

Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!

How to increase your FAITH

Background:

Jesus Transfigured on the Mount with Peter, James, and John.

Then Elijah appeared to them with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus.

Peter panicked and said: It's good we are here, then we can build 3 tabernacles, one to you, one to Moses and one to Eliah.

The Father said from the sky: "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

After this they went down from the mountain, and Jesus said: Do not tell anybody of what you have seen till the Son of Man has risen from the dead.

Mark 9:14-27

14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them.

15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him.

16 And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them (The disciples)?"

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, **I brought You my son**, who has a mute spirit.

18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

19 He answered him and said, **“O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.”**

20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”

And he said, “From childhood.

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. **But if You can do anything**, have compassion on us and help us.”

23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, **“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”**

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, **saying to it**, “Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!”

26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, “He is dead.”

27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

Hebrews 11

The words: "Faith" you will find 33 times in Hebrew chapter 11

Hebrew 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists **and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the [b]evidence of things not seen.

Let us just stop here for a moment.

Faith is a substance. Faith is not something we can not touch or feel, because it is the substance of things hoped for.

It all starts with hope in God and that He will answer our prayers, and when our hope becomes mature, out of HOPE comes something called faith. That faith has the potential to create miracles, because it is connected to Jesus.

Later we will look at how Jesus did the miracles.

3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain,

5 By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death,

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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.

7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.

8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance.

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;

11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off

Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Does our faith increase from anything we hear from the pulpit in the church?

NO it does not!

If You don't listen to the word of faith, your faith will never increase.

Actually if I hear the wrong teaching my faith becomes wrong and it will decrease.

So what are you preaching?

- A message that will build up the faith of the people ... or
- A message that will decrease the faith?

Faith is one of our spiritual muscles.

If you want a muscle to be strong you need to exercise it regularly.

In the beginning when you start to exercise it can be difficult. yes even painful.

But after some time with exercise your muscles will be strong.

How do we exercise the muscle of faith?

Like natural muscles, we get stronger faith when we use them!

The Bible says that faith comes by the hearing of the Word of God, **faith words.**

You can not preach a negative message, for example about the old testament law, and expect a positive outcome.

We need to preach what we are in Christ, and what Christ is in us. This is the main teaching of the apostle of Paul.

Romans 10:5-9

5 Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." [a]

6 But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart/ mind, ‘Who will ascend/ go up into heaven?’”[b] (that is, to bring Christ down)

7 “or ‘Who will descend/ go down into the deep?’”[c] (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

8 But what does it say? “**The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,**”[d] 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.

Our heart/ mind and our mouth.

It all starts in our mind.

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:

It matters what I fill my mind with. It matters what I listen to. It matters what church I go to.

Because the Bible say in Romans 10:17

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Genesis 1:1 And God said, let there be and there was.

The spoken word affected matter.

God spoke before he created.

He spoke before there was action, words, words.

Hebrews 11:3

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were made of things that are not seen.

Before you can see anything you speak, you need to see it in your spirit!

By faith we understand God.

God spoke the world into existence. He didn't work for it. He spoke and his word was the creative power that made the world.

Speak the creative word/ Jesus

John 1: 1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was with God in the beginning.

3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome (or understood) it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

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9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

Sowing and harvesting