



FAITH in Action

Good morning church, I want to welcome you to our service today. If this is your first time joining us here on Sunday Online, we would like to welcome, you to our service today and invite you to join us every Sunday for a weekly message.

Let us pray

Introduction

Today I want to continue our short series on FAITH. Two weeks ago I spoke about “What faith is”, last week we spoke on “How to increase your FAITH” and today I want to talk about FAITH in Action, how to live out your Biblical FAITH daily.

The difference between Biblical FAITH and faith

To start my message of FAITH today, we need to realise that there are two kinds of faith operating in our life,

- Biblical FAITH
- Natural faith

Biblical FAITH

Biblical FAITH – which is based on a belief in GOD, His existence and His Word and His ability to do what His Word says. **Hebrews 11:1** Says that this FAITH is based on things HOPE for and Things not seen, this has been the kind of FAITH I have been teaching on these past two weeks.

Biblical FAITH is always FAITH in Who God is, FAITH in God’s ability to do more than we ask for and FAITH in His Word.

If the Bible says it, I believe it with FAITH in God and His Word and His ability to do what His Word says and thereby we are rewarded by GOD for this kind of FAITH in Him and His Word – **Hebrews 11:6**, *“**And without faith it is impossible to please God** (Note it is NOT POSSIBLE to please God without Biblical FAITH, FAITH in Him and His Word), **because anyone who comes to Him must believe** (have Biblical FAITH) **that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.**”*

Biblical FAITH is often called SUPERNATURAL FAITH! Why? Because supernatural FAITH is a FAITH that is above the natural realm of what we can see, hear, smell, taste or touch because it is SUPER, superior/above/better than Natural faith because where supernatural FAITH resides is in the realm of Almighty GOD where EVERYTHING is possible for those who believe/have FAITH.

Jesus said to that man who brought his son for healing to Jesus, If you can heal him, please heal him and Jesus replied **Mark 9:23** *“**“If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”***

Believes in WHAT? Believes/has FAITH in God and his ability to do anything! Biblical FAITH is based on the belief that GOD can and will do anything and He will honour His Word because, *“... **God is NOT a MAN that He should lie...**”* **Numbers 23:19**, in fact, it is impossible for God not to tell the truth!



Biblical FAITH says **ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE THROUGH GOD!**

Natural faith

Natural faith – which is based on natural laws. Our natural surroundings and our senses which are built into us through repetition or experience and taught to us through our parents and peers.

Natural faith is based on our SENSES, If I cannot see it, if I cannot touch it, if I cannot smell it, if I cannot hear it and if I cannot think/imagine that it is possible, then it cannot be because things like this just do not happen out of nothing and do not happen to me!

Basically, Natural faith says, **Seeing is believing!** If I cannot see it, I will not believe it, but when I see it, I will believe!

Natural faith is also based on our physical world and the physical laws of this world. It is a fact that no man can step off the edge of a building and fly because of the law of gravity, you cannot get money unless you earn it, inherit it, get a gift from a friend as a gift or loan, win the lotto, or do something illegal to get it.

And Natural faith is based on experience, do not touch the hot stove as it will burn you because it is hot, maybe someday you did not believe your parents and touched the hot stove and found out they were right and your subconsciously determined never to touch a hot stove again – that is experiential faith and is often not Biblical because people could say you will not achieve much in life, but God Word says you can and so the question today is who will you believe?

And lastly, Natural faith is based on what others have said to you? You are rubbish, you will never make it! You are stupid etcetera and we believed it and now we act out what they have said over us!

Enough! Take hold of everything people have said to limit you in your belief and your abilities and whatever other nonsense they have said, lay it at the feet of Jesus and stand up as that new man in Jesus Christ and achieve the impossible.

Maybe you do not know this about me but I really could not read well in high school and when I did read people laughed at me because I was reading very badly, I used to dread reading in class, alone I read just fine but when I read aloud it was a mixture of terrible mistakes.

Thank God for a very good friend who got me interested in reading by bringing me books about the things I had a passion for and a teacher who realised that I was reading so fast with my eyes that my mind/speech could not catch up and so she helped me slow down and today I read perfectly and I really read a lot in my line of work and I can really read fast!

