

FAITH

Introduction

Today I want to speak to you about faith! In the past I have preached messages in Malawi about Faith and all I told you is true. I will just add on to what I have said and develop the faith message further.

Now today I want to delve a little deeper in to Faith, and to give you a complete overview of faith!

This message is a condensed version of a nine part series I preached to my church early this year and I have added a few extra nuggets on Faith which I have discovered since then.

I will go right back to the beginning so that everyone here today will understand faith and start to operate in faith! My pray and desire it that you take this message and apply it to your lives!

Maybe at a later time I when I come again, I could do a whole series concentrating on each of these aspects but for this convention I will be brief so that we can get the complete pictures.

After this message is preached, I will be asking you a few questions and invite you to pray to God asking, Him to help you as you start walking in faith!

So are you ready!

Everyone has a measure of faith

There are a few foundational scriptures when anyone speaks on Faith but one of these foundations is found in **Romans 12:3**, which says that EVERYONE has been given a measure of faith!

So there is no one here today that can honestly say to me, pastor I have no faith because whether you believe it or not, God has LAREADY GIVEN YOU a measure of faith!

Now some of you might be wondering, why has God given, everyone a measure of faith? Is this not a waist of faith?

And my answer to your question is a resounding NO!!! God has given everyone a measure of faith so that no one in this world can every say I did not have the faith to believe in Jesus Christ!

You see every man, woman and child in this world was given enough faith to believe the message of Jesus Christ! That He died for you and the He wants to save you from your sins!

Many people choose to reject this and not believe the message of the Gospel and one day they will find out that God gave them enough faith to believe the Message of Christ's, birth death, resurrection and that Jesus Christ has paid for ALL your sins and that you must call on His Name, believe in Him and become saved!

Everyone has been given enough faith to believe the Gospel.

We need to operate in faith

The bible clearly says that when we do not operate in faith we do not please God!

Hebrews 11:6 *"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."*

When we come to God we can only believe in Him if we come in Faith and believe that He wants to reward those who come to Him in Faith!

If all we see when we think of God is a Big Man with a large stick waiting to hit us when we do something wrong, we have the wrong image of God!

God loves us so very much! He wants us to be free of our sin burden and become His children and to become Whom He ordained us to be!

For that we need the measure of Faith to believe that Jesus Christ died for ALL our sins and because He did this, if we come through the way He prepared, we can have forgiveness of our sins through faith in the finished work of the Cross!

How to get faith

Many people ask me, Pastor Martin how can I get more faith, how can I grow my faith and the simple answer is to put your faith into practice and to get as much spiritual input into your life as possible.

Putting your faith into practice

James 2:26 says, *"For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead."*

If your faith is not alive and working your faith is dead! From today you need to put your faith into action. It is easy to say I want to do it, I will put my faith in God and then never do it!

There is a price to pay for operating in faith! You will maybe need to do a few things which do not make sense to you or to other people so that your faith can start to grow.

I remember when I started to operate in this realm, it was giving of my tithe! If you are not prepared to put God first in everything and give Him everything, you are not ready to operate in faith!

Yes you will have some victory but there will always be things lacking!

I had to believe that I heard from God, I then had to take that belief and at the end of the month work out what 10% of my salary/income was! I had to go to the bank and withdraw that amount!

While I was doing all this I was operating in faith but I still had not committed myself completely to faith! I was not in complete faith until I actually put the money in to the offering basket. Only then did I apply my faith, only then was my faith real!

You see it is good to trust God to do wonderful things, but until you actually do them they are not faith! FAITH IS ACTION! And action is work!

Show me your works and I will tell you if you are operating in faith or not. Each one here knows where you stand with God and your faith! Is your faith strong or is it weak?

I can assure you that unless you are operating in faith and exercising your faith, your faith WILL die or is already dead.

You see that it is going to hail! Wow God I cannot lose my crop, I have too much invested in the ground! What do you do? You pray and exercise your faith, you go outside, you look at those hail clouds and you say to them, "In the Name of Jesus Christ, hail you will not fall on my fields! I chase this hail away from my, and my neighbour's fields and tell you to go and hail in Lake Malawi where you cannot hurt anyone"

I cannot tell you how many times I have asked God to chase hail away from my home and you know what, it has not hailed there! And you can apply this to anything big or small.

