

UNDERSTANDING FAITH

PETER TAN

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1. DEFINITION OF FAITH

Heb. 11:1-3 Now faith is the assurance (some bible translate it as substance) of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear. Heb. 11:1 is the only definition of faith that the bible gives. The bible does talk a lot about faith but it's the only definition that explains what faith is. You can not develop your faith unless you understand the concept of faith and what it actually covers.

Some of the English translations define faith as the substance. The word substance is actually not a noun in the Greek New Testament. The word substance in the Greek is *hupostasis*, which is actually a participle. A participle describes a position or a state of being. And here it describes faith not just as a substance. It is describing faith as a state of being. There are certain things that require the exercise of faith in our lives. In fact the New Testament in Greek translate faith as a substantiating or the substantiation the causing of some thing into a substance. Faith is substantiation or the substantiating of things that are hoped for. That describes faith as a movement rather than a substance. And that should be the way we understand faith. But the emphasis in the bible speaks about faith as a condition and a movement and state of being. Being a state of being you can move out of it from time to time. Like running is a state of being. When I say that he is running, I am describing a person in a state of running. I am describing a movement that is taking place. When I use it as a noun I will say the run was marvelous. Its different since I am describing a race which makes the word run into a noun. The word substance describes not just a noun form. Its actually talking about a process. Faith is a process of being that takes place continually. It's a process of substantiating things that are hoped for into the realm of reality.

Heb. 11:1 for the evidence of things not seen. The word evidence conveys a very dormant personality. The word evidence does not convey the fullness of what the Greek word actually conveys. The word evidence is another Greek word, which is used to refer to a reproof or a correction. The word *elanchos* is a noun. In its verb form it is *elanchos*. The verb form is a word that is used for rebuke. It carries more than just evidence. It is not just the presentation of an evidence for somebody. I can say, "I can give you evidence." But if I say, "I give you a rebuttal," that describes the character of a counterargument. The rebuttal contains evidences and facts to prove you wrong, like in a debate. Team A and team B will debate over certain issues. Team A will present certain points. Team B will present certain points. But as they present their points they will contradict their opponents' points; they will try to prove their opponents' points wrong with facts. And they will present a rebuttal. This speaks about strong action than just evidence.

Lets look first at the word evidence as it is used. The word *elanchos* is used in II Timothy 3:16 All scriptures is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction and for training in righteousness. Reproof is that word *elanchos*. When you reprove somebody you are using evidences in an argumentative form to bring down, to pull down the wrong theories that people are having and to present the true facts and evidences. So the word *elanchos* present not only the elements of bringing the facts to a person, but it presents the concept of pulling down those false facts and then bringing in the evidence. That will be a true rebuttal.

The word elanacho which is the same root word in its verb form is used in the book of Titus 1:9 He must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to confute those who contradict it. In the Old King James it translates to reproof or to rebuke. Here it is translated as confute. Verse 13 This testimony is true. Therefore rebuke (elancho) them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith. If we try to put the word evidence here it does not carry its meaning. This testimony is true. Therefore evidence to them sharply. It does not convey the meaning.

You can see how Heb. 11:1 the meaning has been weakened by its translation of evidence. We understand the scholars' struggle to convey the concept. Titus 2:15 Declare these things; exhort and reprove (elancho) with all authority. Rebuke with all authority. So the word elanchos speaks about the rebuttal. It carries a weight of authority. It carries the strength of tearing down facts and theories that are wrong and replacing them with the truth.

Look at Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the assurance (substantiating) of things hoped for, the conviction (rebuttal) of things not seen. In other words the spiritual realm, which is the invisible realm moves into the natural realm and it rebukes the things that are. It places a rebuttal against the things that are seen and the things that are temporal. The existence of things that are touchable, feel-able and see-able. It crushes against all these things and tear them down. It rebukes all those things that are against God's Word. It comes from the spirit realm. It is a rebuttal of or from the spiritual world. And it moves into the natural world with great force and authority tearing down things that are seen, replacing them with the truth and with the things that are not seen. So to exercise faith is a position of being or it is an active move of flowing along with the things of God. It is not just a dormant substance that comes into the heart, which you may have received by just reading that verse on the surface.

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. There is an element of truth in that translation but it does not bring the full meaning of the verse in Greek. It is not the substance. It is the substantiating of substance, the action that brings that substance into reality. It is a position a state of being, of bringing in the substance. Therefore it's another mystery. See it says by faith we understand. We could rephrase Heb 11:1 as Faith is the state of substantiating things hoped for, a rebuttal to the things that are seen by the things that are not seen. In that position or in that place that God has placed us in we can move and understand the things of the Word. It is only in that position of knowing that things that are not seen are brought into the realm of the things that are seen that you understand things by faith. In that position you understand that the world was framed by the Word of God. It's the Word of God that rebukes the things that are not in line with His written Word. There are many areas you could step on that position.

It's just like a run. When you are running there are many speeds that you can run in. Sometimes you slow down because of physical exhaustion. Some times you slow down because you are maintaining your pace. You want to finish the race. You don't want to consume all your energy before the end of the race. So there are many speeds. In the same way as you substantiate the things of the spirit realm into the natural, there are different degrees of doing it. The bible uses all these words for faith; little faith, strong faith, great faith, growing faith. All these words describe faith. If you understand faith is a position of being and doing, then you can understand how when

Peter was walking on water in Matt. 14. I believe that when he was walking on water faith was being exercised. But as he was walking on water he saw the waves coming suddenly his thoughts went into that area he was no more in a position of substantiating his faith and entertained the possibility of drowning. That was when he started drowning. How can it happen so fast? If great faith is a substance it takes time for the substance to diminish. But because faith is a state of being, that position is maintained from the spirit realm. We see how we can stop and come out of that position instantly. And we can go back into that position instantly. And you can compromise in that position from time to time. It is a substance no doubt but the emphasis on the teaching on faith in the New Testament is on the state of being. If Peter had great faith walking on water where did the substance go? But if faith is a position of being then we understand that he moved out of that position and straight away started drowning. So faith is the position of bringing a substance into being.

And I requires certain evidence. For example what is the evidence of a person running. No. 1 the speed of the person's movement. No. 2 a position or posture. Third 3rd is the movement. So there are signs of a person running. There are signs and evidence of a position of faith. Things like your confession, your thought life reveals your position, whether you are in a position of substantiating or not. And the reason why we can not understand this area is people don't realize as a position you can get out of it very fast. You may say I have exercised faith and I can last for years. No sir. It's a position so every day you have to renew it. You can move out of it tomorrow.

Lets see some examples of what it means to have little faith or great faith. Notice the difference. Lets look first in the gospel of Matthew verse 30-31 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried our, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out His hand caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" His position had diminished until his position and action of substantiating the miracle was affected. What was wrong? He put his eyes in verse 30 on the wind. He saw, he was afraid, and he cried. That produces little faith. The reason why we touch on this area is sometimes when I converse with people, I found that even though they have gone through faith teaching they don't understand faith. They can talk faith and still have fear. See if you move out of that position you will start to fear. Faith means that you position yourself not to look at the natural anymore. Faith means that I position myself, I lock myself to only look into the spirit world and bring it into the natural world. See the bringing it into the natural world is like taking it from the spirit realm and speaking it as a rebuttal to the things that are. This is why we confess what we believe and not what we see. The confession becomes a rebuttal to the things that are. The things around you may say you got problems, you got sicknesses but the things of the spirit says you are healed by His stripes; every mountain shall move, all things are possible to those who believe. And you come into this realm and you speak to the mountain is like a rebuttal to the things that are in existence. To exercise faith you must never be moved by things that are seen. The moment you move out of the position you consider it little faith or sometimes no faith.

At one time the disciples had no faith. Mark chapter 4:36 onwards And leaving the crowd, they took Him with them just as He was, in the boat. And other boats were with Him. And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" And He awoke

and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?" See faith is a position that is inside. You have taken and locked yourself into that position. And from that position seeing the things that are in the spirit world you turn around to the things that are seen and you rebuke it because its not in line with the spirit world. Notice that when Jesus turned around at the storm He did not say what He saw. He said what He wanted. Jesus did not look around and say this is a great storm. He didn't confess what He saw. He turned around and said what He wanted. He saw in the spirit realm, peace and calmness. So He rebuked it because it was not in line with what He saw. Faith is a rebuttal from the spirit realm. Jesus is definitely one who looks at circumstances. Then He said to His disciples in verse 40 how is it that you have no faith. They were not even in the position to contact the spirit realm.

Imagine that this is in the spirit realm and this is a boundary line between the spirit realm and the natural realm. Faith moves into the position in between. This is possible for man was created with the ability to move in the spirit and the natural. So faith positions itself in between. It touches the spirit realm and begins to form and move the natural realm according to the spirit realm. Faith is the mediation factor. Substantiating of the things of the spirit into the natural realm. The disciples didn't position themselves here. The disciples moved out of this line and on this side where there is no faith. Sometimes they position themselves on this section of faith very weakly. You could grab this state of believing weakly or you could grab it strongly. As a result of that little faith, you can't solve or overcome the circumstances. In this particular case in Mark 4 the disciples were completely on this side of no faith.

The problem is that Christians were not taught the Word of God and the concept of faith. They were also people who live in this realm. In this realm you are subject to the things around you. The things around you will affect you. You are a victim of circumstances. You go by what you see. It's a very sad state of being. The disciples in the boat saw the storm, saw the wind, saw the waters coming into the boat. They were completely subjected to circumstances and they were victims of circumstances. Sometimes Christians think that they have gone through the foundation of faith. Then they forget it and they began to go back to the natural. You see the world is pulling you to see things that are in the natural. When you start moving in that natural realm your faith began to weaken.

This is why when we fellowship together I am very careful in what I say. For example we knew that God is going to cause this church to grow. But we have been going steady for the past 3 years. Sometimes people will come and say well there doesn't seem to be that amount of people yet. When we moved into the Federal Hotel a bunch of us moved in with about three quarters of the room still empty. The church members can say what they want but if the leaders start talking the same way - finish. But I have to keep seeing in the spirit world. We were reaching into the spirit world and confessing ourselves in. For one moment I can not even come down into the natural and see and speak about it. We do not deny the facts but we are denying the right of the facts to continue to exist, and that's the world of a difference. Christian Science denies the existence of material form. For example Christians Science tells you that sickness must not exist. It's only in the mind. That's the wrong doctrine. We don't deny the sicknesses. But we deny the right of sicknesses and diseases to continue to exist in our bodies. That's the difference.

So we need to train a group of people. Think about the impact that we will have if we get into unity in the spirit world. When we move into the spirit world and we say thank God we got a hundred thousand souls. What are we doing? We are substantiating souls. But the moment you move out of that position and start talking in the natural you have cut off that substantiating. So we need to train ourselves in that area. It is the same with finances. It is the same with winning souls. It is also the same with building a ministry of God. If we have ever done with what we see we would have never done anything. Each step takes faith. Each step takes a view of the spirit world. The most important is that you must see the spirit world correctly. Get into that realm and know what God's plan is. Then come into the natural world and go ahead. God will back it up with all of His resources.

Think about man of God who had lived in the bible times, Noah. Nobody had seen rain up to that time and yet Noah was building a big project an ark. Think about the mockery people have made about him. Spending his whole life building the ark while the others were doing other things. Hebrews 11 tells us he was warned of things to come things that are not seen and he moved. See faith is a movement. He was moved by what he saw in the spirit world. Whether it is your finances or any areas, we must go on to despise to reject all evidences in the natural realm that are against God's Word. If you want to exercise perfect faith it's a position of being. You maintain your position. Come what may you maintain the position. If you maintain that position some thing has to break through.

