

EVERYTHING HANGS ON FAITH

Last week we introduced our current series titled **BRIDGING THE DIVIDE**, in which we spoke about the divide or the gap that exists between your reality and God's truth. We learnt that one of the ways of bridging the gap is by building childlike faith in one's life. Faith is the currency in God's kingdom, with it we trade to acquire kingdom benefits.

This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter **EVERYTHING HANGS ON FAITH**.

I thought long and hard about what title to give this message – something catchy, something trendy but I could not find anything of that sort.

I then realized that you cannot try and make the issue of faith trendy because it is the most basic and foundational matter in your life. Yes, it is exactly that – everything in your life depends on faith. Without faith, things will fall apart. Let's briefly describe what this phenomenon is.

1. What is faith?

- If you cannot define it or describe it, you won't know when you are standing in front of it. In other words, if you don't know what faith is, you can't tell whether you have it or not.
- The writer of Hebrews gives us not so much a definition but rather a description of how it works.

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

- For you to know whether you have faith or not, you need to understand or be aware of how it works.
- What should you see when faith is present, what type of behavior is expected when faith is at work. Sometimes what we call faith is not faith – it is therefore important to establish what faith is.
- Faith is being fully convinced about the existence of things unseen.
 - It means that when there is no door in front of you, you are instead fully persuaded that there is a door.
 - It means that when you are sick in your body, you have a full assurance that you are healed.
 - It means that when you are about to lose your house, you have an established conviction that you will not lose the house.

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- It is not a denial of the reality, but you are convinced of the existence of something that has not manifested yet.

Genesis 12:1 And Jehovah said to Abram, Go out of your country, and from your kindred, and from your father's house into a land that I will show you. 2 And I will make you a great nation. And I will bless you and make your name great. And you shall be a blessing. 3 And I will bless those that bless you and curse the one who curses you. And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed. 4 And Abram departed, even as Jehovah had spoken to him. And Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

- You will realize that faith has to do with being persuaded about the reality of things you hope for. Abram left everything he knew and went into the unknown – this is what we call faith.
- When you hope for something, it means that that thing is not present with you, in other words it is invisible.
- Faith is having a settled expectation of a future reward.
- Faith is seen in a farmer who puts seed in the ground and then goes to bed, with a full assurance of a harvest.
- The farmer irrigates the ground, the farmer puts implements, he cultivates the crop – when you have faith, you behave in line with what you expect to get.
- This is supported by the apostle Paul in the Romans 8.

Romans 8:24 For in this hope we were saved; but hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he can already see? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet see, we wait for it patiently.

- It is through faith that we are fully convinced about the eternal glory that awaits us. No one has been to heaven, but we hope to enter a place of rest with God in the afterlife.
- Faith is equivalent to having the registration book of a car in your name without the car in your presence.
- The registration book is the evidence that proves that you are an owner of a car. It is like having a title deed of a house in your name. You can take it to the bank and get a loan against that paper.
- When you have faith about something, you start talking like you have the thing.

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- Yes, I know that at this point and time what I have given you sounds like mere positive thinking and the kind of stuff that new age people push out.
- There is a huge difference between faith and positive confession.
- Faith looks beyond self, whereas positive confession looks within you. Positive confession starts and ends in the person and that is why positive thinking only gives limited results because the source (the person) is limited.
- A believer's faith goes beyond humanism and mere philosophical ideas.
- What is the foundation of a believer's faith?

Hebrews 11:33 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

1. God created the entire creation.

- Your faith will not hold or will not work unless you believe and are convinced that God, in His sovereignty, in His intelligence and under His direction formed the whole creation.
- This is where your faith either starts or ends because when you believe that God created all the galaxies, the stars, and the entire universe, it becomes easy to believe that He can deal with anything life can throw at you.
- Just look around at what God created and then consider how minute your life's problems are.
- God created the universe by His word –

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form and empty. And darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters. 3 And God said, Let there be light. And there was light.

- It was out of nothing that God created the heavens and the earth – He simply used His word. It was at His command that all that we see came into being.
- If your mind can go past that, your faith is ready to operate and to give you results.
- The implications of this are massive and this is the great distinguisher between positive confession and faith.
- You can only have an assurance of a better outcome if the outcome has been pronounced by a credible source.

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- In other words, when you have a terrible situation, you need a word that counter acts the situation, and that word needs to come from a proven source.
- Creation is proof that God's word has power to alter situations.
- God, the creator of heaven and earth takes pleasure when you acknowledge His existence and ability to create using His word.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

2. God is personally involved with man.

- Again, your faith can either start here or end here – at a point of believing that God the creator wants to be personally involved in the lives of men.
- When you rise to seek God, you will realize that He is not aloof, He is not distant from those who diligently seek after Him.
- If your mind cannot conceptualize a personal God, then your faith will not start working for you.
- You need to get to a point of believing that God is concerned about how you slept last night, you need to believe that God is concerned about the bath soap you are using, or the salt you need to put in your food.
- There is nothing too small about your life that God does not care about.

Luke 12:6 Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. 7 Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

- Hebrews 11 gives us a glimpse of how personal God was involved with people of old. In this chapter, we have a narration of people who walked with God by faith and saw God's active participation in their affairs.
- God walked with Abel and by faith Abel gave an acceptable offering.
- God walked with Enoch and God found pleasure in him and he took him without facing death.
- God walked with Noah and by faith Noah and when warned about the impending danger, Noah built an ark which saved humanity.
- God walked with Moses and by faith Moses ended up being the deliverer of Jacob.
- So, this is now your turn to see this personal God walk with you.