Now, imagine if I was left with those thoughts of laughter and scoffing when I read, would I be confident to read aloud to people as a pastor to even speak before people? No, I would not but through the GRACE of God, that He sent people along my path to help me and change my perception of myself!

Effect of not using Biblical FAITH

We all have belief systems active in our life right now that are based on Natural faith, I cannot understand mathematics and it is difficult – no it is not difficult you were just taught wrong!

I cannot read aloud, I am illiterate, no, maybe, like me, you just need to slow down a little.



But when these thoughts and ideas are repeated over and over so that you believe them, and many of us are still caught up with beliefs today because of what others have said about you and the labels they have placed on you!

Sadly mostly they are lies and not what God says about you in His Word.

Still, we choose to believe them because we do not read the Word of God and because we do not claim what we see God says about us in His Word, we do not claim it for ourselves, we do not get/have the benefits associated with Biblical FAITH.

As we saw last week in **James 2:17** says *"¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

So, Biblical FAITH without any corresponding action, not putting your FAITH in God and His Word and believing that God is able to do exactly and even more than what His Word says!

This not putting your FAITH into action, your Biblical FAITH is dead, or useless or dormant, not active or being used!

If we do not use our Biblical FAITH in our daily life, if it is not active, it has no benefit to us, so, we need to start learning to walk daily in biblical FAITH.

That is the reason why when people experience difficult situations, they do not turn to God immediately or call out to God or they offer up prayers that they are not even sure God will hear let alone respond to.

This is really sad but when you know God when you know God is real when you know God through His Word and you know that He is concerned with you and your family, and He wants the best for you. When trials come, you can run to Him for a place of refuge, calling out to Him in FAITH, knowing the He will help – see the difference.

Just after I recovered from COVID-19, God asked/called me to pray for people who were sick with COVID-19, why? He had called many people to pray for others but I chose to believe Him because his Word says that He heals people and so I started praying for people.

Why could those people not pray for themselves? I am now generalising, but their FAITH was weak due to either illness, they were too weak to pray, they needed to hear the prayer of FAITH to re-energise them but sadly many people did not pray for themselves.

It was NEVER any of my prayers that healed them! It was ONLY by FAITH in God and His Word and His ability to heal them and HE DID! Praise God!

2 Corinthians 5:5 says *"...we walk by FAITH and not by sight..."* which implies that there are two ways to walk in FAITH, either by Biblical FAITH or Natural faith based on our senses/perceptions.

[Biblical FAITH is superior to Natural faith](#)

Faith always believes in something, whether, in yourself or in a power other than yourself



We all walk in natural faith every day, but it is not Biblical FAITH, FAITH in God and His Word!

Let me explain, you get up in the morning, to go in faith to your work, you believe that your office is still open and there is power and that you have a job, and that your company will pay you at the end of the month.

Now you might say that is normal, but you are exercising faith in something, in this case, your company and its ability to pay you.

Then you get up, exercising your faith in the municipality ability to give you power and water to shower, Electricity to heat the water and make breakfast and coffee. Then you go to your car and turn the key and your car starts and you drive off to work, you stop at a red light and you drive through green ones. You have faith that the other drivers know their road signs.

All this has required a lot of faith, I never saw you check the water or test the electricity. You never check if your car has enough fuel, you did not check the oil and water and tire pressure, but you just go into your car, and it started. You never slowed down a green light but did stop at red ones.

All this took faith in the municipality, your car, your abilities and the traffic sense and abilities of other road users but this is NOT Biblical FAITH, and it is this Biblical FAITH that we need to exercise every single day to keep it from being dead or dormant, not using FAITH in our life.

How do I exercise Biblical FAITH?

The question would then be, Pastor, how do I exercise Biblical FAITH?

The first step in Biblical FAITH is believing that God is GOD (**Hebrews 11:6**) and He is both willing and able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ever ask or hope for.

