



FAITH introduction

Introduction

Today I want to start to teach you about FAITH, I did talk about a little about faith in Chomolo in October 2013, but this is a recap so that everyone will have the same basis or foundation so that I can build upon this foundation and so after this weekend when you have left this outreach and returned home you, yes you can to start to apply these things in your life and so start to operating in faith in your life and circumstance.

What is faith?

So what is faith? Faith is putting your complete trust in a higher power than yourself. You give total control over to some higher force, so that that force will to assist you to achieve a specific goal, it is much like the chair you are sitting on.

You would eventually get tired if you continued to stand in one place for a long time, so the eldership got us some chairs so that we can sit upon them. But by sitting on a chair you are putting your complete trust in something other than yourself.

No longer are your muscle keeping you standing and up right but now you have allowed another force to keep you up, in this case a chair! And it keeps you from falling. Should one of the legs of the chair break however, you will fall because another law or force called gravity will cause you to fall.

The Bible says

So let's look at what the Bible says about faith. Please turn in your Bible to the book of Hebrews, which is in the New Testament, **Hebrews 11:1 (Amp)**, *"Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]."*

So faith is being sure, putting your whole or complete trust in something that is not seen, you are putting your trust, in a higher source. In this case God to accomplish what is impossible for you to do. The end of that scripture is "faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the sense".

So faith is above and beyond our six senses. What we can see, smell, hear, touch and feel.

The substance

Another translation says *"...Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen..."*

So faith is a substance! What is a substance? A substance is the makeup or composition of something, like a formula or receipt. Another word for this is contains. So as the substance bread, is made up of or contains, water, flour, baking powder, yeast and some salt. When all the ingredients are added together and baked according the recipe then you will have bread.

So according to this verse in **Hebrews 11:1**, the substance of faith, is made up of, the ingredients of faith or the receipt for faith is, things Hope and things not seen and perceiving as real fact those things you are hoping for.



So in order for faith to be faith and in order for faith to work, the basic elements, ingredients that you need are, it must be something not seen, it must be something hoped for and you must believe that those things will manifest as real fact.

The main ingredient is FAITH

If fact there is firstly a more important start to our faith than **Hebrews 11:1**, and that is to be born again and live in a relationship with God as His child. This relationship is the most important part of faith, before you have the substance of faith, you first have to have the Creator of the universe as your Father and the only way to have that relationship is to accept His Son, Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.

Are you understanding this? I really want you all to grasp faith today, I really want you to leave this place and know exactly what faith is and how to operate in it or as the Bible says, Walk in it.

So let's go little deeper into this concept.

The substance, the ingredient, the receipt, the formula or the essence, what the basic components that we know as faith is, first is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and becoming an heir with Jesus and making God your Father! Next is what **Hebrews 11:1** says, which are Hope, things not seen and believing those things as real fact.

How many of you in this room today are hoping for something? You are longing for a job, you are hoping your children will grow up and serve God, or whatever you are longing for or hoping for, whatever you might need you might have here today. Keep that thought, because with Faith all these / those things are possible!

Hope

So after being born again and a relationship with God, the first part of this formula or receipt that the Bible calls faith, is hope! What is Hope?

Hope is the trusting, the longing, and the desire to have something that you do not have at this moment – not in an illegal sense like our neighbours car, money or wife. My wife is my wife and you cannot have her because she is mine and I would have to die for you to have her!

The best rule of thumb for things that you are hoping for is, that if the thing you want belongs to someone else that is just greed and there is no faith in that. Yes you can hope for something like I have, but you cannot have what I have unless I give it to you!

Faith is you, yourself, trusting in a higher source, in this case God, to meet your desires, needs, longing and hope. This is something you do not have right now but which you are trusting / believing God to do for you or give you, not something someone else has but something you uniquely are trusting God for.

So another word for Hope is trust! It is like this – children trust their parents to provide for them, to provide their daily needs. They put their hope or trust in another source other than themselves or their abilities. In this case you and your wife as their source / their provider of most things they need.