God didn't look out into the darkness of the world in Genesis 1 and said its dark out there. In the book of Genesis they didn't translate it with impact and power. Actually in Genesis 1 it is "light be". There was no "let" in the Hebrew. The word let weakens it. God was not saying light you can come in now. God spoke what He wanted. He rebuked the darkness by saying what He wanted in the spirit realm. He was substantiating so He said "light be". He says to the firmament, "firmament be separated" the word let is not in the Hebrew at all. We are learning to operate like God. 10 years ago we visualize what we have today. But 10 years ago when we visualize all those things people thought we were crazy. But today we have every thing we visualized 10 years ago. Now we are visualize things 5 to 10 years ahead. We are determined people. If you are willing to lay down your life to bring the spirit realm into the natural people may laugh but it will still come to pass. Faith is the substantiating of things hoped for. The things that are hoped will substantiate it. Some people have hope but they don't know how to substantiate it. One evidence of that is you can see them always looking at the natural. You can keep looking at the natural and in 10 years' time you will remain where you are.

We started in the seminary we had a whole bunch of seminarian students. All of us started the same - nothing. But where we are today in fellowshiping with them, I see that what we are today was what we had visualized 10 years ago. Some who had no vision looking at the circumstances are the same. Wouldn't it be dangerous if you don't have a vision 10 years from now? Without a vision the people of God perish. We have to have a vision to substantiate the things of the spirit realm into the natural realm. See people either talks in the natural realm or in the spirit realm. I like it when people talk in the spirit realm. I can't stand it sometimes when people talk in the natural realm. They say, "But we must tell the truth." Yes the problem is that's the only thing that they are talking about, the natural realm. And the devil would like you

to do that. If Jesus talked in the natural all the time He would not have been able to do His ministry. To Jairus He said fear not. He released faith. The news came that the daughter had died. He said, "I am the resurrection and the life." He speaks forth what He wants.

Now we have seen 2 examples of how when Peter moved out of that position automatically the faith diminishes and he may even reach a part of no faith or little faith. The opposite of it is found in Matt. 8:10 Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such great faith. What does Jesus mean when He said great faith? Look at the centurion. The centurion said Lord I don't need you to come to my house. Just say the word and it shall be done. That is great faith. You could move in the spirit realm without any problem.

Look at Matt. 15:28 Jesus said O woman great is your faith. Be it done for you as you desire. The woman wanted deliverance for her daughter Jesus said its the dispensation of the Jews but she persisted.

Look at Rom. 4:20 No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God. The previous verse says his body was dead, Sarah's womb was dead. If Abraham had looked at the circumstances there will be no Jewish race today. There would be no Isaac from which the Jewish race came forth and that's a miracle child. The bible describe it as strong faith. So faith by its many positions and nature has to be the ability to focus on the unseen realm without being moved by the natural realm at all, And if a group of people could get into that faith level God will move great things.

The opposite of walking by faith is also called walking by sight. II Cor. 5:7 says that we walk by faith and not by sight. It gives you the opposite of walking by faith. The opposite of walking by faith is walking by sight. We could also define walking by faith, walking by what you believe and not by what you see. Walking by faith is walking in the unseen realm. Walking in the realm beyond sight. So we have to put on our socks as we look into the new things that God will help us to do. And why do we want to exercise our faith into that realm? If one person or one minister begins to raise the dead it inspires hundreds of others to do it. When anyone in the body of Christ moves into a higher realm the impact is felt by breakthroughs in the whole body. For example if the anointing of God starts moving in one part of the body the faith will affect the other parts of the body. For example if the largest church in Malaysia is only about 10 000 in number, then suddenly somebody move into a hundred thousand members realm, what will it do to the rest? It will give them the faith that this is possible. It has an invisible influence throughout the whole body of Christ. So for that reason every victory by any member of the body of Christ in this world is in a sense a victory for the whole body of Christ because it began to stir them up to a higher level of faith. We need to stir our faith.

We need to understand the concept of faith. Faith means that you determine never ever again to move by what you see, to go by what you see, to walk by what you see. It's in the spirit realm hanging on to it. When Cho Yonggi built his first building, it was an oversized building. It was built with funds from Christ For The Nations. He preached to a couple of old ladies. The church was 90% empty. He had to exercise his faith. But it reached a certain stage where I call a break-even time. In exercising faith there is a level where you break even. For example if you are believing God against a

sickness, when you exercise faith you know the sickness is conquered and the rest is recovery along the way. See faith has a rebuttal of the natural realm and then the natural realm flows along with the spiritual realm. It is important for us to understand the concept of faith in the bible. Faith is a choice that I know it and never to live in the natural realm but to live in the spirit realm. And not to moved by the things around me or by the things that are seen but to be moved motivated only by the things that are not seen. So that's the introduction of the concept of faith. We will move more into that to see how the substantiating have to move down into the rebuttal and the various ways that we release our faith in God.

2. LIMITATIONS OF FAITH

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the assurance (substance) of things hoped for, the conviction (evidence) of things not seen. We have seen last week as we translate the word substance is a participle and it should have been translated “now faith is a substantiation of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen”. This morning we are going to continue to see how faith operates how it works. Last week we talked about the different levels of faith. That faith is a position. Faith is a substance in the spirit realm. But faith is also a position that your body and your soul hold to. It is not moved by what you see it is moved only by the Word of God. Say, “I am not moved by what I see but I am moved only by the Word of God.” That is a faith stand. Smith Wigglesworth was famous for popularizing that phrase. Faith in God can do many things. Paul talks about how faith can move mountains. In Heb. 11 you have a list of men who exercised faith in God. And in the new covenant we also can exercise the same measure of faith and a greater realm of faith. We are going to see the difference between faith being exercised in the old covenant and faith in the new covenant. There is an intricate difference between the old and the new.

But first of all we want to see what faith can not do. There are some areas that faith can not move into. Some people call it faith but its not faith. Faith has certain limitations in certain realms. No. 1 you can not exercise faith in an area where the Word of God does not cover. No matter how much human confidence you put in, if God did not give His Word there will be no faith. It would be mere human rashness and confidence. The bible gives a word for that. It calls that presumption. Presumptuous sins are acts that are made without God’s Word or instruction. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. That is in Rom. 10:17. The type of hearing that will produce faith is the hearing of the Word of God. In that particular instance it speaks about rhema. Both logos and rhema produce faith in our life. They work faith into our life. For example if you have the written Word of God and the written Word of God promises some thing, then the written Word of God will bring faith as you meditate upon it. Rom. 10:17 says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the rhema of God. Translating literally the word rhema means the spoken word of God. Faith can come from the logos of God, which includes the written Word of God. Except that it comes in the written Word of God in a longer process.

Lets define rhema and logos first. Rhema is a specific word of God for a specific incident and a specific time, to a specific person for a specific task in a specific time. For example when God told Moses to cross the Red Sea it was a specific word – cross the Red Sea. Then it was for a specific person - it was to Moses. And it was a specific incident - the miracle of the Red Sea being parted. And it was for a specific time. After they crossed over, the Red Sea cover the path back and they couldn’t cross back even if they wanted. You can not repeat it unless God gives another specific word. So faith comes from rhema. And in the bible the written Word of God says faith comes by the rhema of God the spoken Word of God. Faith must always come by the rhema of God. The rhema of God will always be in line with the logos of God, the written Word of God.

There are times when God speaks of some things that the Word does not cover. It does guide us in the general principles but the Word does not cover. For example, how do you know whether God wants you to be an architect or a lawyer? You say

God is not interested in that sort of thing. He is. He is interested in your profession. He has a specific will for you. He has a rhema for you. How do you know whether God wants you to work for this company or that company? You have to pray until you receive rhema from God. That is another area where we discern the voice of God. Learn to be led by the Holy Spirit the inward witness of God.

The logos of God which is the written word of God is like a general word that God gives to us. The logos needs to be converted into rhema in your life before it is applicable. So it's a step before rhema. The logos needs to be converted into rhema before it can produce faith. For faith comes by rhema. What people do is they take this understanding and they pull it apart. They go further than this. They don't stop here. They go further to the extreme and say that even if the bible promises something it is still not for you. How is that so?

Let me define logos and rhema first before we launch into that answer. The sun represents the logos. The sun produces food and life. The sunlight comes and reaches the earth and it comes in beams of light. The rays of light that reach us represent a rhema. The rhema is part of the sun. It came from the sun and it is the sun. Yet it is the specific part of the sun that reaches you. There is a relationship between rhema and logos. All of the sunlight that came from the sun put together is the sun. And all of the rhema that is spoken by God put together is the logos. So all rhema came from logos. And the collection of all the rhema will be the logos. This bible that you have in your hand contains rhema that God has spoken to people in those days. The bible that you have now that people call the logos is the total record of rhema that God has spoken to the people in the bible times. God told Noah to build an ark. God spoke to Adam. God spoke to Abraham. They were specific rhema. God spoke to the prophets. God spoke to Jesus. God spoke to the apostles. All that we have here was once upon a time a rhema. And the bible that you hold that people call logos was once upon a time rhema. When Noah heard the word of God it was rhema to him. Today when we read about it in Genesis 6 onwards, to us we read it as logos. But it was a rhema to him. The logos is the compilation of rhema.

Let me give a bit more illustration. Every cell in your body represents a unit. Our body is composed of cells. One cell of your body alone has all the genes that control your make up, the color of your eyes, the color of your hair. They could take one of those cells and duplicate it and produce a physical being that looks like you; it is encoded in every cell. So every cell is a part of you. All your cells group together to form the various organs of your body. And your organs and tissues group together to form your physical body. In a sense your physical body is your logos. And the cells represent the rhema. The rhema makes up the logos. Can you see the relationship? And a part of the logos is the rhema. There is a relationship.

People who teach on logos and rhema many times isolate rhema and logos so much that they don't see the relationship. In the bible sometimes logos and rhema have been used interchangeably. Like for example in the book of Acts 10. About 4 or 5 years ago the question of rhema and logos was very controversial. All kinds of teaching came in that area. So I did a study in the Greek on rhema and logos and I found it has been used interchangeably several times. But one very clear cut incident is found in the book of Acts 10:34 while Peter was still speaking this rhema the Holy Spirit fell on all those who heard the logos. The word rhema and logos has been used to refer to the same sermon. That same sermon was referred to both as a rhema and a logos. The

word rhema and logos are used interchangeably sometimes. For in essence and in content they are the same. If I take one cell of your body in essence and in content it's a part of your body in nature it's the same. So rhema and logos in essence and in content is the same. For example rhema contains the power of God. And some people preach rhema so much that they forget that the logos is also powerful.

In Heb. 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edge sword, piecing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intention of the heart. The word in Heb. 4:12 "the word" is the word logos. It is the logos of God and its living. So the logos contains power.

Col. 3:16 says Let the word (logos) of God dwell richly in you, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thanksgiving in your hearts to God. We are exalted to let the logos of God to dwell richly in us. There is a relationship and there is a difference. Logos is more so like potential power. Rhema is the application of that power. Logos is like a potential power its like a battery charged to the fullness. And rhema is like drawing from that battery. When you charge your battery you put electricity into it. Then when you use it you pull the electricity out from it. What is stored is pulled out. So the logos is in a sense stored rhema and stored power. We need a balance in that kind of teaching so that people don't underestimate the power of God.

