

# LIVING IN FAITH

Each day, our faith is challenged in every way. Not everyone has the same view in life. Other people's belief tends to challenge our faith.

At the same time, there is this urgency and longing to please the Lord in everything that we do.

**How can we live a life that pleases God?**

There is only one requirement for you to please God.

**Hebrews 11:6...** *Without faith it is impossible to please God.*

Speaking of faith, what does it mean ***to live in faith?***

In our relationship with God, we always need to test or examine ourselves if we are walking and living in faith.

**2 Cor. 13:5...** *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves.*

*Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you...*

Why do we need to examine ourselves if we are in faith?

It is important because...

**a. Many will turn away from the faith...**

**1 Timothy 4:1...** *Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.*

**b. Many will mock God and make fun of you...**

**2 Peter 3:3...** *But first you must realize that in the last days some people won't think about anything except their own selfish desires. They will make fun of you*

**c. Many will be lovers of themselves rather than lovers of God.**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5...** *But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come. For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money,*

*boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these!*

On that very day, **when Christ returns, there is only one thing that Jesus expects from us...** it is not being successful, it is not being prosperous, it is not being a good member of the church or the best singer in the choir.

***There is only one thing that Jesus expects from us...***

**Luke 18:8...** *when the Son of Man returns, will he find faith on earth?*

If faith is what pleases God ...

If faith is the only requirement that prepares us when He comes back...

The biggest question now is, how can we live by faith?

## **TEXT:**

**Mark 11:24**, *“Therefore I say to you, What things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.”*

*What things soever you desire...*

**A. Faith is expressed in what you are desiring for.** What are you desiring for?

What are you thinking, aspiring?

**Prov. 23:7**, *“For what man thinks in his heart so is he.”*

Desire is more on what is bubbling within your heart.

What is the reflection of your heart?

**Matthew 11:24** – What things soever you *desire*

**Desire is a powerful force.**

Money is not the root of all evil.

The number 1 problem, the real core issue of humanity. I believe that it is not money but an ***UNFULFILLED DESIRE.***

Everything starts from a desire. Adam started from a desire. Ex. God said, Let us create man in our own image

We all started from a desire. The word “*DESIRE*” has a sacredness about its essence.

The Latin word ***De-Sire*** means “*of the Father*” or our desire ***springs forth*** from the Spirit; from God.

Desire is a deep love expressed.

***“God uses our desire to accomplish something amazing in our life.”***

God will move our hearts and create a desire in us.

Ex. God moved Samson to fulfil his desire. Read **Judges 14:3-4**. God’s desire for Samson was bigger than that of Samson’s. God’s desire was for the nation of Israel. Samson only wanted to fulfil his own desire, but God had a bigger plan. God’s desire was to free the nation of Israel from the dominion

of the Philistines and God used Samson to carry out this desire.

God's desire for you is far bigger than whatever you are desiring for in your life. You need to see it in God's perspective.

Speaking of desire, there is a dangerous side to it if we do not know how to handle it right. **Our job is to master our desire because if we don't, our desire will master us.**

**Story of Cain and Abel.** Read Genesis 4:6-7.

*<sup>6</sup> So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? <sup>7</sup> If you do well, will you not be accepted? **And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it (you must subdue it and be its master; you must master it).***

Remember, God works in our desires. But our desire must be within the parameters of God's Word not contrary to God's Word.

It is not our own desire for God but God's desire for us that is important. We are called to something bigger than us. And because it is bigger than us, we need to trust God therefore we need faith.

What are you desiring for?

*Faith is expressed in what you are desiring for.*

**B. Faith is expressed in what you are praying for.** *What are you praying for?*

**Mark 11:24...** *What things soever you desire, when you **pray**...*

What are you praying for?

Prayer is our means of communication with God. What are you saying about what you are desiring to happen? When our desire and our prayer are in synch, amazing things can happen.

