

Faith is Activating the Promises of God

What is faith?

- Faith (*'Pistis'*) means 'a firm persuasion' - a conviction based upon hearing.
- Faith is knowing that God exists, and He is faithful to do what He says He will do!
- Faith is the *'link'* that joins us to our Eternal Creator and His promises for us.
- God has given us each a portion of faith at our conversion – a saving faith.
- God has placed within us the ability and capacity to believe.

Romans 12:3 (tlb) ...Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, measuring your value by **how much faith God has given you.**

God has planted a seed of faith in those who have received Christ as their Saviour.

But it is our individual responsibility to grow this seed to a fruit bearing state.

But how?

By releasing our faith to activate the promises of God within the Bible!

- The Bible should be read like any other book.
Deuteronomy 30:11-14
- The Bible demands a deeper level of comprehension.
1 Corinthians 2:9-12; Colossians 1:9-10
- Jesus' entire ministry was built upon a revelation of Scripture. *Luke 4:4; 8; 12*

Paul encourages us to enter into a relationship with Scripture as Jesus did.

Romans 10:8-17 But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile - the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³ for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” ¹⁴ How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear

without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?”

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

1. THE WORD IN OUR HEADS

(Romans 10:8; 14; 17)

We must commit ourselves to a programme of absorbing Scripture.

This was one of the keys to Jesus' great authority. *(John 7:14-15)*

There's no substitute for the constant reading of Scripture.

Faith 'comes' by 'hearing the Word.' *(2 Timothy 3:14-15; Psalms 1:1-3)*

2. THE WORD IN OUR HEARTS

(Romans 10:8-10)

We need the revelation of the Word into our hearts. *(2 Kings 6:8-17)*

We need to gain an 'inner' revelation of Scripture. *Ephesians 1:16-19*

Note the revelation of Scripture in Jesus' life.
(*Luke 24:25-27; 32; 45-47*)

3. THE WORD IN OUR MOUTH (*Romans 10:8-10*)

The Word of God is '*programmed*' to respond to the sound of the voice of faith.

Utterance is the catalyst that triggers action.

Some examples from Scripture...

- Bold confession brings great blessing.
Psalms 31:19
- God's promises must first be personalised, then spoken. *Hebrews 13:5-6*
- We cannot just '*think*' the Word, because
"*out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks!*" *Matthew 12:34*

Jesus is our example to follow.

When Jesus united the Spirit and the Word, power was released into His life.

We too can experience this type of power and change if we follow the example of Jesus in how He had an active relationship with the Word of God.