith

I. As the environment of this earth grows more hostile, living by faith becomes more vital

- A. Faith is directly connected to being kept-As the environment grows more hostile the need to be kept grows and faith becomes more vital-**1Pt1:5**-Who are kept by the power of God through faith; **Ps37:40**-The Lord shall help them, and deliver them; he shall deliver them from the wicked, and save them, because they trust in him; **Pr30:5**-He is a shield unto them that trust in him
1. This is command from God TAKE your faith and use it like a shield-**Ep6:16**-Above all taking the shield of faith wherewith you shall be able to quench (put out, destroy) all the fiery darts of the wicked one
- B. We are coming into a time where it is imperative that my people know how to live by faith-10-9-19-Why? It's the only way to be secure in this environment – It is the victory-**1Jn5:4, Hb11:29-34**

II. Living by faith is a specific way you conduct your life and it separates you from the world and from the average Christian – We don't think or operate like them-2Co5:7-We walk (live, walk about, conduct one's life) by faith not by sight

- A. All Christians are not living by faith-Every Christian is alive inside by faith, every Christian will live eternally because of their faith, but far less are walking or living by faith day to day in this life-**Hb10:38**-The just shall live by faith
- B. When you're living by faith you're practicing the fundamentals of faith day to day, from situation to situation-The principles of faith have become your standard mode of operation; **Ph4:9-AM**-The things which you have learned, received and heard and seen in me, practice these things in daily life; **Ph4:9-AC**-Model your way of living on it
- C. You can have faith in Jesus to save you from hell, but not practice the principles of faith in this life and live in defeat-**Mt14:24**-The ship was now in the midst (middle) of the sea, tossed (throw with violence) with waves: for the wind was contrary (against). **25** And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them walking on the sea. **26** And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear. **27** But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. **29** And He said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. **30** But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. **31** And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?
1. This is a hostile environment (24); Peter was affected, Jesus wasn't-Jesus was treading on rough waters; On top
 2. Peter had faith in Jesus to save him from drowning, but he didn't practice the principles of faith and victory-Peter was not affected by the environment at first because he was practicing the principles of faith but when he stopped he became susceptible to an environment that previously had no effect on him
 3. Anything that is not of faith will lead to defeat-That law is no respecter of persons and Christian or not it works
- D. We must get good at the fundamentals of faith otherwise we will be swallowed by the afflictions of this life-Fundamentals of faith are fundamentals of victory and you'll struggle if you don't learn and practice them

III. A Christian can love God and not know the principles of faith and victory and live in defeat

- A. There's a lot more to victory than just petitioning God-Many are ignorant about the principles of faith and victory and have no understanding beyond just ask God to do something repeatedly and hope he does-(**1Jn5:4, Rm10:17, 4:17, Js4:7, Js1:8**)
1. Many ask God for victory while they blatantly ignore the principles of victory laid out in His Word-It's a very convenient to do nothing, but ask and have God do everything for you-(**1Tim6:12, 2Cor10:5, Js4:7, Eph6:11**)
- B. YOUR Understanding about spiritual law, about the principles of faith and victory is a line of defense-There's a such thing as spiritual intelligence-**Pr2:11**-Discretion will preserve you, understanding (intelligence, skillfulness) will keep (guard) you
- C. If understanding keeps you, then a lack of it makes you vulnerable-**Hos4:6**-My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; Because you have rejected (spurn) knowledge, I will also reject you
1. Many don't have knowledge because they don't pursue it, they reject it-**Pr2:3**-If you cry after knowledge, and lift up thy voice for understanding; If you seek her as silver, and search for her as hid treasures; Then shalt you understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God; **4:5**-Get wisdom, get understanding...**6** She will preserve you...she will keep you

2. Most Christians don't pursue understanding like this-Herein lies the reason why so many lack it
 3. Many want to be kept, but few want to pursue understanding with the fervor necessary to obtain it and be kept by it
- D. Pride keeps you from pursuing understanding because it knows so much-Humility is hungry because it acknowledges the reality that there's much I don't know and it is a prerequisite to be taught-**Ps25:9**-*The meek will he teach His way*

IV. A Christian can love God and know the principles of faith but not practice them and live in defeat-Lk6:47-49-Whosoever cometh to me, and hears my sayings, and does them, I will show you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock 49 But he that hears and does not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell: and the ruin of that house was great

- A. It's not what you know alone that gets you delivered, it's what you do-You can come to church, read your Bible and do nothing with it and you'll get the same results as one who does neither – Our separation is in our execution
- B. Knowledge is for execution, revelation is for application, learning is for practice-Many come to church for an encouraging word and have no intention of doing a thing they hear-**Ph4:9-KJ**-*Those things, which you have both learned and received, and heard, and seen in me, do (practice, perform repeatedly, execute); GN-Put into practice what you learned*
- C. Why would God have to tell us to be a doer?-You can listen and do nothing-**Js1:22** *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed; ERV-Do what God's teaching says; don't just listen and do nothing*
 1. Knowing it isn't doing it-There is a deception because that because I know it or have heard it I'm doing it-**TP**-*Don't just listen to the Word of truth and not respond to it, for that is the essence of self-deception*
 2. We must be intentional about being doers of the word-There's a temptation, a pull from the enemy to hear and not do
 3. The challenge is to practice these things like never before and to do that we must keep them before us-Js1:25

V. A Christian can love God, know the principles of faith and victory and practice them some but not be very developed in them and experience a lesser degree of victory-Knowing it doesn't mean you're good at executing it

- A. You can be skillful in spiritual things-Hb5:13-*Every one that uses milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use (practice) have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil*
 1. There's always room to grow in spiritual things-1Th4:1-*We beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as you have received of us how you ought to walk and to please God, so you would abound more and more 9 But as touching brotherly love you need not that I write unto you: for you yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And indeed you do it toward all the brethren which are in Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that you increase more and more*
 2. You can excel in spiritual things-2Co8:7-*As you abound (excel) in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence and in your love to us, see that you abound in this grace also; 2Pt3:18*-*Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord*
- B. The only way to get good at the fundamentals of faith is to practice-NL-*Who through training have skill*
 1. You came to class, but skill can't be developed until you practice what you learned-There's some things you won't learn until you start practicing-**13-CJB**-*Anyone who has to drink milk is still a baby, without experience in applying the word*
- C. We're supposed to be practicing and getting more skillful in spiritual things-1Cor13:11-*When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things*
 1. The most successful people in any field have mastered the fundamentals-(Jeremy talking to Kenneth; MJ, Tiger)
 2. We have a sword, we are in a war, we can be experts-SOS3:6-*Who cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all the powders of the merchant? Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel. They all hold swords, being expert in war; Ep6:17, 2Co10:4*