If you told your son or your daughter, “I am going to buy you a bicycle for Christmas”, even though Christmas is a few months away, even though they cannot see the bicycle right now. They do not care whether you have the money or not, they believe your words that you will buy them a bicycle for Christmas, and they go out and will tell all their friends that they are going to get a bicycle for Christmas, even though they do not have the bicycle right now! What is that, that is faith, it is putting their trust in a higher source than themselves.

They are exercising their faith, because they have the ingredients of faith, things hoped for, a bicycle is something they are hoping, longing for and things not seen, the bicycle is not seen yet, lastly they are believing as real fact that you will do what you say! This is Faith in action and we need to model our faith on exactly this!

Just as your word was good enough for them, for your children to act in faith! And this faith was built out of a relationship and communication with you. If you always kept your word, your child will be absolutely confident in your ability to do what you promise or said!

This is very important to understand because you and I all have the Word of God, and God’s Word is a sure thing. It is ALWAYS good enough for us to take and apply our faith to. If His Word says it, and you apply it, it will always happen. It is as simple as that.

All you need to do is take the very Words of God and add your faith to it and act like your child does and believe that God will do it for you! Amen, start to tell everyone what God is going to do for you and start to act in a way that you WILL receive what you are trusting God for!

Putting your trust in a higher source

You and I need to learn to put our trust / our hope – or our FAITH, in another source other than ourselves. Something higher than man, something higher than pure chance or luck, something higher than my abilities or bank balance, something that never fails unless you allow it to fail!

Now understand this, we could put our trust in men but all too often men let us down. We cannot put our trust in luck or pure chance, because they too will fail you. We also cannot put our trust in ourselves or our abilities because to do that would mean we will get the same results we already have, we have to do something or try something else!

We cannot put our faith in things because things will break. **We can only put our trust, our confidence, and our hope in God and on His Word.** And these two are the anchors of our Christian walk, Faith and Hope in God.

Can you see it, God’s Word has everything you need, has everything you ever dreamed of, has the power to change and transform your life. But you must allow Him to do it in your own life. If you will only let Him do it, allow Him to change the way you think, allow Him to change the way you act, allow Him to change the way you see things, allow Him to change the way you get things in life, and the only vehicle for this to happen is FAITH! **Put your FAITH in GOD ALONE!!!**

Our problem is, that many of us do not have much time for the Word of God, we do not have time to spend with God in fellowship and then we expect God to show up and act in our lives, or we expect the faith to have miracles happen in our lives! This is totally crazy, just think of your parents, they did things for you not because you were clever, more beautiful than others or anything else but because you were their child! And God will do things for His children!



I must stress that your faith must be based on God Word and nothing else. It is the Word of God, the Word of God and more the Word of God, that we must allow to change, transforms us and our lives.

Be very careful when you ask God for things, because if Gods Word says you must do something, i.e. it is conditional, then first do what God requires before the promise will activate. Let's look at a famous verse in the New Testament, Matthew 6:33, *"³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

If you wanted all the blessings of Matthew 6:25-32, you must FIRST SEEK the Kingdom of God! So my question to you, if you are no seeking the Kingdom of God will you get the promise of all these things? The answer is no, you MUST first seek the Kingdom of God.

This often is the cause of people thinking or believing God does not want to bless them or want to act on His Word, when in fact we are not DOING what His Word says. When we become doers of the Word of God, then the blessing comes.

James 1:19-26, we are told not to merely listen to the Word of God, in other words do not hear the Word, read the Word or hear the Word of God without putting it in action by doing it. We must do what the Word says in every detail if we want to stand on the Word for God to do something / release His blessing!

Next, if the Word of God says that something is wrong then it is wrong no matter, what the world says, what the TV says, what your friends or your family says, no matter how good or wonderful it feels – IT IS STILL WRONG! If God says something is wrong then it is wrong no matter what anyone else says, God is always right! And we must change our ways to Gods ways!

We **MUST ALWAYS**, honour the Word of God and make it the final authority on all we do. When we hold the Word of God in high regard, higher than anything else in our lives, we will see God's Word WORKING in our lives.

The working of Faith

So this is how faith operates, we hope for something – I need healing and so I trust God to heal me. As I said before the first thing is to be born again. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour then go to someone who can help you accept Him as your personal Saviour! God will only work out of a relationship with His children just like your parents did things for you because you were their child.

