

Faith “*Activating the Promises of God*”

Luke 1:37 For nothing will be impossible with God.

Natural and Everyday faith

We show natural or everyday faith in our daily lives.

God created us with the capacity to have faith in him so that we can direct it towards him – to please him.

We live in the unseen.

2 Corinthians 4:18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

It can be difficult to believe in the unseen, especially in difficult times.

Isaiah 55:8-9 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

There are things we may not understand that we must trust.

Without faith or genuine faith, we never reach our full potential in God.

The world says show me and I'll believe, God says believe and I'll show you.

Faith can be displayed through three levels:

1.Head

Proverbs 3:5-7 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.

Proverbs 28:26 Those who trust in their own reasoning are fools, but those who walk in wisdom will be kept safe.

We may not see a way forward, but God holds the ultimate understanding.

Don't be wise in your own eyes, fear the lord, seek the lord, rely on the lord, and reject evil.

Proverbs 3:5-12 (MSG) Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. Don't assume that you know it all. Run to God! Run from evil! Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Honour God with everything you own; give him the first and the best. Your barns will burst, your wine vats will brim over. But don't, dear friend, resent God's discipline; don't sulk under his loving

correction. It's the child he loves that God corrects; a father's delight is behind all this.

Ephesians 5:16-20 *So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times! Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants. ¹⁸⁻²⁰ Don't drink too much wine. That cheapens your life. Drink the Spirit of God, huge drafts of him. Sing hymns instead of drinking songs! Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ.*

The more we live in the spirit and not the flesh, the more our lives begin to transform.

2. Hearts

Matthew 6:21 *for where your treasure is, your heart will be also.*

If we make the decision to live according to the word, our heart will follow.

2 Corinthians 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

God transforms our lives when he's giving the opportunity to move. We need to have open hearts and be vulnerable with him.

Psalm 51:10 God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Psalm 139:23-24 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.

Through the transformation of our hearts is how we experience an intimate relationship with God.

3. Mouth

Matthew 12:34 You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

Romans 10:8-10 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. 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.

We must declare our intentions to follow God and his promises to activate the promises of God within our lives.

Romans 10:14-17 - 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? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

How can people believe if they have not heard, if we are not preaching to them?

It is our responsibility as Christ followers to share the word.

Hebrews 13:5-6 “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” So we say with confidence, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?”

We must declare the promises of God within our lives.

Conclusion

We hear the word of God constantly, but we must absorb the word of God and allow it to transform our hearts and minds. Deciding to wholeheartedly obey God, declaring his promises, giving God the room to work in our lives, and spreading the word to others are practical ways for us to exhibit faith in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. How can we give God the room to work in our lives?
2. Do we feel like we're holding back from wholeheartedly commit our lives to God? Why?
3. How do we show faith in our lives?
4. What are some promises of God? How can we activate these in our life?
5. Read *Romans 10:8-17* and summarise key points.