



## FAITH – The origins, growth and accumulation

### Introduction

In my last message I introduced you to Faith and what the ingredients are for faith? Who can tell me what the three basic things are that faith is made up of! <sup>1</sup> Hope, <sup>2</sup> things not seen, and <sup>3</sup> being assure though God's Word, that those things will happen!

So in this session I am going to continue to build on the topic of FAITH. I really want you to have the whole picture or a good prospective of FAITH, so due to time, I have put three sermons on Faith into one sermon and we are going to look at the following areas:

- Where the faith you have, came from? And what it is for?
- Why faith is so important?
- How you can get more faith?

### Where the faith you have comes from

So let's look at what the Bible says about faith. Please turn in your Bible to the book of Romans, which is in the New Testament, **Romans 12:3-5**, *<sup>3</sup> For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.** <sup>4</sup> For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,*

Did you see that? Did anyone see why we have the faith we have? Look at the end of verse 3 again; **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith!**

That each one, does that mean everyone has received a measure of Faith from God? Yes, since the beginning of time every human ever born was given a measure of faith. Everyone has received a piece, an amount of faith – but I want you to see it, a measure for you, a measure for you, and a measure for you too.

Everyone in this church today and in fact everyone in the entire universe who has ever lived, has received a measure of faith. Exactly the same faith, and enough for you to believe that God is the supreme ruler of the universe and made everything and enough to believe and respond to the Message of the Cross and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and enough to receive your healing.

What is that measure of faith for?

That measure of faith is so that no person can ever say to God, I never had enough faith to believe in You, I never had enough faith to accept Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. I never had faith that God could heal me.

No one can ever say that, because God has installed into each and every one of us at birth, a portion, a piece, a measure of faith which is enough to believe God is who He says He is, enough for your healing and enough for you to believe the Word of God and accept Jesus Christ as your own Lord and Saviour!

No one will ever have an excuse! And no one will ever be able to say I did not have the faith or enough faith to believe because at birth each person received this measure of faith, enough to believe the Message and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and enough to receive your



healing!.

So even if you are a total heathen sitting in this church, for the very first time in your life. Even if you are a witch doctor, an atheist, or whatever religion you are, God – the God of the universe put enough faith within you at birth, for you to believe the Word of God and respond to the message of the Cross by accepting Jesus Christ as your own Personal Saviour!

### **Praise God, God is so Good**

So no one has, or will even have an excuse for not accepting Jesus Christ as his or her personal Saviour. Everyone has that measure of faith, and because of that measure of Faith, everyone that has ever lived, has an equal opportunity to accept and receive Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. Some might need more faith and some less depending on your circumstances but for every single person that measure is enough to Salvation and healing!

So I have news for everyone here today and throughout Malawi, Africa and the world! You, yes you have that measure of FAITH, built into the very fibres of your being, today in your life! From the worst sinner to the best saint, everyone has that measure of faith built into their very being.

Yes you, you have enough faith to believe in Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour and you have enough faith to receive your healing!

### **Why is Faith so important?**

The next question is why is faith so important?

There are many reasons why faith is important. Faith is the life blood of a Christian, faith is the very fire in your blood as a Christian. All you do as a Christian can only be based on faith. When you were born again, you prayer the sinners prayer and in faith you believed that you were born again.

According to the Bible in **2 Corinthians 5:7** it says, *“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”*

So as a Christian we are expected to live the life of FAITH and walk in FAITH daily.

Our whole Christian walk is a walk of faith every day. Everything you reading in the Bible must be received by faith and applied in your life in faith. When you pray to God, you have to have faith that He exists, that He hears you and that He will help you in your situation.

When you confess your sins you have to have faith that God will hear your confession and that God who hears you, will forgive you and cleans you of ALL your sins, according to His Word, anyone know where that verse is? **1 John 1:9**

But the most important reason why faith is so important because without it, WE CANNOT PLEASE GOD, and without it we will receive nothing from God!

So let's look at what the Bible says about faith. Please turn in your Bible to the book of Romans, which is in the New Testament, **Hebrews 11:6**, *“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.”*



So if you do not have faith, it is impossible to please God! Shew, can you imagine – in order to please God we must have faith, so when we come to God, we MUST come in faith EVERYTIME!

And listen to this, when we come to God, not only must we come in faith, but we must believe that He is. What is that? That He, God is GOD! He is the King of all kings, the Lord of lords, the God of all gods, He, God is supreme in everything and to everything, and He is well and truly GOD!

And next not only must we come in FAITH, and believe that God is the supreme God but also that He, God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him! I do not know if you know this, but God rewards those who diligently seek Him, that is every day you seek Him, when it is convenient or not! Are you seeking God? Are you really making an effort to spend quality time with Him? Do you really, really believe He is God and not just another god?

Let's stop there for a moment, let me ask you a few questions. Please do not feel afraid to answer honestly, I do not want to embarrass anyone here. So here are my questions:

- How many people here today believe that God wants to bless you?
- How many here believe that God wants to reward you?
- Okay now raise your hand those who have been blessed by God and been rewarded by God? Amen!

You see often when we have our quiet time, the time we spend with God, we tend to rush things and do not go to God in faith believe that He is God and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him!

Diligence means you seek Him every day, whether it is convenient or not, it is a consistent, every day activity that you do not miss.

When you do this, God will reward or bless you. So what is the blessing of God? I have always said and I still say, that the blessing of God can be seen and I will show you why.

Turn in your Bible to the Old Testament to the book of Proverbs. **Proverbs 10:22** says "*The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it.*". When God bless you, people will see it, people will notice there is something different about you!

You want to see the blessing of God, the blessing of God make one rich and there are no sorrows to those riches.