This is where the problem people have when you look at logos and rhema. For example, if you want to be filled, you need a rhema from God. If you don't have a rhema from God you have no right to claim healing. That's a common teaching of people who teach rhema and logos. That statement is correct and incorrect at the same time. It is correct because it makes half a truth. It is incorrect because it did not present the other half. That statement says that you can't claim a healing unless you hear a rhema from God. It is true you need a rhema from God. But as we all know many white lies are half-truths. It is a statement of truth but yet it is given in such a way that it makes you draw a different conclusion. And that's what's this statement is. It is weak that it can lead people to draw the conclusion that therefore if I see something in the logos that promises healing I can't release it. Sounds like a common white lie. Like somebody phoned you and asked you whether your boss is in the office. And your boss told you to say that he is out. So you try to give a neutral answer and you end up telling a lie. It's a statement that is correct yet incorrect because it cause others to draw a wrong conclusion. This is where people who don't teach rhema and logos in a balance way pull the extremes and wrong conclusions out. The problem is they don't see the relationship between rhea and logos. They isolate them into 2 camps. If you see the relationship you can help people better. It is correct to say they can't be healed unless I hear a rhema from God. But it is incorrect to say that you can't be healed through meditation of the logos.

And some people teach that way and they illustrate with this. They say for example when Peter was walking on water and Jesus says come and he walked. And as he walked on the water and almost drowned, Jesus came and helped him. Therefore you can't just act your faith out on the logos. You got to get a specific rhema. Like when Jesus says come so you got to hear Jesus speaks to you even though you read the bible from cover to cover. You meditate on the thousands of scriptures on healing. You have stored in your heart that God promised you healing. Healing is in the covenant, it's the children bread etc. yet that teaching says you can't have it yet unless you hear

the rhema the spoken word that comes to you and says, "It is My will to heal you." In other words if you read in the bible its God's will you still need to hear from God, "It is My will to heal you." Then only you consider its God's will. And there are those that pull this teaching to the far extreme that they say that God wants to heal some God doesn't want to heal others. There are some that God wants to heal. There are some that God doesn't want to heal. If you believe that God wants to heal some and doesn't want to heal some, the devil will always tell you that you are among those that God doesn't want to heal. Can you see the trick of the devil?

Several hundreds years ago the doctrine of pre-destination was strongly advocated by John Calvin. He pulled it to the extreme. He discovered pre-destination but he pulled it to the extreme. He says God chose some to be saved and He chose some not to be saved. So you don't have to do anything if you are chosen to be saved. And you can't do anything to be saved if you are chosen not to be saved. What a doctrine. And people like John Bunyan, the author of Pilgrim's Progress, struggled with that doctrine. Because of the wrong teaching in those days he struggled. And he was at the conclusion that God doesn't want him to be saved. If you tell some people that God choose some to be saved and some not to be saved, the devil will always come to them and say, "You are among those that God chose not to be saved." See John Bunyan struggled with that doctrine and in his biography he says he was rejected and angry at God that he was chosen not to be saved. The devil told him that. One day as he was walking along the scriptures around in his mind "As many as cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out." As many as come to Me I will not cast out. Who is talking about God choosing anyone to be lost? And it began to stir in him until he realized that the doctrine of pre-destination was a wrong doctrine. Pre-destination by itself is sound because God called and chosen before we were born. Except that it is balanced by the fact that God has a will for everyone which means He planned for everyone to be saved. And so this is where the extreme of the wrong teaching goes. Similarly, it is a wrong teaching that says that the logos is powerless and useless for you need a rhema.

And I got another second question to this to be a rebuttal to that. If you see the Word of God says that its God's will to be healed. And you have to pray to God and ask, "Lord, is it your will to heal me?" Then God will say, "Yes it is My will." Then only you conclude God wants to heal me. I can act in faith. We have a question for you. Can it be possible that when God says something is His will in the written Word, that you pray and you ask God, "Lord, I read in your bible from Genesis to Revelation cover to cover and it says its Your will to heal your people. Please tell me whether it is your will to heal me. I need your rhema. This is the question. What happens if you hear the conviction that says, "It is not My will. I have better plans for you." I have a question for you. Since when did God contradict His logos? Have you ever thought about that? I asked those preachers who teach that way. Since when has God ever contradicted His logos? And by accepting that kind of teaching you are saying that God sometimes contradict His written Word, which is not possible. You can see how much wrong teaching can be involved. It is also saying that even if God promised something and you hear a rhema that says, "No, its not My will." My question is doesn't that show that God contradicts Himself. That is also saying that the rhema is contradicting the logos. This is never so for in essence and in power logos and rhema are one.

The second question is this. If that is the way we always must hear the voice of God to be led, how do we know that the voice that we hear whether is from God if we can not judge it by the logos any more? Where is the drawing line? Where is the boundary? Then God's people will be pulled to the extreme where they will receive false revelations, false voices, false visions, false dreams that are contradicting to the logos. There is no more the protection from the logos. And this is where we present this picture that the logos and rhema never contradict.

There are some scriptures in the bible that store the power of truth for our application. Like for example when the bible says its God's will to save all. Whoever believes in Him shall not perish Jn. 3:16. Do you need to come to God and say, "God I read in your bible that you want to save all people? Do you want to save me?" Praise God if God says yes I want to. But what happens if you hear a "rhema" that says, "No I don't want you to be saved."

This is where you have to divide the logos carefully. There are different types of logos. There are some parts of the logos that records incidences of God's miracles without any specific promises. So lets draw a line in the logos. Part of the logos moves into the area called promises. Part of the logos does not move into the area of promises. There are just mere records of what God can do.

Like for example Moses crossing the Red Sea. The bible never say that those who believe in Him they shall cross rivers and seas. If it did you have to be practicing in your bathtub. Take your stick every day and part the water if the bible says it but it is not a promise to every believer. It is a record of what God can do. That means that if God ever want to do it again, for example, God wants you to lead an evangelistic team to Indonesia. And He told you don't go by land, don't go by sea but walk through the Straits of Malacca. That type of record helps you to realize that its possible to be done again provided you heard correctly. However it is not a promise that you could walk through the Straits of Malacca, open the bible and for a pillar of cloud you ask some people to burn some smoke. You take your cane and say to the sea, "Open up, O seas, and let my people go," and the rain and storm come down and it did not work. If God did not give you that Word you can't do it. You can't claim that promise because it is not a promise. It is a record not a promise.

So under record you need to hear the Lord. Under promises there are stored energized pockets of batteries that God says to hook onto them and draw them out. Healing is a promise. Salvation is a promise. Deliverance and supply of providence is a promise. That means I can claim them. And that's where faith comes in. You understand faith, you understand how to take the promises convert them into rhema and get it out into your life. So there are many scriptures here that are included under the area of promise. There are some that are not, like waking on water is not a promise but it's a record. Healing is a promise. Salvation is a promise. God does promise to save all. Scriptures on the baptism in the Holy Spirit you don't have to pray whether its God's will for you to be baptized it's a promise.

For example, take the biblical record of manna coming down from heaven. You can't claim it as a promise. But it's a record. It can be done again. If God has done something once He can do it all over again without any effort. So there are scriptures that are classified as records. You need a specific rhema to do that. There are also scriptures that are promises and they are stored pockets and batteries of power where

God tells you to hook into them and draw them out. The secret of walking in faith is learning to draw on these promises. Learning how to convert logos into rhema. That's where the understanding of faith is.

There are 3 things that faith can not do. You can not move into an area that God's Word did not speak about or cover. You can't claim a promise that the Word did not cover. I know many people claim many things that are not covered by the Word. Some claim promises that are contradictory to the logos. Remember this divine principle the logos and rhema never ever contradict. There are some people who don't understand faith. They mistook faith for confidence. Faith includes confidence but not all confidence is faith. Faith will produce confidence. But not all confidence is from faith; confidence could come from mental assent. For example some people believe that they could claim the Word of God, claim the promise of God for birth control. It did not work. The question is on what scripture are you standing on? There are none. In fact the bible promises the opposite. You could stand on the Word for lorry loads of children. What happens is some people move beyond the Word of God.

There are certain things that the principle of faith will not cover. Faith is limited by the boundaries of the Word of God. There are certain things that are promises and certain things that are not promises. We have to discern between those two. There are some people who act on the Word but it has not gone through its process. In other words there is a promise but before the promise could take root in them they act on it and they still fail even though it's a promise. The promise has not become a part of them.

All of you eat food daily. For example if you take a piece of chicken, and you ate that chicken, the chicken will be converted in your stomach. The gastric juice comes to the chicken and dissolves the meat. If there is a fight between the chicken and the gastric juice and the chicken say, "I refuse to be dissolved," the next thing is your body will give it up. But if your body succeeds and the chicken surrender and dissolve into the various components, then your body takes those components and bring them as food to yourself. And after some time the chicken actually became a part of you. Every 7 years your cells change and renewed totally. Your physical body is a part of what you eat. So your body changes the cells all the time. Cells die and get replaced all the time. Where do the new cells come from? Your digestive system is making use of the components that you eat to produce new cells. So there is a process. One of the most intricate parts of our body is the digestive system where the intestines are so long that they need a long process to convert that so call chicken into you. It needs that long process to convert the chicken into you.

And yet we expect in the spiritual world to take the Word of God and the next day produce it. Can you see the foolishness involved? The natural is a part of the spiritual. When you eat something in the natural it takes time before it becomes a part of you physically. When you eat something spiritual, which is spiritual food the Word of God, it takes time for the Word of God to become a part of you. And here is where some failed. Before the Word of God can become a part of them they act on it. They didn't give time for the digestive process to take place in the spiritual world so they fail. They failed not because the Word did not work. They failed because they didn't give enough time in meditation.

How do we digest in the spirit realm? What are our small intestines? They are the process of meditation and contemplation. It's a process of digesting the Word until it becomes a part of you. And it can take quite some process. The things you meditate on 4 or 5 years ago now only become a part of you. There are many things that you have read that you have been thought today and it has become a part of you. So there is a process where you convert the logos into you. You become a part of it and it becomes a part of you. That's when you can act on it. The energy becomes yours to act on.

The first area that faith does not cover and will not cover that it will not cover areas that the Word does not promise. If you say you are exercising faith on any area, if someone comes and say what scripture do you stand on? If you can't give any scriptures, then it is not faith. Or if you can't tell of rhema that you received its also not faith. Like for example I constantly talk about the church, the building etc. these are rhema. It is in line with the promises of God's Word. I must keep seeing it constantly the things that are not seen. When God gives you a rhema it locks into you. It is encoded into you. It becomes a part of you. That's why I love to seek God and wait on God to allow His rhema to come forth. There are many decisions that some times I have to make and I pray until I receive a rhema. There is where the rhema will produce the confidence to pull through without that you can't move. And God works on logos and rhema all the time. God does not do anything unless He sends a rhema to a human vessel. In this bible everything that God did He gives a rhema first. He looks for men and women to impregnate with the rhema so that the rhema can come forth to their life. He put it into Noah and he conceived. He put it in Abraham and it conceived. He put it into Moses who saw the deliverance of the Israelites even 40 years before he was sent. It was burning in him. He put it into Jesus, He put it into the prophets, He put it into the apostles. And today God is putting in rhema. You don't have to stand in the five-fold ministry to receive the rhema. All of us in the body of Christ need rhema. You need your specific rhema to do the work that God has called you to do. Even place like which place to work in. God will give you the rhema.

