

## How to Live by Faith (1 of 4)

### Why is Faith so important?

- Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to \_\_\_\_\_ God.
- Habakkuk 2:4 The just shall \_\_\_\_\_ by faith.
- John 3:18 Unbelief is the sin that sends people to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Hebrews 3:19 Unbelief is the sin that keeps Christians from \_\_\_\_\_.
- Matthew 13:58 Lack of faith \_\_\_\_\_ on God's miraculous work (Mark 6:5-6).
- Matthew 9:29 God is \_\_\_\_\_ in your life according to your faith.
- Colossians 2:6-7 The entire Christian life is \_\_\_\_\_ on faith.

### What is Faith? Hebrews 11:1 ***“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”***

- Ephesians 1:18 Faith is seeing things through our \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.
- John 14:19 Jesus also is talking about seeing with \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

### Examples of seeing with our spiritual eyes:

Have read a verse over and over again, then suddenly it just popped open to you, and you saw a new meaning to it? What happened? God opened your spiritual eyes!

The Bible gives us many accounts of where God opened people's spiritual eyes.

- Numbers 22:31 Balaam couldn't figure out what was holding back progress until God opened his eyes.
- Genesis 21:19 God opened Hagar's eyes, and she saw a well of water in the middle of the desert.
- Luke 24:31 These two disciples didn't recognize Jesus until God opened their eyes.
- 2 Kings 6:15-17 Look what Elisha prayed for his servant.

Faith is seeing through spiritual eyes what is not evident in the \_\_\_\_\_ world.

***“Can you see God? You haven't seen him? I've never seen the wind. I see the effects of the wind, but I've never seen the wind. There's a mystery to it.”***

Billy Graham

### What is one way God opens our spiritual eyes? Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.

- John 14:16-17 The Holy Spirit lives in us and leads into all \_\_\_\_\_.

Answers: please, live, hell, victory, misses out, working, based, spiritual, spiritual, physical, truth

## How to Live by Faith (2 of 4)

Faith is not believing God can do something (God can do it whether you believe it or not), nor is faith believing God will do it (that is hope), but faith is believing HE HAS ALREADY DONE IT!

### The Divine Principle of Faith

- Mark 11:24 The Bible clearly teaches that in order to receive something from God you must \_\_\_\_\_ that you have it and then you'll receive it. You must believe in advance. You believe, then you receive. This is what you did when you were saved, and this is the same way you live the Christian life (Colossians. 2:6).
- John 11:41 This was the very principle that Jesus used when He performed miracles. Jesus didn't beg God to raise Lazarus, neither did He ask Him. Instead, He thanked God in advance. The secret is not in continual asking, but asking with the right \_\_\_\_\_ (James 4:3). Then God promises to do it because of your faith.
- Isaiah 65:24 God is not constrained by time in the same way we are. God knows our needs before we put them into words. God tells us that he can even answer \_\_\_\_\_ we ask!

**Faith and Timing - Answers to our prayers may be delayed or inhibited for various reasons. We are called to persist.**

- Daniel 10:12-14 - Answers may be delayed by spiritual warfare.
- Romans 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who \_\_\_\_\_, to those who are the called according to His \_\_\_\_\_.
- James 5:16 Confess and repent of sin in hour life and claim the righteousness and forgiveness that comes from the blood of Jesus. The prayer of a \_\_\_\_\_ man is powerful and effective.
- 1 Peter 3:7 Focus on right relationships so that your prayers may not be \_\_\_\_\_.
- John 9:1-3 The blind man and his loved ones probably prayed adamantly and with faith that he would be healed for many years, but the timing of his healing was for God's \_\_\_\_\_ and to magnify Jesus.
- Matt 6:33 Get your \_\_\_\_\_ straight. Seek first the kingdom... .
- Luke 18:1-8 The widow \_\_\_\_\_ until she got an answer.

**The answer to prayer may be YES, NO, or WAIT. Sometimes God works on the 40-year timeline, or even longer!**

*persisted, priorities,*

*Answers: believe, motives, before, love God, purpose, righteous, hindered, glory,*

## *How to Live by Faith (3 of 4)*

### **Practical Application**

- **Fruit of the Spirit (Ephesians 2:10):** Don't beg God for the Fruit of the Spirit: Realize that the fruit is just a perfect picture of Jesus. Jesus is inside of you. Everything you need is in Jesus. Instead of asking for more love, joy, peace, etc., ask God to "open your eyes" to see what you already possess. When you thank God (in faith) for the fruit, you make yourself available for God to manifest them in your life!
- **Needs (Matthew 6:8):** God has things He wants to bless you with, so He puts a need in your life so you will ask Him for it and then He gives it. This is the way God works. The next time you have a need, realize that just means that God has something He wants to give you. The Bible says God knows what you need before you ask. Why? Because He put the need there, so you'd ask! Next time you have a need thank God for the provision and start acting as if you already have it. This is faith in action.
- **Salvation for the Lost (1 Timothy 2:3-4):** When praying for lost people, don't beg God to save them. He wants them saved more than you do! Faith is believing a thing is so, even when it isn't so, that it might be so.
- **Intercession (1 Timothy 2:1):** God calls us to thank God for people in prayer as we intercede for them. As you ask God to help them on their behalf (intercede), thank God for what He is doing in their life, already. "Lord, I want to thank you for what you are doing in Joe's life—how you are using him and maturing him, etc."—having faith and confidence that He is working for their good.
- **Daily problems (Numbers 13 and 14):** The Israelites had some concerns about entering the Promised Land, so they sent in 12 spies. Ten of the spies returned and said, "They're giants! We'll never be able to overtake them." They saw with their physical eyes. The other two spies saw with their spiritual eyes and they said, "They (the giants) are like bread. We can eat them up!" Now the only difference between the two reports was that they saw from different perspectives. When you start seeing your "Giants" (problems) from God's point of view, they will seem as bread, too. What do you do with bread? You thank God for it, eat it, and it strengthens you. We ought to take this same attitude toward our problems.

**But remember, the purpose of our faith is not "self help", it is for the advancement of God's agenda.**

## *How to Live by Faith (4 of 4)*

### **Hall of Faith (Hebrews 11)**

Recall how God used the attitudes and obedience of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets... and worked through them, even in their human weakness and imperfection.

### **In your prayer life:**

Do you know what God is doing in your life today? He's doing exactly what you are \_\_\_\_\_ Him to do!

Have you been praying for God to do something? When are you going to start \_\_\_\_\_ that He's already done it? If you wait until after He's done it—that's not faith! Believe Him for it right now!

Nothing is \_\_\_\_\_ with faith. "All things are possible to him that believes."  
(Mark 9:23)

### **Specific things to pray for:**

- Thank God for the fruit of the Spirit and ask for your eyes to be opened.
- Thank God for your needs, realizing that God has something to give you.
- Intercede for two lost people and believe that God is working in their lives that they may know Christ.
- Thank God for your problems. See them as He sees them.
- Thank God for what He is doing in the lives of three other believers in your life.