Pauls says this in **Ephesians 3:20-21** ²⁰ *Now to Him (God) who is able to do immeasurably more (much more) than all we ask or imagine, according to His power (God's Omnipotent power – He is all-powerful) that is at work within us (God's power is at work in us, what is this power? – FAITH and belief in the Power of Salvation to reconcile myself and all of mankind to Himself (2 Corinthians 5:15-21)),* ²¹ *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

And secondly then by applying/doing what **Romans 12:1-2** says ¹ *Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy (God forgiving you of your SIN through Jesus Christ), to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice (Why living sacrifice because you have the choice to remain on the altar of sacrifice or get off, a dead sacrifice has no choice), holy (set apart by God for a specific purpose) and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.* ² *Do not conform to the pattern of this world (Change the way you think into the way*



God thinks), *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.* (by washing yourself in the Word of God and applying the Word of God in FAITH in your life) *Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."*

The simple answer is by coming to GOD and really believing He is God, and that He rewards our FAITH and by reading the Word of God and allowing it to change our life.

By doing what the Word says and applying this Word in your life through in FAITH in God.

In other words, taking a corresponding action to what you are reading in the Word of God and not only doing what the Word says and believing that this Word is for you and this Word is true and acting on it in FAITH and doing what it says.

For example, **Romans 8:1-2** *"¹Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ²because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death"*

The verse says that you are not condemned because through Jesus Christ you have been set free from sin.

This will never mean a thing to you as long as you do not apply your FAITH to these facts in the Word of God that it is fact, and you actually believe that through Jesus you are sinless and not condemned!

Why? Because this Word says so and I choose to put my FAITH in the Word and believe God's Word rather than how I feel, what I see or even what I might believe, I choose in FAITH to change what I think into what God's Word says and it says if I believe that through Jesus I am set free from the law of sin and death, therefore I am not condemned and I am set free from all sin.

Praise God and Thank you Jesus Christ that I am free and thank you Holy Spirit for revealing it to me!

Life Happens

The reason why you need to have an active, living FAITH is that life happens, and when we get into situations that are beyond what we cannot do and natural or a dead faith is useless.

We need to have a source of FAITH that is higher or better than just the normal faith we exercise every day, we need a FAITH in a higher authority, something beyond ourselves and our world that is willing and able to rescue us from situation and praise God we have a God who cares!

In the Natural faith realm, what do we do when the things we trust in cannot help us anymore or we have reached a limit in life of the thing we have put our FAITH in and cannot help us anymore?

People put their FAITH in many things some of which I will briefly discuss.

Medicine

Many of us trust in medicine to help us with our health and that is good.



When we feel ill, we can go to a doctor, and they do help with healing but sadly there is a limit to what medicine can or can't do. Medicine can only treat symptoms and cure you of the symptoms you are experiencing.

What happens if you get a bad report from your doctor, and he says that they have reached the limit to what medicine can offer? What happens when you have an incurable disease that medicine cannot help you with?

What do you do then when there is no cure?

Money

Many of us trust in money, and that might be a good thing but what happens when the money runs out.

What happens if you lose that great job, you had or are retrenched or what happens if you have a financial crisis, and the bank does not want to lend you any money!

What happens when the money runs out and nobody wants to help you?

Fame

Many people trust in fame or their standing in the community but what happens when that fame or your standing diminishes, and you are not as important as you once were?

No matter what you are trusting in, money, fame, medicine, your abilities, your family and friends, whatever you are trusting in, when it is shaken and there is lack or loss what do you do then when it cannot satisfy and help you anymore?

That is when you need a higher authority, someone who is outside your situation who is powerful enough, rich enough, and able and willing to help you in any area in your times of need!

The only person I know who is both willing and able to help anyone who will come to Him in FAITH and ask Him for help is God. Only God can answer all of life's questions, only He is able to help/reward those who firstly believe that He is actually God, secondly that they come in a Biblical FAITH based on God and His Word and His willingness and ability to help us in any time of trouble.

God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are there to help us in every situation we face, BUT we must come in FAITH, understand that they are GOD, and they want to help you.

Conclusion

In summary, there are two kinds of faith we operate in, Natural faith and Biblical FAITH, both are active, but we need to make a choice where we will place our faith.

Natural faith was created to save us from harm but Biblical FAITH is screaming out, you can do it because of such and such, you do not have enough money, you do not have the education, you do not have the abilities



Let's pray