There is another area of teaching how to discern God's voice and learn to recognize the rhema. There are principles involved. Every one of us God has a plan for your life. God does not speak only to five-fold ministry God speaks to every one of us. The rhema can come in our inward voice, our inward witness, visions or dreams. In the realm of interpretation a person can be influenced by what is on their mind. But in the realm of receiving a vision it is not so possible to interpret it wrongly because the vision just comes like a ray of light. So there is not so much of a possibility of adulterating the vision with our interpretation. So here we have in this realm about opening to God to receive rhema. Ninety percent of the time of all that you see will be in your inward witness. The other ten percent will be visions, dreams etc. So the limitation of faith is that you can not go beyond the Word and what the Word promises. If you go outside that you can't and you don't operate faith.

There are areas that the Word promises you can operate. If you want to operate outside an area where the Word really didn't cover you need a rhema. See there are areas that the Word cover and how you operate in this area is to draw from the Word what it covers and operate. If you want to operate outside an area that the Word covers you need a rhema but its conditional. The rhema can not contradict what is already there in the written Word. It has to be a rhema that does not contradict that.

Like for example God calls you to build a bible school or God calls you to go to a mission field somewhere. All these don't contradict. But if it contradicts the logos you have to remove the rhema. No rhema that contradict the written Word from God. The logos is a check on that.

The second realm that the realm of faith can not operate is that you can't exercise faith over human spirits. You have faith and authority over circumstances; you have faith and authority over evil spirits, demonic powers and even over Satan himself. But you can not exercise your faith over human spirits except children before the age of accountability. So you can not exercise faith over somebody. You can intercede over that somebody for that person to change. But you can not exercise faith against their free will. You can not go to somebody and say I am believing God that you are going to marry me. You can't do it. It violates the free will of that person. That person may believe God not to marry you. See the realm where it contradicts the free will.

However there is a principle of faith that we touch on as we go along. If I could get that person to agree with me it releases twice the amount of power of faith. Jesus said in the gospel of Matthew that if two agree on earth that is touching anything it is done. But if that person does not agree I can not use my faith to steamroll down that guy. Even God Himself will not. God can do all things. He could have destroyed this world after Adam fell. Even God Almighty who have enough power to stop all men from their evil and going to hell if He wants to. But He will not because He will not go against the free choice. We can't exercise faith over and against the will of a person. Faith is limited it has boundaries. Sometimes people who are taught on the teaching of faith they start exercise faith over individuals. When it didn't work they blame God and they blame the principle of faith. Remember changing lives is different from changing circumstances. Even Kenneth Hagin says when he pray for anything in his personal life, it is always 100% results. But when he pray for other it does not hit 100% because the free will comes in.

Let me balance it a little bit. You can exercise faith for salvation for you family for your loved ones and your friends. By all means go ahead and exercise faith for them to be changed. But understand this no matter how you exercise your faith their free will is still important. If we don't touch on this principle many people will get discouraged. For they ask, "Why is it taking so long?" without realizing that faith can not go beyond the boundary of free will. The free will of that person is involved. That's where intercession comes in too. We believe God that your loved ones will change. We believe God for those who you are praying for will change. But don't get discouraged when you don't see the change coming as you like to for their free will is involved. Keep on believing. God is now exercising faith right now on this whole planet earth. He is believing that His church is perfected which we know the church will be. And God now sees the church perfected. But why is the church not perfected yet? It has taken nearly 2000 years and we are not there yet. Because the free will of men is involved. So keep your faith up but understand that faith is limited by free choice.

The third category faith will not operate without the principle of Christ like character. In other words if you are not flowing with the spirit of faith you can't operate faith. Outwardly it looks like faith but inwardly it is not. Jesus in Mark 11 verse 25 say when you pray forgive. Why does he mention the principle after verse 23 and 24. It is because of this third area here. Unforgiveness, hatred or anything that is outside of the

Spirit of Christ and the love of God will nullify the effect of faith working. So you can't exercise faith when you are angry. Some people do exercise their faith when they are angry but it does not work. Faith is limited by the boundaries of the character of Christ. The moment you move outside of the character of Christ all the forces of faith will be cut off. All you have left is the confidence of your soul and of your physical faith. The spiritual realm is cut off. We have to keep the Spirit of Christ; keep in His character and nature to exercise strong and powerful faith.

3. FAITH AND PATIENCE

Heb. 11:1-3 Now faith is the assurance (substance) of things hoped for, the conviction (evidence) of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear. Now adding the more accurate meanings of the Greek words in this verse, we can paraphrase Heb 11:1 as faith is a substantiation of things hoped for, the rebuttal, the rebuke, or the reproof of things not seen.

The word substantiation is a word that is used only three times in the Greek New Testament. And all three times it occurs in the book of Hebrews. It is a Greek word hupostasis and it occurs first in Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person (hupostasis), and upholding all things by the word of power when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. Here is where the word hupostasis occurs, speaking about Jesus Christ who is the brightness of the glory and the expressed image of His hupostasis. It is interesting that the same word translated substance in Hebrews 11:1 is translated as person in Hebrews 1:3. The verse says that Jesus is the very express, fullness, detail and precise image of God's person (using the word God's hupostasis or substance). So the word substance or substantiation refers to the actual being, nature, character, image, fullness, personality, make up or blueprint. Jesus is that very substantiation or very hupostasis of who God is.

Applying the varied meanings of hupostasis to Heb. 11:1, it tells us that faith is the very substance, the blueprint, the image, the precision in detail of the things hoped for. The difference is that the things hoped for are in the spirit world. I am sure all of us would never question the fact that Jesus Christ is the very fullness of the Father in His very image, in every detail of His personality. Jesus is in every way like the Father. Jesus said that if you have seen Me you have seen the Father. You see that Jesus is the exact replica, and exact duplicate if not the very image and fullness of the Father.

So faith is the substantiation of things hoped for. Faith has its very blueprint, its very detail in the spiritual world. And this is what faith does. It sees it, it conceives in precise detail. We are talking about details not just in generality. Jesus is not just a general image of God. Jesus is the precise, duplicate, fullness of God. And faith is the hupostasis, the substantiation of things that are hoped for. Faith is the precise detailed blueprint of what we hoped for. To exercise faith it has to be in detailed.

Turn to Heb. 3:14 For we are partakers of Christ, if only we hold the beginning of our confidence (hupostasis) steadfast to the end. It is interesting that in the same book of Hebrews one Greek word hupostasis is translated into three different English words. What inconsistency! Hupostasis is translated as person in Hebrews 1:3. In Hebrews 3:14 it is translated as confidence and in Hebrews 11:1 as substance. They are all referring to the same thing. Lets use the word blueprint or substantiation. In Hebrews 3 it says that we must hold fast to that beginning of our hupostasis. And that's the process of faith that we are talking about. When you believe God for something you begin to see the image the hupostasis the blue-print that comes from God on high and there is a beginning and there is an end. It says hold fast the beginning of the hupostasis.

Let's say this piece of cloth is a spiritual cloth that exists inside the spiritual realm. In the natural you want to produce the physical substance of the exact color, exact dimension, exact substance of this spiritual cloth. This cloth represents the spiritual world. Anything outside this cloth represents the natural world. The spiritual world can not be touched by the natural senses. So if we want to produce something in the natural, we have to have the hupostasis of the cloth first in the spiritual realm. As you meditate on God's Word that will begin to give you the image or hupostasis of this spiritual cloth. As you are meditating on the Word, you are substantiating or giving substance to this image. In time to come, the hupostasis of this spiritual cloth will manifest itself in the physical realm.

The reason why we touched on the limitations of faith in the last message is because the teaching on faith is so powerful that unless you understand what faith can not do you may misapply it. This is why we covered the areas you can not exercise faith for, or where the limitations of faith are. Once you understand where faith is limited in, you would know the other areas where faith is not limited and you can launch fully into and learn to bring and lay hold of the spiritual world.

Unless you get hold of this hupostasis you can't get this manifested. Things get clearer as you look more into the spiritual world. Even Moses saw the pattern of the tabernacle one by one. This has been the consistent plan and way that God has operated. For example if God is revealing the future to you, He will show you the actual scene in the spiritual world. Kenneth Hagin describes that in the book *I Believe In Visions*. In his vision about the last call for America, he saw a horseman coming to him. He wrote, "When the horseman came to me, he pulled on the reins and stopped. I stood on his right. He passed the scroll from his left hand to his right hand and handed it to me. As I unrolled the scroll, which was a roll of paper 12 or 14 inches long, he said, "Take and read." At the top of the page in big, bold, black print were the words "WAR AND DESTRUCTION." I was struck dumb; He laid his right hand on my head and said, "Read, in the Name of Jesus Christ!"

I began to read what was written on the paper, and as the words instructed me, I looked and saw what I had just read about.

First I read about thousands upon thousands of men in uniform. Then I looked and saw these men marching wave after wave of soldiers marching as to war. I looked in the direction they were going, and as far as I could see there were thousands of men marching. I turned to read the scroll again, and then looked and saw what I had just read about. I saw many women – old women with snowy white hair, middle-aged women, young women, and teenagers. Some of the younger ones held babies in their arms. All of the women were bowed together in sorrow and were weeping profusely.

I looked at the scroll again, and again I looked to see what I had read about. I saw the skyline of a large city. Looking closer, I saw the skyscrapers were burned-out hulls. Portions of the city lay in ruins. It was not written that just one city would be destroyed, burned, and in ruins but that there would be many such cities.

And he continues reading the scroll, it was something about revival and then he saw the revival. So he read and he saw part by part. The principle behind this experience of Kenneth Hagin is that things must take place in the spiritual realm before they can materialize in the physical world. This is the basis of faith too. You must have the

substance in the spiritual realm before you can see it manifested in the physical world. Faith is the substance or substantiation of things hoped for.

So in the spiritual world there is a beginning of the hupostasis and there is an end. We can substantiate this statement by Hebrews 12:2, Looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith. Jesus is the author of our faith, not ourselves. And the most important thing about the thing that we are exercising faith for is to ask, "Is it the will of God?" Even if it is the will of God it takes a lot of other forces to bring it to pass. We are going to see afterwards the process of faith. Some people say if it is God's will it'll just come to pass. If it is God's will it takes people to believe it, to hold fast to it, to birth it forth and it takes dedication. So that is the beginning of hupostasis and Hebrews 3 says hold the beginning of it. The moment you see what is in the spiritual world you hold fast to it. And as you hold fast to it, it gets more details. And as it gets more details you begin to see more and more of it and you began to pull it into the natural realm. Hold fast the beginning of it. It starts with a little of the hupostasis. And as you hold fast you begin to have more hupostasis manifested. As you hold fast to the beginning of the hupostasis, you will gradually see the complete whole and suddenly the hupostasis is manifested in the natural. See the two are related together. Hold fast the beginning of the hupostasis the very image the substance the blueprint that you see in the spiritual and it will operate in the natural.

Lets look at Heb. 11:1 Now faith is the assurance (hupostasis) of things hoped for, the evidence of things that are not seen. The word evidence carries a stronger word than the simple word evidence. It is the same Greek word that speaks about rebuke. It's a rebuke from the spiritual realm into the natural realm. It's the spiritual realm taking the natural by force. It's the spiritual realm coming forth and rebuking what is there to conform to the image of God. When God said, "light be" in Genesis 1, the light came forth and literally rebuked the darkness. When God says let life come forth from the earth, literally the life came forth and rebuked the lifelessness that was there.

But faith works together with some other forces and we see the whole process of how it works. Heb. 6:12 So that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises. There are 3 things that work here. The promise, faith and patience. Faith and patience work together to cause the promise to be inherited. Faith and patience cause the promises of the Word of God to be manifested in the natural. Faith must work with patience.