Why? Prov. 23:7 says, “Because *life and death are in the power of the tongue, whoever enjoys it will eat it's fruit.*”

Ex. When God desires something he speaks the words. Ex Let there be and there was. When our desire and our words are in synch/are the same... great things can happen.

Ex. Tower of Babel

## **Read Genesis 11:1-9 - The Tower of Babel**

What they desired for and what they prayed or said were the same and because of that nothing they did was withheld from them.

**They got whatever they desired because they all spoke one language.**

**Our desire must be the content, the substance of our prayer.**

We need to pray for it.

**We need to put it in words.**

**Ex. The story of Hannah, the mother of Samuel. Rad 1 Samuel 1:9-10, 12-20.**

**Our desire must be the substance of our prayer.**

We need to pray. Speak it out!



## **We need to put it into words.**

Effective prayer must be within the parameters of God's will and God's Word.

**1 John 1:9**, *"This is the confidence that we have in Him that if we ask anything according to His will, he hears us."*

When we pray, pray according to the Word of God and we will never pray amiss.

## **Living in faith is simply living according to His Word.**

We cannot live by faith not unless we live according to God's Word because the source of faith is God's Word.

**Romans 10:17** <sup>17</sup> *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Thirdly....

**Mark 11:24**, *"Therefore I say to you, What things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them."*

## **C. Faith is expressed in what you are believing for**

What are you believing for? Believing is more than just cognitive or mental ascent. It is more than just a matter of the heart.

Pr Leo Harris once said that, “Faith is right believing.” Faith is believing right.

Faith is more than just believing right. Faith is also doing what is right. We need to do what is right. Believing is something you do.

A person who truly believes on something, will be compelled to do something. If you truly believe on something you have to do something about it. While fear is wrong believing, faith is right believing – right doing or doing what is right.

### **James 2:17**

*... faith without action is dead*

*... faith that doesn't lead us to do good deeds is all alone and dead*

*... faith by itself is dead if it doesn't cause you to do any good things*

**Also, read Hebrews 11.**

*Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. This is what the ancients were commended for.*

*By faith we understand that the universe was formed through God's word.*

*By faith, Abel **brought God a better sacrifice.***

*By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that He did not experience death... **he was commended as one that pleased God***

*By faith Noah... **built an ark** to save his family.*

*By faith Abraham **obeyed** when he was called to go out...*

*By faith Sarah herself also **received strength** to **conceive** and **bore** a child when she was past the age...*

*By faith Abraham, when he was tested, **offered up Isaac***

*By faith Isaac **blessed** Jacob and Esau concerning things to come*

*By faith Jacob, when **he was dying, blessed** each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.*

*By faith Joseph, **when he was dying**, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and **gave instructions**...*

*And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: <sup>33</sup> who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the enemies.*

All these people were still living by and in faith when they died...

These people were busy doing the very thing that God wanted them to do.

And they all obtained good testimony through faith.

What we believe must be something that we do.

## **ONE MAIN POINT:**

**Mark 11:24**, *“Therefore I say to you, What things soever you desire, when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you shall have them.”*

Our desire must be the substance of our prayer and our prayer must be the driving force of what we are believing; what we are doing.

## **CLEAR CALL TO ACTION:**

What are we desiring for?

What are we praying for?

What are we believing for?

**DESIRE:** Start desiring for others...

For your spouse, for your family, for your unsaved loved ones and unsaved friends.

**PRAY:** Start praying for them. May everything that you desire be the content of your prayer. Don't pray and bring the level of God's Word

to the level of your experience but it should be the other way around.

**BELIEVE:** What you are desiring for and are praying for, put it into action.  
Do something about it.

You need to see your life through the eye of faith.

You are called for something bigger than what you desire for yourself.

You are called for a bigger purpose and the only way to fulfil that is when we learn to “LIVE BY FAITH”.

## 1 John 5:4

*For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.*

*To live in faith, you need to keep your desire intact, your prayer focused, and your believing realised within the parameters of God's will and God's plan.*