When I drive into work in the morning, I trust God for a nice parking in the garages and you know what at least 90% of the time I get a parking and the other 10% of the time I was just in too much of a hurry to hear His prompting and so I had to park somewhere else!

It works, you MUST exercise your faith daily! Start with small things, Lord I am late for work because I am late for my taxi and the next one is in 30 minutes time, please delay the taxi a little late so that I can be on time!

You know what, you get to the taxi rank and there is your taxi pulling into the rank! Wow Thank you Lord, and you get on boards

Getting Spiritual Input

Not only does faith rely on it being exercised but faith also needs Spiritual input,

Romans 10:17 tell us that *"Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."*

We need to hear the message! What message, what topic was your pastor preaching on last Sunday? Do you remember, well it is sure important for you to hear the message and that you act on the message you heard. Faith is ALWAYS a verb – it is action, you doing something!

Going to church does not make you any more of a Christian than sleeping in a garage makes you a car! The same way that going to church will not give you more faith, unless you allow the Word of God to change you.

Hebrews 4, say "The Word of God is sharper than any two edge sword", we need to allow the Word of God to wash us clean.

We need to allow the word of God to cut out all our sins, burdens and hurts. Allow the Word of God wash you clean!

Faith speaks

Many scriptures in the bible talk about us speaking! Speaking to the issues in our Lives! Speaking things into the Spiritual realm, so that they will manifest in our lives.

In **2 Corinthians 4:13** it says *"But since we have the same spirit of faith as that shown in what has been written, **"I believed; therefore I spoke," we also believe, therefore we also speak.**"*

If also says in **Matthew 17:20** "If you have faith like a mustard seed you will say..."

Romans 10:6 "The righteousness which is of faith says...."

We need to speak things into existence in our lives, we need to start saying good things about ourselves. We need to watch what we say and put a guard on our mouth so that we will only say what is good, profitable and in the Word of God.

The sad truth is that "Everyone here today is the sum total of the words you have spoken out of each of your mouth."

I do not know if it is the same here in Malawi as South Africa but every day I hear people proclaim sickness in their lives by saying "I am sick and tires of .." and then they are surprised when they get sick or when they are tired!

Another one is speaking poverty in their lives, "I need to find another job because I do not have enough money...", soon you will see them looking for another job and they never have enough money

We need to change our language! We need to start speaking the language of God in our lives. Speaking blessings over our children instead of speaking negatively about them.

We need to read God's Word and take hold of His promises to us! We need to take ownership of the promises, make them our own and start to speaking these promises back to God in FAITH!

Believing He is not a man that He should lie – **Numbers 23:19**

God is not a respecter of persons – **2 Samuel 14:14** – If He will do it for me, He will do it for you too.

When we come like that in faith - **He will always respond!**

Closing

So in closing this session about faith I have a few questions to ask! I want you to be honest and please do not worry what others are doing, this is between you and God!

I want everyone to bow their heads, no one looking around – this is a Holy time between you and God. Do not worry about anyone around you, it is you and God!

The first part of this message dealt with the measure of faith that God has given you, so that you would have enough faith to believe the message of Jesus Christ.

Today is your opportunity to use that measure of faith given to you by God for the express use of getting yourself Saved! Take your faith and believe the message of God!

If you are not right with God, you know that you are a sinner and you need to be released of this, of this sin burden.

If you want to exercise your measure of faith given by Almighty God and use it to ask Jesus Christ to become your Lord and Saviour! If you want to give your heart to Him right now and become his child.

You are saying Yes to God, Yes, Jesus Christ. I believe You are God's Son! I believe you died for ALL my sins and I want use my measure of faith to accept You as my Lord and Saviour.

It does not matter if you have done this many times before or if this is the first time, I want you to raise your hand!

Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, I repent of All my sins, past, present and future! Lord I am sorry for them, I confess them to you right now! I confess my sins and forsake them. I repent – turn away from them and choose to follow You. Please forgive me of ALL my sins.

I open the door of my heart and I ask You to come into my heart and to be my Lord and my Saviours. I close the door of my heart!

I believe I am saved!

I believe I am your child!

I believe that ALL my sins of forgiven

I believe You are the Son of God and the God raise You from the dead!!

Amen