The word patience is interesting: it is a Greek word hupomone, which consists of 2 Greek words combined together. One is the Greek word hupo, which means upon; the other is the Greek word mano which means abide. The same word mano is used by Jesus in John chapter 13 when He says, "Abide in Me and let My Word abide in you." He says, "Mano in Me and let My Word mano in you." Now patience is not what we think in the natural but it is. Patience is not just hanging it out. Patience in the bible is a strong force and it means abiding upon. Patience is not just hanging it out, in groaning. It is not just that. Patience or hupomone means to abide and the word mano is always used together with the Word of God. There is no true abiding without the Word of God. Patience means to stand upon something. To stand upon the Word and let it remains the same in season and out of season. You see you are abiding upon something, upon the Word. Patience is maintaining the same position come what may. You maintain the same position of faith in the Word. It is not a position of doubt; not a position of grumbling, complaining or groaning. Patience is to hold it fast. It is like

getting into a boat and cutting through the waves that comes steadily. It conveys a steady movement. Faith and patience inherit the promises of God.

There is another word for patience. There are 2 words translated patience in the Greek that brings very strong forces to play. I am going to read some scriptures and bring it forth comparing it and see the fullness of it. The normal word for patience is hupomone. This word in Heb. 6:12 uses the second word which is even stronger. And this is the word makrothumia. The word makro in the Greek means long. The bible tells about Pharisees using long prayers or makro prayers. Thurmia is the Greek word translated as wrath. When you put makro and thurmia together you get long wrath. The word thurmia conveys hot wrath, fierce anger that comes. It says faith and this type of patience brings you through. This makrothumia is the ability to withstand assaults, attacks, trials, temptations or whatever the devil throws against you. It means to stand in heat, to stand in cold, to stand in trial, to stand in problems maintaining the same stand without wavering one moment. It talks about those who by faith and this ability to stand.

Those Old Testament people didn't have it easy. To exercise faith means to put their life in front of them. Think about the Old Testament people. When David went to fight Goliath his whole life was at stake. If he fails he dies. Think about Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt. If he fails Pharaoh will kill them all. Think about Joshua as he led the people against the enemy. Their lives were at stake. If they didn't succeed they die. And this makrothumia, this remarkable form of patience can make you go forth like a ramrod against every force that comes against you. Its like going to the battle field with bombs falling on your right and on your left; land mines all around and this makrothumia make you go in and come out without your being affected one bit. It's that patience that brings you through like Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego coming out from the fiery furnace without even a smoke on them. Then we understand that faith is not just some sloppy, sleepy, lazy form of patience. It is a strong force. It is going on without doubting and without wavering. It's a strong force that maintains steadiness. In a sense it's a spiritual form of stubbornness. If you are stubborn in the wrong thing God help you. But when you get into the things of God you need that same stubbornness to maintain the things of God to pull through. No wishy-washy person can bring the spiritual realm into the natural.

Joshua didn't fight the enemy with a shaky faith. He learned to move in the same kind of faith and makrothumia patience. He went forth and in his boldness he turned to the sun and he said, "Sun, stop where you are." It takes that kind of faith to possess the Promised Land. So we see here makrothumia being used in Heb. 6:12 and lower down it talks about Abraham in verse 15 And then Abraham, having patiently (makrothumia) endured, obtained the promise. Abraham had been through all these things you can think of. He had been assailed with doubt and unbelief. He had failed once when he was moved by the word of Sarah, and brought forth Ishmael. And after makrothumia long endurance he obtained that promise. Now we are talking about exercising faith. People don't understand how to exercise faith. They say, "I confess the Word three times a day and nothing happened." They don't even know what is makrothumia. It doesn't work that way. This is not instant coffee.

Now lets look at makrothumia and hupomone and put the two together with faith. There are two words for patience in the Greek. James 1:3 For you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness (hupomone). And hupomone means the

ability to stand on the Word in season and out of season. It is the same way of saying, "I am not moved by what I see but I am moved only by the Word of God." I am not moved by what I hear. I am only moved by what I hear from the Word of God. I am not moved by what I see. I am only moved by what I see in God's Word. Hupomone means that. It is a constant abiding in the Word.

In James 1:3 the word produces means to bring out something that is already inside. So the purpose of the trial of your faith is to bring out something that is already in you. Lets say that brother Amos has a faith being exercised. It means that he has hupostasis right in his spirit man. Then all the trials come at him, all the darts of the enemy come to challenge that hupostasis in him. That is the trial of faith.

The word trial is also a special Greek word dokime and it means proving. It does not convey the word suffering. It conveys the word proving; its being tested by the circumstances that is coming to challenge it. And as it is being challenged the faith that is inside the hupostasis comes forth. The word produce means to bring forth. It brings forth from him the hupomone. The more he is challenged in his faith, the more the hupomone comes out and maintain that stand.

Then James 1 verse 4 says, But let patience (hupomone) have its perfect work, that you shall be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. So the characteristic of hupomone or constantly abiding in the Word is brought forth after the substance or hupostasis of faith has been challenged from all directions. And the hupomone in verse 4 will bring forth its perfect work. This means that you become perfect in your abiding in the Word, nothing wavering, turning neither to the right or to the left, solidly stabilized on the Word.

The word work is ergon which is the same word used by Jesus in Jn. 14:12 He who believes in Me the work (ergon) that I do he will do also. And greater ergon he shall do because I go to My Father. If you want to do the works of Jesus you can't bypass this process of allowing your faith to be tested until you pulled through, holding firmly to the beginning of your hupostasis and abiding upon the Word until your hupomone is perfected.

Let me show you another scripture in Rom. 5:3-5 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance (hupomone), and endurance produces character and character produces hope. Faith has to be inside somewhere because in Heb. 11:1 it says that faith is the substance of things hoped for. So hope has to be related to faith. And James 1:3 says that the testing of your faith produces hupomone. So somehow or other these substances have to co-relate. Through reading all these verses we can make this conclusion, that hope is connected to faith according to Heb.11:1. And hupomone is connected to faith according to James 1:3.

Then Rom. 5 comes in and puts them all together in a systematic order to show something except the word faith is not mentioned. We have to put it in and see the process. Rom. 5:3 and 4 says tribulation brings forth; the word produce in James 1:3 is the same word bring forth in Rom. 5:3. It is not pushing you down and changing you; that's the wrong impression. It is to bring forth something in you first. Some people think that tribulation and experiences produce faith - they do not. You have faith from the Word. If you don't have the Word inside you if you don't have hupostasis in you and you go through the circumstances, nothing will come out

because you got nothing inside. If you have nothing in you, you can go through hard circumstances. There is nothing coming out since there is no Word in you to come out. Circumstances will grind you into powder and nothing will come out. But if you have hupostasis and the circumstances try to grind you into powder, the grinder will get stuck halfway because the Word can not be changed. And the hupostasis comes forth to destroy the grinder. There has to be something in you, which is the Word of God. It is not the trials alone that perfect you. It's the Word in you going through the testing.

Lets put all these verses together.

Rom. 5:3-5 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance (hupomone); and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

James 1:3 Knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (hupomone).

Between faith and the hupomone is the tribulation, which is the testing of your faith.

It says in Rom. 5 that tribulations bring forth hupomone.

Hupomone, or patience or perseverance or more accurately, the unwavering abiding in the Word, is the final product. You start off with holding to the beginning of your faith, which is your hupostasis. How do we change from hupostasis to hupomone? James 1:3 tells you that the testing of your faith produces hupomone. That means the testing of your faith, which involves your hupostasis, the substantiation of the things of God, the evidence of things not seen, produces hupomone. Can you see that?

Rom. 5:3-5 comes in and tells you that tribulation produces hupomone. But James 1:3 says the testing of your hupostasis produces hupomone. What can we conclude? The tribulation and testing of your faith produce hupomone.

Can you see that all together now? The tribulation and the testing of your faith produce hupomone. And James 1:4 says that the hupomone will produce ergon, which is the perfect works.

So you see the whole process. Tribulation and testing of your faith produce hupomone which when it has its perfect work produces ergon.

Now if you notice Rom. 5 there is something in between there. Rom. 5:4 it says tribulation produces hupomone, and hupomone, character. The word character is the word dokime, which means a proof. And dokime produces hope. And the hope is substantiated that is your ergon.

Turn to James 1:4, it says knowing the testing (dokimeon) of your faith produces hupomone. The Greek word for testing here is dokimeon, which also means the proving. In other words, this verse says the proving of your faith produces hupomone.

Turn to Rom. 5 again tribulation brings forth hupomone and hupomone brings forth character which is the actual word dokime. Dokime means proof, the evidence of things not seen. So by the time you reach this stage the evidence has come forth. So here is a part that is not seen yet. Its only in your spirit the world can't see it. But you

know its real. You have got the hupostasis. And the testing of your hupostasis produces hupomone. And by the time your hupostasis gets to hupomone, you come to Heb. 6:12, So that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

The other aspect of hupomone is makrothumia, which is the testing through the heat experience. By the time your hupostasis reaches here through tribulation, proving or testing (dokimeon) and fiery experiences (makrothumia) it is manifested in character or dokime, the evidence that now can be seen. It can be touched. It is the proof that your hupostasis has held up under severe tribulation, testing and fiery trials. It is the evidence that you have held from the beginning of your hupostasis to the end. This process of holding on to your hupostasis from the beginning to the end was under the influence, help, guidance of Jesus, for He is the author and finisher of our faith. The perfecting of your hupomone then works out in ergon, the works that Jesus did.

There is one other aspect I like you to seek. How does the hupostasis come? It has to start from somewhere. It starts from rhema. So you can see that it's a process. In Heb. 11:3 it says By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God. The word, Word of God is rhema. So the rhema of God contains life. Rhema is the spiritual substance. It's the substance of God's spoken Word. It's the logos coming forth. In a way you can say that the rhema is the juice that comes out of the fruit. The rhema is a substance it gets into you. It starts as a seed. That seed has to grow. Jesus said if you have faith as a mustard seed. So the rhema is a seed. The seed of God's rhema is spoken to you.

Can you see the long process before it is manifested? People are impatient because they don't understanding the working of faith. They don't understand the process that is going on before it is manifested. See that seed the rhema gets into you is a substance. And that substance is your own process. It has to be confessed, meditated upon, contemplated and visualized and all the other principles involved until it has a clear-cut hupostasis in you. And the hupostasis has to go through testing, trials and circumstances that come to challenge that seed that is in you. There are things of life that come and say it can not be, it can not come to pass. But as you maintain your stand you reach hupomone, which means abiding constantly in the Word. You are never changing; you are always the same, abiding in Him. It started as a seed by this place the plant of faith has come forth.

And as it goes further the bible calls it character or dokime. The Greek word has a stronger word dokime which means the very proof of the existence of the spiritual realm. The very evidence itself. The proof of what is there and by the time it reaches ergon the world can see it. But what the world can see is only here ergon. The world can't see the other process that takes place. When all these things are taking place you look like a mad person to the world talking about things not seen. Holding fast to things that are incredible. The world can't conceive that and says that it is impossible. But it is working in you as a seed all the time.

So we see here they all start with the rhema of God. When God speaks a rhema it begins a whole process of faith in your life. Rom. 10:17 says faith comes by hearing and hearing by the (rhema) word of God. The very existence and authorship, the beginning of faith is rhema. See this whole process of faith. Lets look at Heb. 11 with

a clearer light. Verse 3 By faith we understand the world was created by the (rhema) word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

Look at Heb. 11:1 Faith is a substance of things hoped for. It calls certain things in the spirit world things. There are things out there in the spirit world that your hope sees and faith reaches out to it and starts bringing it out forth, so that the things that are seen were made of things that are not seen. They were not made of things that are seen. Everything around you is made of things that are invisible. They are made of spiritual matter. It is spiritual matter that produces physical matter. For that reason the things of the spirit are always above the natural.