There are many men and women who are rich today but when God makes one rich there are no sorrows with it. How many people in Hollywood and other places are very rich so rich that they maybe do not need God, their needs are met financially in every area. But in all this abundance they are poverty stricken in their lives, they are full of sorrows, heartaches and worries? What does it help that you are wealthy beyond measure but you are too tired or too busy to use it, or you are alone and have no one to share it with, or you are too sick to use it?

What will riches help you with then? Yes you might never have to worry about buying things or food but life it not a mater about eating and drinking, because life is all about God and His Son and the price He paid for your and my sin. Money can ever buy anyone forgiveness of their sins!



God's riches on the other hand are a blessing to the people He gives it to. That blessing is that a person is rich enough to have no worries or cares over their daily needs. We often associate riches with money but Godly riches are not only defined by money but prosperity, wealth, health, joy and peace, the things that money cannot buy!

So if you want God to reward you, and by reward we are not only talking about money, but also all the things money cannot buy! You start to seek Him daily in faith, you need to come to Him in FAITH and believe that He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him!

Start to build a relationship with Him

Start believing He is in control of the whole universe.

Start to put Him first in all you do and have.

Start to make His Word have priority in your life

Start to memorize it and speak it in faith into your situation.

Start to live by and through His Word

Do not worry about money and things, that take your focus of God but start to live for HIS Kingdom and you will see Him add all the other things too, if you do not believe me check what **Matthew 6:24-34** says! Verse 33 says, *"...But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness and ALL these things will be added unto you..."*

Look at Solomon, God comes to him in a dream in **1 Kings 3:1-15**, and offers to give Solomon anything he wants. Solomon chooses the wisdom to lead the children of Israel – He is seeking the Kingdom or the heart of God, and because he does this, in **verse 13**, God gives Solomon the other things he did not ask for, wealth, wisdom, peace, honour, long life etc.

Seek God, not the things you can get from God and you will see amazing results. We need to get our focus of what we can get from God on to what we can do to build our relationship with Him and in faith seek God knowing that He will take care of all our needs, every need that we might have, God will provide.

### How you can get more faith?

So we have looked at:

- What faith we already have? That is the measure of faith God gives to every person ever born so that they can be born again and healed.
- Secondly we saw why faith is so important because as a Christian we need to live by faith and that without faith it is impossible to please God. We also saw that God rewards those who diligently seek Him

Now we will look at the last part of the message, how can we get more faith?

So if we each have a measure of faith, how do we get more faith and how do we get our measure of Faith or our Faith to grow?

The first thing about faith is exercising it. As I said before faith is a muscle and a muscle must be exercised DAILY, in order for it to grow. The Bible says in **James 2:20<sup>b</sup>** that *"that faith without works is dead?"*

So if you do not exercise your faith every day, it will grow weaker and weaker, and eventually it will DIE! Faith without works, Faith without action, dies. So we need to daily start to exercise our



faith, which is paramount to us growing our Faith. If you want more faith, ask for it and exercise it and it will grow. Remember no one woke up one day a faith warrior, but they exercised it little but little every day and soon they grew stronger and stronger in their faith and today they have this incredible, super natural faith.

Now let's turn in our Bible to the New Testament to the book of Romans, **Romans 10:17** to see what else makes our faith grow. *"17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."*

So each person hearing my words today is already growing in your faith, because faith comes from HEARING, you are listening and hearing my message and faith is growing, rising up on the inside of you.

In other words anytime you hear the Spoken Word of God, and respond to it, in other words apply it in your life, your faith is built up.

So that means, when you are watching Christian Television, listening to Christian radio, listening to Christian CD's, DVD's, cassette tapes, listening to a pastor preach and the Word of God is spoken and dissected, your hearing of the shared Word of God will cause faith to grow and rise up in you. AMEN!

How many people here, read their Bibles every day? Do you read it quietly or aloud? Did you know that if you read the Word of God aloud it will cause your faith to rise up just as the spoken Word in various media will do it, in fact even a Christian book read aloud will accomplish the same thing.

Anytime you hear the pure Word of God, you hear a message on the pure Word of God – your and my faith will rise up and your faith will grow!

So if you ask me pastor, how can I get my faith to grow, I will say to you, Ready your Bible aloud, pray aloud, listen to Godly messages as much as possible aloud and exercise your faith every day.

Why? Because when you read the Word of God alone, you are using your five senses, you SEE the Word of God, you HEAR the Word of God, you TOUCH the Word of God, you SMELL the Word of God and you TASTE the Word of God (taste and see that the Lord is good).

So because all your five senses are activated when you Read it loud, it changes your life, your views in God views, your ideas into God's ideas, your will into God's will and soon your will be transformed by the renewing of your mind (**Romans 12:1-3**) and you put yourself in a position to receive through FAITH what God has install for you!

Start to trust God in the little things and believe Him to do the things you cannot and when they start to happen, your faith will grow and grow.

God is practical so ask God for it to rain here in Malawi and when it does rain, your faith will grow because you asked God for the rain and it rained. Ask God for your practical things in life and when He meets your needs and answers your prayers your faith will grow!

Lastly I just want to encourage you to get / make a faith journal. A Faith journal is just a normal book where you write the things you are trusting God for. A Faith Journal has three columns, a



small column for the date your started trusting God for the thing, a large column that describes what you are asking God for and write down all the scriptures you are relying on for this, and the last column for the date God answers your prayer and what the circumstances were!

### **Let's pray**

Anyone here today who wants God to help them to grow their faith, and you are willing to go the extra mile to believe and trust God to do the impossible in your life through FAITH in HIM.

Please stand, if you want God to build and increase your faith. Stand! You want faith to rise up in you, please stand and we will pray for you!

Let's pray!