Yes God is a good God and He does bless those who are not His children but His children are far more blessed than anyone else and that is the same rule here. God is a good God and He loves to / wants to bless His children, He knows how to give good gifts you need and want, He will give you the things you ask Him for in Faith.

Next go to the Word of God and see what His Word says about your situation. What does God's Word say about healing, here are two scriptures **Isaiah 53:4-5**, (amp) *"⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole. "*



Also in **1 Peter 2:24** it says the same thing, "By His stripes we are healed", not maybe healed but ARE healed, RIGHT NOW you are healed!

Psalm 103:3,(amp) *"Who forgives [every one of] all your iniquities, Who heals [each one of] all your diseases, "*

Now take these verses and start to pray these Words of God, and speak them from your mouth, confessing that in the Name of Jesus Christ you are healed and putting your complete trust in God, your higher authority to heal and restore you. That is how faith works in your and my life.

God only works miracles in our lives out of our relationship with Him and speaking His Word back to Him in faith to Him. God says in **Isaiah 55:11**, (amp) *"So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void [without producing any effect, useless], but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."* . That His Word will not return void / empty but will accomplish ALL that He sent it out to do.

Exercise you Faith

Faith is like a muscle and must be exercised daily to grow and change your life. Every day start to trust God for something, start small and soon you will see Him come through for you and your life will never be the same again!

James 2:26 says (amp), *"For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead."* . If you do not exercise your faith daily, it WILL DIE!

So start to exercise you faith every day! Little by little trust God to do more and more for you! No one ever started with massive faith, but just as a child must learn to crawl, then walk before he can run, so you must crawl, walk and eventually run in your faith. Start trusting God for something small, today! Amen!

Things not seen

The next part of the faith formula is that faith can only be faith if the object of our faith is not seen. What are you hoping for? What are you trusting God to do for you? What unseen thing do you need? The thing you are trusting God for, needs to be unseen, un-manifested or not in your possession, once it is seen or you own it, you do not need faith anymore for that thing.

For example, if you had a Car what is the point in being in faith for a Car that you already have? If you are totally healed why would you need more healing? Faith can only be faith then the thing you are trusting God for is UNSEEN!

People will think you are crazy if you stand in a line to get a plate of food from them and then with your full plate go back in the queue and when you come to the front, you ask to them, may I have a plate of food, please! They will chase you away, so why would we do that?

The same thing with your and my faith, faith can only be sparked when there is something that is needed that is not seen or partly seen. And this thing can be large or small, nothing is too big or too small for God. But we need to have something unseen which we are hoping for!

Once you have received something your faith has manifested and you need to move on to the next thing you are Trusting God for in faith walk! Faith is a daily activity, never ceasing but always growing. If you stop it will first diminish but eventually die. Remember faith without works is DEAD!



How does faith work practically with Sickness

Let me explain this practically with a situation many of us have or will face, so let's use sickness again as an example. You are sick and you are trusting, putting your faith in God to heal you. As long as you are sick, you are not healed but you remain in faith for your healing.

Here is the faith cycle:

1. You get Born again
2. You build a relationship with God and His Word.
3. You have a need of some form of healing in your life.
4. You see what God's Word says about healing.
5. You put your faith in a higher power, you put your faith in God and His Word to heal you!
6. You memorize the Word and pray the Word in your life and you speak that Word into your life through faith.
7. You use your mouth to speak this thing in your life as if you already have it. So you speak like you are already healed, no more telling people, confessing how bad you feel and how sick you are, but rather declaring your healing – Jesus Christ never healed anyone who did not have the faith to be healed, you go to the Gospels and look, wherever there was a healing there was first faith!
8. You believe that God will heal you and that HE is your only source of your healing.
9. You keep trust God to heal you.
10. You keep staying in the faith cycle until your healing manifests.

This process will go on and on, remember even if you do not feel healed, even if you still have the pain and are suffering, remember faith has two parts, the hope and the evidence of things not seen. You are healed in the spiritual realm but presently you cannot see it but in and through faith and time, that spiritual realm WILL manifest your healing.