The word things in Heb. 11:1 is the word pragma where we get the English word pragmatism. The word pragma is used only about 6 to 7 times in the New Testament. It is not the usual word for things. The word pragma conveys an act or a deed that is done. Deeds are actions that have been performed. So faith is the substance of deeds hoped for; things in the spiritual world. It's the same Greek word used many times in prayer. In Matt. 18 it says when any two on earth agree as touching any pragma on earth. See the word pragma is used for something conceived in the spiritual world that is to be achieved in the natural world. The bible translators called it things.

That's how faith has its process. If God speaks a word to you, where do you get the rhema? Rhema comes through God speaking to you the voice of the Holy Spirit. And it also comes through meditation of the logos of God. When the logos takes fire into your life it brings rhema. The voice of God and the written word of God do not contradict at all.

When you hear a rhema and faith begins please be prepared for the other process. Please be prepared to be driven to the desert for your faith to be tested. Even Jesus Himself was tested. After receiving the rhema from the Father "This is My Beloved Son; in You I am well pleased," He was driven to the desert by the Holy Spirit where He was tested by the devil for 40 days and 40 nights. Interestingly, the devil attacked the rhema that Jesus received from all angles. The devil said, "If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here." The principle is this: after receiving the rhema from God, the devil will come in to attack your rhema, causing you to doubt, causing you to let go of your rhema, causing you to abort the rhema, the seed of the Word that God has given you. The bible says to hold onto the beginning of your confidence (hupostasis) and be among those who receive the Word with a noble heart, and you will bear fruit thirty, sixty and a hundredfold.

Adam and Eve also were not spared this testing. After Adam received the rhema that he was not to partake of the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, the serpent came in to attack that very rhema to cause them to doubt God's words to them, saying, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' You know the rest of the story, they failed the test with terrible consequences for mankind.

There is a law under heaven that every one must be tested before admission into heaven. Whatever rhema you receive from God, expect to be tested on that rhema, for God wants you to hold tightly to your rhema, and the devil wants you to let go of your rhema.

If you understand faith by now, you should be ready for the tribulation, testing of your faith and makrothumia, which means a long endurance. This process of testing your faith produces hupomone, the constant abiding in the Word. And if you are willing to go through all those things then only will the Word of God become manifest in your life, and be indelibly printed on your character as the dokime, or the living proof. The things that are hoped for, evidence of things not seen are now manifested in your life.

Caleb and Joshua had the hupostasis of the things that God said. They know that God said it. They said we are well able to subdue the land as God said it. But the other 10 spies had no hupostasis in them. The substance of what God said was not in them. There is only one substance that can not change in the universe. Every other substance is changeable. Every thing natural can be changed since it is temporary. There is only one substance in the whole universe that is unchangeable, and that is the Word of God. Jesus said heaven and earth will pass away but the Word of God will endure forever.

So that same Word is locked into your spirit man. And it goes through all those processes of testing. Those processes will bring your character of hupomone out. The reason some people can not go through trials is because that rhema has never entered into their spirit. There is nothing to bring out. They live and they die in the process. There is nothing to bring out. Nothing to stand through. You can't have hupomone without the Word because hupomone itself speaks about the Word. There is no true patience without the Word. The bible word for patience implies the Word of God is behind it. We have to open our hearts to the hupostasis. When God says something to you and if you never hang on to it, if you don't apply patience you will live and die without bringing it out forth. You have to have a certain respect for God's Word and the voice of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit tells me something I lock myself in it. You will be challenged in everything God said. But when God has said something lock yourself into it.

For example, we were planning to shift our office to another town. For months we have been praying whether it should be in a shop lot or in a house. The idea changed to a house because the rental was cheaper. See there was no precise rhema yet. One day a woman came in with an offer to us to buy her office. As we continued praying, the Holy Spirit spoke to me, "Accept the offer." I know when the Holy Spirit says something. I saw exactly where it should be. The moment I saw it I said that settles it. See it is locking ourselves into what we see.

But you say if the Spirit says something, you are not supposed to change. The only problem is sometimes people don't hear the Spirit. Or the other process come they claim they heard the Spirit but they didn't hear properly. If you say you hear the Spirit and it didn't come to pass, my conclusion is you didn't hear properly. So we need a balance. On one side there are those who claim something from the Spirit and it never come to pass. Then these persons need to examine their hearing. On the other side are those who have no respect for things God says. Let me tell you if God gives you a real vision you have to hang on. If God really spoke a true prophecy to you, you have to hold fast to the things that are spoken in prophecy to you. Being wishy-washy will bring you nowhere.

When God says something to Jesus even if it is going to the cross He locked Himself in it. He will not turn to the left or to the right. That's the kind of character we should

have. One brother traveled with me and went to a certain place and he said the Lord told me to get such and such a pledge from brother So-and-so, and he mentioned that person's name. When he went there that person did not have the pledge, nor was he prompted to give that pledge at all. What do we mean when we say, "The Lord said?" If the Lord said we should be on our knees in repentance and if we don't obey, that is disobedience. See on one side there are those who say, "The Lord said," when it was not the Lord who said it. Then there are those who don't have respect enough for something God said. I am amazed sometimes God speak forth things through prophecy in the church and people take it lightly. And sometimes God says to your life to do certain things but we don't take it as thus says the Lord.

When God says something whether it comes in a vision, whether Jesus appeared to me or whether Jesus speaks through the inward voice we must train ourselves to learn to walk in faith. Faith comes by the rhema. It the rhema that forms the things to come. We must train ourselves to respond with awesomeness to the voice of God. So lets be balance don't go overboard on one side and everything God didn't say, we say God said. And all of you are receiving the voice of the Holy Spirit all the time. God is speaking to you in your prayer time. Many times we fall over also on this side to the things God said. Why do you not respond? We wait for a thunder, angels singing, earthquake and then we recognize it's the Lord. Some of the things God said like even to Elijah come in a still small voice. God have given me different types of commandments.

Sometimes God told me I want you to do such and such a thing. I want you to bring such and such a thing to such and such a person. I know it's the voice of God. If I disobey I have disobeyed the voice of God. Let me illustrate simple things as I close. People give me all kinds of things. Sometimes they give me expensive things. Some of the expensive things I can't bring myself to wear them. There was a very expensive belt given to me. I know I can't wear it. So I kept it aside. One pastor from a small town came to visit me. While we were sharing about the things of God there was this still small voice that said that's the man to give the belt to. I obeyed the voice of God and gave him the belt. After I did it while I was driving somewhere that very day the presence of God came on me while I was in the car. And God said, "Son I am glad you obeyed Me in the most slightest prompting." See the Holy Spirit is sent to be with us and speaks to us, and that is rhema.

4. FAITH AND THE CONSCIENCE

We are looking at faith, and what it means and what it requires. In Heb. 11:6 says without faith its impossible to please God. We must understand what the bible says about faith and the difference between faith and presumption.

II Tim. 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you. The bible talks about genuine faith. There is a faith that is genuine. The other aspects are mental accent or presumption.

Lets look at other verse in I Tim. 1:5 Whereas the aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith. Look at all these words that describe faith, genuine faith, sincere faith.

Look at verse 19 Holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, certain persons have made shipwreck of their faith.

And also I Tim. 3:9 They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

Note that all the 3 verses in I Tim. 1 verse 5, I Tim. 1 verse 19 and I Tim. 3 verse 9 relate to conscience and faith. There is a relationship between our conscience and faith. If you remember about 2 weeks ago we mentioned the difference between rhema and logos. How that faith is produced through that rhema that we hear from God. And the rhema can come from meditating on the logos of God. And then we mentioned how unless we have a rhema from God that it would be presumptuous for us to do anything.

This morning we look into a guiding system that God has placed inside our spirit so that we could know whether we have the faith or not. How do I know I really had the faith for something? Is it because I just had a mental conviction? Is it because I am mentally convinced? Or is it because I have a carnal confidence in it. How do I know that I really had the faith and its not mental accent or my desire? If you notice in exercising faith on something that we have to regard more to what is going on in our spirit than what is going on outside. And every time before you exercise faith in some area, we have to examine inside us. Take for example a person who said I am believing God for a hundred oil wells. I don't even know if his back garden had enough place for one oil well. And they don't even know how deep they have to go. So a person just say I am believing God for a hundred oil wells. And that person is very confident, very optimistic. Faith is optimistic but not all optimism is faith. And that person goes about with great confidence.

How does that person knows that it is his own confidence, his own mental conviction and not the Spirit of God? If that same person were to examine his inward spirit, he will pray and be still enough to hear what is in his spirit. He needs to check the inward witness within and know what his spirit man senses or feels about it. He needs to check what his spiritual senses sense. If that person did not have the faith nor is it the will of God, if that person examines himself, he will sense that there is something hollow within his heart. Moreover inwardly he won't have that peace of God, the joy of God. His inward spirit is troubled about it. Definitely that person is not exercising faith. That person is just having a mental conviction.

If you really are in the oil business, you need to exercise faith for that. You can listen inside your spirit that there is a confirmation inside your spirit. Lets come closer to home. What about the person who is exercising faith for a house or a car? Then that person examines himself or herself. If you check inside you if there is no inward confirmation and if it is only your head, but your spirit is not going along, you can never pull it through. It is the spirit man that has dominion over circumstances. But at other times when really God has put a revelation in your spirit, a rhema in your spirit there is an inward knowing.

There are some things God has spoken in my spirit that are not manifested yet. But there is an inward knowing and I know that I know that it is coming to pass.

The word conscience in the Greek is suneidesis, which means an inward knowing of something. And that is the aspect that we want to talk about that the world calls conscience. It says in I Tim. 1:19 Holding faith and a good conscience. Verse 18 says You may wage a good warfare. Lets fight a good warfare having faith and a good conscience. Faith must work together with the conscience in order to be successful. For example, here am I meditating on the Word of God. But God's Word has not sunk into my spirit yet. As long as God's Word has not been received into the spirit man my conscience can not bear witness to that act of faith yet. However as I meditate on the Word of God and spend time in worship, one day that Word of God enters into my spirit. And inside me there is a conviction that there is a knowing, there is an impartation in my spirit. And my conscience shouts out, "Alleluia it is done." Then I can act in faith. As long as your conscience don't bear witness to what you want to exercise faith on you can't act yet. Faith and conscience work together. Your conscience will tell you the time to act on God's Word.

That is the reason why sometimes a person meditating on healing suddenly may get a revelation in his heart that by the stripes of Jesus he is healed. He removes his clutches and medicine and comes out healed completely or gradually. The conviction that healing is the will of God has come into his heart. Yet the Word of God may not have penetrated into the spirit of others watching this man acting on the Word and getting healed. And when that happens they didn't manifest a healing. Their consciences don't bear witness to the Word of God concerning healing yet. It is God's will but their consciences don't bear witness yet. They have the knowledge that it is God's will. But they don't have the actual faith to exercise faith in God's will yet. And so as they try to remove their clutches their consciences protest. When your conscience protests you have to pay attention. Either the timing is wrong or your faith level is not there yet.

See there are different faith levels. Last year you may have faith for certain things and this year you may have faith for more things. Our faith grows. This year your conscience may not permit you but this year your conscience may permit you to exercise faith on a greater thing. Our conscience is not only the guide to whether something is sin or something is not sin. Our conscience is also a guide to the different levels of faith in our life, whether we actually have the faith for something. Something may be right but yet you don't have the faith level to move into it yet. Your conscience will protest. Every time you try to move into that direction your conscience will say no. The next time you want to exercise faith examine your conscience.

If you say I don't have time to do all those things then you might as well don't do it. If you don't have time to examine the spiritual world, how can you be exercising the spiritual principles to accomplish things in the natural? If you want to accomplish things in the natural you have to spend time in the natural area to train your natural skill, to sharpen your natural talent. If you want to do something in the spirit world from the spirit perspective using and applying spiritual principles we have to examine our spirits. We have to spend time waiting on God to examine what is going on in our spirit. Otherwise Paul says in I Tim. 1:19 there will be shipwreck. A shipwreck is when you have launched into the sea. And out there the storm comes forth and your ship don't have the ability to pull through the storm it will be wrecked by the storm and you float back to shore with a piece of plank losing everything. And shipwrecked faith is dangerous because you may get so discouraged that you can never even be at the level where you started. I know people who shipwrecked their faith where before their faith level is this high. And then they try to move into a higher level and at this height their conscience yells, protest. But they persist and as they try there is no faith level there. The storms of life come, the winds of the enemy come they are discouraged. They float back to shore on a piece of plank. They managed to get back to shore. And you would expect that they come back to the faith level that is there. I am sorry many of them come down right here to zero, worse than when they started. They are disheartened and they are not even abnormal.

See before the shipwreck they at least had the ship. After the shipwreck there is no more ship. All they have is a piece of plank. There you are you start again with the raft. Therefore we have to examine ourselves whether you are in the secular world or in the ministry whatever you are doing from God you have to always be sensitive to what goes on in your conscience. Your conscience speaks to you everyday telling you whether something you are doing is right or not. On a business deal, on the job you are supposed to take, on finances that you believe God for. Your conscience will bear witness to it. Or whether you should take the purchase of that car your conscience bears witness with you. And if you don't pay attention to your conscience you get into trouble 5 years later don't blame God. Too many people blame God for the decision they themselves made. They ask God why didn't He warn me. God said I did. God will always say I did. He does warn us but we don't hear through our conscience.

In I Cor. 8:7 However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through being hitherto accustomed to idols, eat food as really offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Noticed here that there is such a thing as a weak conscience. If there is a weak conscience then there is a strong conscience. Paul is talking about those with a weak conscience. Who is he talking about? Paul is talking in reference to idol food. He says that there are those who realize that idol is nothing, and they are conscious of God rather than of the idols. So somehow along the way the food that is given to them has been offered to idols and they eat it and it does not harm them. But another person whose conscience is weak comes along and sees that happening and when he wants to eat it his conscience tells him his faith level is not there. And when he eats it and his conscience still say no but because of the other person whom he saw eating, he just followed along. Paul says that such persons' conscience will be wounded.

In I Cor. 8:10 For if any one sees you, who have knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to

idols? Notice that person is going to eat not because his conscience tells him but because he saw another person do it. He is obeying circumstances and not obeying his conscience.

Verse 11 and 12 And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. See their conscience is weak and it gets wounded. When you disobey your conscience you wound your conscience. Conscience can be wounded.

Lets analyze this case. This is a specimen although it applies to idol worship the principles apply to that. First there are 2 persons "A" and "B" "A" has knowledge and consciousness that idols are nothing. And his conscience bears witness at his faith level. "B" has no knowledge, no consciousness of this authority that God has given and also "B" conscience is weak. "A" eats food offered to idols and no harm comes to him because his conscience permits it. "B" does it but as he was going to do it his conscience screams. His faith level was not there to do it. As his faith level is not there his conscience tells him not to do it. Our faith level is witnessed to by the conscience. Your conscience will tell you your faith level. Its funny when in a sense we obey our conscience for it is alright for some particular persons to do it but its not alright for some other person to do it. Its not because its not alright for you to do it. But rather the time for you to do it is not there. You can do the right thing in the wrong time and its wrong. It is alright to eat, no problem but it is the wrong timing because the faith level is not there.

So the conscience is sensitive to both the rightness of the action and the timing of the action. It can be the right thing but in a wrong time the conscience also will tell you. Just to make it clear here, as far as I am concerned idols food are nothing. It has no natural or spiritual effect on your life if you have the consciousness of that. And you don't know what people did with that meat that you bought. Whether they have prayed to some dumb idols before they sell it in the market we don't know. So don't bother just give thanks and eat it. But for the sake of testimony we do not when we are aware of something that is offered to idols and its part of the whole worship you refrain. You refrain not because that food will do something to us but rather for the sake of your testimony. Here is where we are talking about the principle of the faith level and the conscience. Notice that the weak brother wounds the conscience.

There are many things the bible talks about the conscience. Lets turn to Heb. 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. I didn't know there was an evil conscience until I read God's Word. What is an evil conscience? It is a conscience that has been polluted, that has been defiled by wrong teaching and wrong facts.

Lets look at Titus chapter 1:15 To the pure all things are pure, but to the corrupt and unbelieving nothing is pure; their very minds and conscience are corrupted. See our conscience can be defiled. What happen when a child is born into this world is that his or her conscience is pure. Every baby born into this world has a pure conscience. But as you grow up in life you are given the wrong teaching and the wrong facts. And as you go through life the wrong teaching keeps emphasizing that something is right even though it is wrong. And then you begin to believe the wrong things and you act

on the wrong things. The first time you acted on it your conscience protested. The second time you acted on it your conscience still protested but its now weak. The third time you act on it your conscience still protested but it has gone weaker. The more you act on it the weaker the signal he sends you until it reach a point where it does not protest any more. Every time it protests it has been shouted down by the wrong teaching.

And it reached a point where the reverse starts taking place is now evil. And you could do the wrong thing and there is no conscience. You don't feel wrong any more. At first you did it you feel wrong but now you don't feel wrong any more. Let me give an illustration. There are people out there who could kill without any feeling. They can just take a gun and just shoot you. Human lives are worthless to them. There are criminals out there who are professional killers. They will shoot you down and nothing bothers them. What made them so cruel? The first time they killed someone they probably could not sleep. Then the second time they kill, it bothers them to some extend. The third time they kill, it still bothers them but not as much. The fourth time, the fifth time until their conscience stops protesting and then they can kill without any problem. That's how the conscience becomes evil, becomes defiled. And at the same time they kill they are given the wrong teaching. They justify the killing.

Do you know that before any human being wants to do something wrong, he or she has to justify it in his or her mind? Why do we justify our wrongdoing and ourselves by using our minds? It is because deep down our consciences protest. Every human being who does something wrong have to convince himself with reason why he should do it. Even someone who murder or rob they will have to give reasons to themselves, justify their actions to themselves not to any other person. Those who kill another they will say this person is giving so much trouble might as well get rid of this guy. We give ourselves reasons to do the wrong thing. Why do human beings do that?

God has put universal conscience. And that conscience is so tender it needs to be nurtured. If the conscience is not obeyed it gets seared. Lets look at I Tim. 4:2 Through the pretensions of liars whose consciences are seared. Their own conscience seared it gets sick until it gets no more feeling. If you are a guitar player, and you press the cords with your left hand, you will notice that the edge of our left hand fingers there is always a thick layer of skin. But if you are not playing for several months that layer of skin drops off and it leaves a normal layer. With that thick layer of skin you can't feel with the tips of your finger any more. That thick layer of skin and there are no nerves inside you can't feel anymore. In the same way the conscience gets seared its gone dead and you can't sense right or wrong any more. Faith has to move with a conscience all the time.

Notice in I Cor. 8 why is the conscience weak? It is due to the lack of knowledge. The positive application is this. Our conscience can be trained by knowledge. Sometimes it is not only the wrong teaching or wrong doing sometimes it's the wrong custom and culture. Like for example in India which is illegal now its one of the old Indian custom when the husband dies the wife has to be burned too. And they can do it without any conviction that it is wrong. Why because the culture has deadened it. So wrong teaching and wrong knowledge can come in any form. It can come through books. It can come through the educational systems. It can come through customs or even culture. There is no problem with culture as long as it does not contradict the

Word of God. Retain your cultures, be as you are, there is no problem with that as long as it does not contradict God's Word. But when the cultural customs contradict the Word that's where the choice has to be made. There are a lot of things that are unessential which are not necessary to fuss or fight over. Some people have gone to the extreme until they have eradicated their culture totally. God wants you to know the beauty of your customs and your culture. Retain it as much as you can and just be as you are.

But there are some acts that is interesting. Lets take brother X and brother Y. Brother X has no background of alcoholism. As far as brother X is concerned he has no problem whatsoever. But brother Y has an alcoholism problem, was delivered and set free. And that put a restriction on brother Y. It says don't ever touch alcohol at all his conscience tells him that. See God knows he can't handle it at all. For me I believe that its good to keep away from all those things. What happens for example if it is a lady X and a lady Y. It's a custom and its also true in a sense like some ladies after they give birth they do take some wine. So lets take lady X and lady Y. Both of them gave birth. Lady X has no problem with alcohol. But lady Y has been delivered from alcoholism in the past. Now lady X is given a little bit of this wine and she just take this little bit and it warms her up. The conscience of lady X does not tell her that is wrong. But lady Y she has a problem with alcohol and her conscience tells her don't touch it. When you look at both of them you say isn't it funny why it is alright for one to take wine and not alright for the other to take wine. In theology there is a division called situational ethics. Something it may seems to be okay for this person but not okay for another person. It is not a case of double standards. It's a case of the spirit knowing what is right and wrong for a person. Nearly half the world has a problem with alcohol. So how shall Christians stand? Don't have any thing to do with it. So faith and conscience must work together.

Lets look at Acts 23 we see how Paul operated faith in his life. In verse one And Paul, looking intently at the council, said, "Brethren, I have lived before God in all good conscience up to this day." If Paul was in a group of a hundred people and ninety-nine of them do something but he was the only odd one out because his conscience says don't do it, he would rather obey his conscience than to obey the majority. He would rather obey his conscience than to just follow blindly. The conscience is so important to Paul.

Acts 24:16 So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward God and toward men. Paul says he is moving in his whole life and ministry to obey his conscience. That's what we should do.

Rom. 2:15 They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness. He is talking about the conscience that God has placed in each human heart that bears witness to the Word of God.

Rom. 9:1 I am speaking the truth in Christ, I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit. Our conscience has a voice that bears witness to the things of the Spirit. Here is where we tie the leading of the Spirit and faith in the Word together. The Spirit can't lead you unless you are also sensitive to the inward witness of your spirit that is a part of your conscience. Your conscience is utilized by God to lead you in the everyday circumstances of your life, the daily things that you do the right or wrong that the Word does not cover specifically. Is it all right for you to take

this job or not? The bible doesn't tell you that. It tells you what kind of commandments to follow. If it is a company that makes an honest living its not hard to make a decision. If it is a business that is involved in evil the Word tells you clearly to keep away from it. What if you have to choose among 10 honest companies? How can you tell which one is from God? There is where the Holy Spirit guides your conscience to the right one. Your conscience will guide you to the specific details of the things to do everyday. It may even be so detailed so to some times tell you it is not alright to see such and such a person. So detailed is the leading that it is marvelous to behold such great detail that God leads us. That is the inward witness that is a part of the conscience The Holy Spirit leads.

Now here is where it ties up to the Word of God. The conscience has to be educated by the Word of God. See the conscience is weak or strong in directly proportional to the knowledge that we received. If you have no knowledge your conscience is weak in these areas. If you have knowledge your conscience is strong in these areas. So the Word of God trains our conscience. And the Word of God when it comes inside us produces faith and then your conscience tells you that's alright. That's how faith, the Word is related to the conscience. The conscience is related to the leading of the Spirit. And you can see the harmony of both working with the conscience of the central theme like Paul says I obey my conscience.