Believe it is a fact that God will do what His Word says!

Firstly this is not part of **Hebrews 11:1**, but is only in the Amplified Bible as a note but is so relevant to our faith walk! So this is not the Word of God but something a man wrote into this text to explain the text better.

Having said this it make sense if you are hoping for something, something not seen and do not believe it is real or will be real what is the point of being in faith?

So we need to put our trust in God's Word, what His Word says and because this is God, the creator of the universe speaking, we must believe that these things we are hoping for are real and WILL manifest in time, providing we do not stop hoping, being in faith for it.

I have a wonderful father, he worked hard and loved his family but he was unsaved. My mother trusted God for over twenty years for my father to be saved but he never had any desire to be saved. During that time he gave her a hard time whenever she wanted to go to church. I remember as a little boy that my dad would park outside the church and start to hoot when the service was longer than an hour, and we would quickly leave church to go home!

But she believed in the Word of God which says that God did not want anyone to perish and that hell was made for the devil and his angels and so she prayed for him every day putting her trust not on what she saw but on God's Word and His promise to her.

In 1992 my dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer and was given a few weeks to live. We all prayed for him to be saved and you know what? About four weeks before he died, he got saved and went to church with her for three Sundays and died a saint and is now in heaven because of my mother's faith, prayers and putting her trust in the



Word of God. And as a bonus, God brought in her whole family to give their hearts to God too!

So not only must we hope for things, not only must it be unseen, but we must believe that those things are a real fact according to God's Word, find the scriptures and stand on them!

So the final step of your faith process is that you believe that those things you are trusting God for will happen. We must never forget, God is God, He is not a God who is distant and uninterested in our lives, He is very concerned about you and the things that you might need in your life.

Remember God is able to do anything He wants, and if He says ask Him for anything, then He means anything. Fear or unbelief are the opposite of faith and cause God to not act.

When we take the Word of God and act on it in faith, God will always act. As long as we do what the Word says. Often we want the benefits but are not prepared to pay the price. God wants you to put your faith in Him so that you believe His Word and not what you are seeing with your natural eyes.

Even a doctor can only treat your symptoms. When you go to the doctor he always will ask you what is wrong and treat the symptoms. Once he knows what is wrong and what the symptoms are, then he can make a diagnosis based on the symptoms. I apologise to any doctors here, but the fact is that doctors can only treat symptoms!

Did you know the symptoms are not real facts? They are only the signs that you could have a certain condition. The real fact is what God's Word says, and His Word says that He heals us of all our sicknesses and diseases, by His stripes we ARE healed, not maybe healed! We ARE healed.

Yes, you can feel the symptoms, yes you see the symptoms in your body, yes you are sick, yes you do not feel well but those are the symptoms of the sickness but these are not the FACTS!!!!

The facts are that, By His stripes you are healed, you are healed in the Name of Jesus and by His precious blood! My Bible says at the Name of Jesus Christ, ALL demons have to flee! My Bible says that "by His stripes I am healed", present tense!

So not only must faith consist of things hoped for, things not seen, but faith must also have a belief that those things spoken of in His Word WILL happen or will manifest in your life!!! Yes in your life! And Let the WORD OF GOD, COME OUT OF YOUR MOUTH!

Explain Gods timing

Lastly before I close this first part of my lessons in FAITH, I need to explain two things, God's timing and the difference between our needs and our greed.

Timing

Sometimes God acts quickly but at other times it seems he takes forever. But God always acts the moment you speak the things. The proof of this is Daniel. In **Daniel 10**, Daniel had been praying for God to reveal a dream he had, had but after three weeks he only got the answer.

If you look at **Daniel 10:12**, you will see that God spoke the answer on the FIRST DAY that Daniel prayed and dispatched the angel to Daniel with the answer to his prayer. On the way to



Daniel the angel with Daniels answer was delayed by demonic powers! Who the angel had to fight with and overpower before coming to Daniel! How many of your prays have you stopped praying because you believed God did not hear you and were hindered Satan but you gave up and lost your blessing!

God's timing is NEVER man's timing because God lives in the present ALL THE TIME. He is never I was but always I AM!

When you asked for your healing you were healed that instant, you were healed already and God spoke you free and He spoke your healing the day you asked for it but as we can see from many passages in the Bible, there are different demonic spirits and princes that war / fight with the angels bringing the fulfilment of our request to us. And these things can delay our manifestation of our faith, but if you continue to believe God and trust Him, you miracle, the object of your faith will manifest,

Show example of how the Angels works

Basically I am going to use three people to demonstrate this concept. This guy is the person pray for something in Faith to God, kneel there and pretend to pray. Next this man represents God the Father in Heaven and this person the angel who God will dispatch with the message / answer from God!

To the person praying: So start to pray for a wife.

God to the Angel: Here take the answer to his prayer. The angel start to walk slowly towards the man praying.

To the person praying: Okay now you start to doubt, did God say in His Word that I can ask for a wife?

The Angel: Now step backwards as long as you're hear the person being negative or in unbelief!

Now the person starts to trust God again and the Angel walks towards them with the answer to their prayer. Do this a few times with faith and doubt until the person is right by the person about to give them their answer and one last time they start to doubt.

Then say, "You see, even if the angel is right next to you about to give you the answer to your prayer / faith, and you start to have doubt and unbelief the Angel takes a step back."

You see where you fit in this example? When you are trusting God for something, NEVER be negative, get impatient, start moaning, groaning or complaining that God is not bringing the thing you are trusting Him for. NO, rather just stay in trust and believe God is a good God and that He will do exactly what His Word says and pray your request through!

Needs and greed's

God has promised in His Word, in many places but especially in **Matthew 6:25-34** and **Philippians 4:19** *"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."*

He will supply all our needs according to His riches in Glory not our greed's, so get serious with God and then act in faith. God is always good God but our attitude and heart must be made right in order to receive our miracle.

Let me explain it like this, who in this room today would like to have a Car? Who in this room can afford to pay the insurance for a Car? Who can afford the fuel for this Car?

Now let's say you had a Car and you had a 5 year old son, would you allow him to drive the Car around town? No, why not? He has hands, a brain and everything you have to drive the car, why can you not allow him to drive?

It is not because you do not love your son or daughter that you do not let them drive the car. The main reason is that he/she does not have the experience to drive a car, let alone a fast car and secondly they are too young and not strong enough to hold the steering.



It is the same with God. If you know that it is not right to give your 5 year son a Car for Christmas because he could hurt himself, because you love him. How must more do you think God loves you and wants only the best in your life?

Now do you understand why there are things God will give you and some that you are not ready to receive right now? God did not say, never, or no, He just said not NOW!

What does it help God gives you a car and you cannot even drive? What does it help if you have the latest car but no money for the fuel or insurance?

You see our God knows how to give good gifts to His children and if He gave you something you could not afford or even drive, or would hurt you, He would be punishing you and causing more harm than good.

So God is always good and Sovereign, we might not understand now why He says no but one day we will and it is never to punish you and make you pay for something you did wrong! No, God loves you too much to allow you to hurt yourself or put you in a situation where you cannot use the thing He gave you!

God knows exactly what you need, when you need it and if you are ready for it. It is not to say God does not want to bless you but maybe He knows that the timing, His timing is not right, right now. Just accept it and move on, one day it will come, just be patient and trust Him!

So be patient and when He comes through for you THANK HIM and acknowledge Him! And tell everyone!

Conclusion

Now today I want to make this personal so if you want God to help you in your faith walk. Let's close our eyes!

1. Firstly there might be people here who do not know Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour and you want to commit your life to God. You want to take the first step to living a life of faith. I want you to put your hand up!
Next there might be people here who once did give their hearts to God but they fell along the way side and today you are not sure if you are going to heaven or not. I want you to raise your hand too.

Now I want you to stand so that I can pray with you to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour!

2. Next, if you listened to this message today, and you want to start living by faith and you are prepared to trust Him, if you are committed to read His Word about your situation, Pray His Word for your situation and wait for His timing until the thing you are trusting God to do for you is manifested!

You want to live by faith from today. I want you to stand on His Word and you are committed to living by faith. This is something personal, I do not want anyone looking around, this is something between you and God.

Please will you stand so that we can pray together?