As we close turn to the book of Heb. 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience. Notice here he says having full assurance of faith. You can not act on something in faith unless you got full assurance of faith. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. We need the full assurance. And where in the Spirit can we get that full assurance? Assurance comes from a cleansed conscience. A conscience that is pure and undefiled, sprinkled, can bear witness with faith. Sprinkle with what? Heb. 10 tells us that is the Blood of Jesus Christ. Heb. 10:19 Since we have the confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus. Then in chapter 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience. The blood of Jesus cleanses and purges our conscience. That is the first thing to know. The blood must cleanse the conscience. Whenever you have disobeyed your conscience you have to ask for the blood to cleanse it. The moment you commit one sin no matter how small, it interferes the leading of the Spirit instantly. If you just have one tiny sin it will interfere with your hearing in the Holy Spirit because one tiny sin will defile your conscience. And your conscience has a role and a part involved in hearing from the Holy Spirit. That is why if you want to be a hundred percent all the time doing what the Spirit wants you to do your conscience must be clear.

Supposing you have done something wrong and your conscience tells you that it is wrong. I am not talking about the Ten Commandments. I mean you have said a wrong word that has caused damage to the body of Christ. Or you spoke roughly to your children or to your father. Let me tell you how fussy the Spirit can get at you. The Holy Spirit will even rebuke you and tell you that you are not supposed to raise your voice with you children. Nobody in the world will tell you that but the Holy Spirit will tell you that. To the children the Holy Spirit will tell you is wrong to speak to your daddy that way. Nobody will tell you that but the Holy Spirit will. When the Holy Spirit tells you that your conscience says that right is wrong.

If you don't put it under the blood and you try to move into the Spirit, that sin will interfere with the leading of the Holy Spirit. Lets say you try to get a prophecy from God or if you try to get a word of knowledge or a word of wisdom everything becomes blank. You can't move with accuracy. Just one tiny dot of sin can affect our accuracy to hear from God. Other areas will also be affected. One thing that is done will affect all the other areas. So in order to move into that area the first point must be clear. You have to have your conscience purged and cleansed by the blood.

And the second thing we have seen in I Cor. 8 that you have to have your conscience cleansed by the Word of God. The bible calls it in I Tim. 3:9 holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. As we go through this series on faith we need to see how faith and the conscience work closely together. If you say you are exercising faith then make sure that your conscience is in line with it. If you conscience doesn't go along with that something is wrong. Full assurance of faith can only be exercised with a cleansed conscience. If you have that conscience supporting you bearing witness with you go for it. Whatever the circumstances go for it because in the midst of that storm you will not be shipwrecked. Your conscience will pull you through. Come what may you have an inner assurance that you are doing the right thing. If you know that you are in the center of God's will that spirit of fearlessness that comes into you. There is something that comes into you that you couldn't care even if heaven and earth fell apart. You know that you are doing the right thing and it's the will of God.

5. SHIELD OF FAITH

Turn with me to Ephesians 6:12 For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded our loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

What we want to see here this morning is the shield of faith. We are looking at the shield of faith as an aspect of faith in our life. The shield of faith is the only piece of armor that Paul gives a description as to what it does. All the other pieces of armor are listed and you have to cross reference to find out what they do. But the shield of faith Paul immediately describes what it does.

He even emphasizes “above all”. He does not say that about the other pieces of armor. That doesn’t mean that the other pieces are not important. But there is an emphasis that Paul places here in the context on spiritual warfare. He starts with verse 12 and as he speaks about spiritual warfare he emphasizes an important weapon. I see all the other pieces of armor as not only defensive armor but they are also weapons. Any weapon that can neutralize the weapons of our enemy and cause our enemy to be powerless must be important.

And here he says in Ephesians 6 that above all take up the shield of faith whereby you are able to quench all the fiery darts of the enemy. Our enemy has fiery darts. And those fiery darts can be quenched by one of our armor. Its wonderful to know that there is a piece of our armor that can quench the enemy darts. That can destroy his weapon against our life. In any warfare if you are able to disarm an enemy you have won part of the battle. So according to Ephesians 6 there is a piece of armor that can quench the enemy darts. In any warfare there must be an ability to disarm an enemy. To cause the enemy weapon to be obsolete it must be a powerful weapon. See in warfare we could cause our enemy to be weaponless and disarmed. To be in a position where our weapon becomes offensive it must be a powerful weapon.

In fact in the 1973 war between Israel and Egypt, the Israelites almost could have gone straight to Cairo. But in the first stage of the war the first thing that the Israelites did was to bomb all the air-fields and all the air ports that are possible for Egypt’s planes to take off. So immediately at the beginning of the war Egypt lost its air power. And all of their armies on land were at the mercy of the Israelites air force from the first stage of the war. And it was this decisive attack of Israel even though they were out numbered that caused them to win the war. See that in modern warfare this applies how much more in spiritual warfare when we have weapons that could cause our enemy’s weapons to be useless against us.

And the shield of faith is important for the enemy’s main weapons are fiery darts. And it is this shield of faith that we take that causes Satan to be powerless against us. People are talking how powerful he is, how big he is. But if we have a weapon that can make him nothing more than a pussycat, that will be lovely. That’s what Paul says

that is why he emphasized “above all taking the shield of faith”. We have to understand how this shield of faith works.

There is another part of our armor that is described in the book of I Thessalonians 5:8. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love. In Ephesians 6 he speaks about the breastplate of righteousness. You wear a breastplate of righteousness; you wear a breastplate of faith. See faith gives us a double protection against the enemy. It is with faith that we can reach a point where we don't feel the devil any more. Neither are we afraid of his attack or counterattack or his strategy or his attempts against us. We have a dual protection: the breastplate of faith and the shield of faith. Remember faith is the force that quenches the fiery darts of the enemy. So you have the shield of faith and when it gets through you still got the breastplate of faith. There is a dual protection against the fiery darts. Twice does the force of faith operate to neutralize the weapons of our enemy the fiery darts.

In a practical way when our faith increases we become immune to the enemy. When you start moving into the spiritual realm, or maybe you first start casting out demons or praying for the sick or being active in the Lord's ministry, people will come and tell you, and there are a lot of them available, to tell you don't overdo it, otherwise Satan counterattacks. You probably have heard this yourself before. And after some time when you are active they will say the demons follow you home, trouble you, cause you sleepless nights, oppression, attack your family. So when you give him one punch he gives you two punches. And because your faith level is low, and since you have only just begun, you accepted that statement. According to your faith, so be it onto you. It happened exactly as you accepted. You were troubled, you were oppressed, demons did follow you home, and he did counter attack. And the next time you minister for the Lord at the back of your mind you were wondering what is the next counterattack. Until one day God shows you His Word where He says in Psalms 91:10 No evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. And He tells you in the gospel of Luke 10:17-21 It tells you that you shall tread upon scorpions and serpents and in no way shall they hurt you or harm you. So we know that Jesus is talking about a faith level where you reach the point where his attacks can not touch you. And that is where faith can bring you. This is the true faith that is from God.

Many Christians go out into spiritual battle without understanding the shield of faith what it is for. Here is how faith operates. You go out and people tell you all these things. Don't simply lay hand on demon-possessed people because the demon will come through your hand and come into your life. It's unscriptural, you can't find a single scripture. Some of you may quote Paul told Timothy don't lay hand suddenly. That doesn't talk about casting out demons. That talked about appointing people to leadership. See laying hand is also to an appointment to a leadership post. Whenever they choose leaders they lay hands and set them apart. Paul was telling Timothy about that ordination and not about casting out demons. It's a misquoting of scriptures. There is no scriptural basis for that kind of belief. The only problem is their faith level is so low that Satan is making use of it to throw his fiery darts. And his fiery darts are coming through and hitting their family, hitting their mind, hitting their lives and they are suffering because the shield of faith is not quenching the enemy darts. In fact they just lay it down and they are not using it. Neither did they have the breastplate of faith. Faith is not operating in their life. Fear is operating in their life.

In the early days of the ministry when I was told all these, I took the Word of God and said I will not accept it. Because No. 1 I don't see in the life of Jesus. No. 2 I don't see in the life of the apostles. No. 3 its unscriptural. No. 4 I have scriptures that tells me the opposite that I am protected. If I were to work for an earthly employer, if he is a good, he will take care of my needs because I am giving my time to the earthly employer. And if I serve God who is the best employer in the world, if I serve my Father in heaven and I give my life to Him how can He not protect my family? He does. So we take the Word of God and meditate on it. I don't believe that his counter attacks will be effective. He can try but it won't have any effect. Neither would I accept or believe the fact that you need to succumb to all his attacks. You can be immune completely. That is more scriptural. The more we meditate on that Word you will reach a point where you are no more afraid of what he tries to do back to you. You begin to develop a faith in the boldness to go ahead and uproot demonic powers from people's lives. You go ahead and destroy the works of the devil in any city in any place with full confidence that He that is with you is greater than the enemy. With full confidence that God protects you, your family and all your love ones. With full confidence that you are immune to the enemy.

In the natural, immunity means that you could face certain sicknesses or diseases without succumbing to them. Why? What makes a person immune in the natural? When we say a person is immune against for example small pox what are we talking about? We are saying that if that person is exposed to that small pox virus there are elements in the blood of that person that will destroy the small pox virus and germs. So when a person develops immunity that person has the anti-bodies in his blood system against viruses or germs. When they immunize a person what they put into a person is a very weak strain of the germs and it causes the body to produce the anti-bodies to kill the weakened germs. And those anti-bodies remain in the blood stream from that time onwards. And there is in our blood stream a lot of immunity against various types germs and viruses.

In the same manner spiritual immunity to the attacks of the enemy are such that whatever Satan try you have faith in your life to overcome it. It is call the fight of faith. If fear tries to come you take the Word of God. The only weapon the enemy has is fear. If he could succeed in putting fear into your life he will have a hold on you. Only the Word of God can knock out all the strong holds. Only the Word of God can cut it off.

How do we know that this true faith is operating and not just presumption? Last week we talked about faith and the conscience working together. We are talking about the fight of faith. Lets look at II Tim. 4:7 I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith. Your fight is to keep the faith, to hold on to faith. Faith that is exercised in the Lord is not a struggle. Faith is a rest. How do we tell if somebody is exercising faith or presumption? It is very easy. Presumption is anxious, fearful, worrisome, doubtful, but faith has a peace and calmness in God. How do we know before we pray for someone whether the faith that is exercised has contacted God? If a person has a faith of God working there is an inner confidence that flows out. When a person says I know that when you pray for me I will be healed. There is a peace it comes in what that person is saying. That is the faith of God. And many times when you pray it works accordingly. But human presumption that is not at the level of faith yet is anxious, worried. Softly they will say please pray for me. When a person says

like that there is no faith its only anxiety. Faith and fear can not co-exist. Faith and anxiety can not co-exist. Faith and worry can not co-exist. When you hear a person talking that way you have to convey faith to that person. You have to either calm a person down with the Word, remind that person what the Word of God said until that person reaches a rest. Then you can minister successfully. If you just minister as it is sometimes all a person wants is sympathy.

Heb. 11:6 says without faith its impossible to please God. Sometimes people can draw faith from others. Like for example if about 10 of you are in a boat. The storms come and the sharks go round it. And part of the engine breaks down. And the waves are tossing to and fro and the sharks are coming nearer and nearer. And 9 of them panic. But if one person among them who would stand and say, "The angels of God are with us," and there is a calmness in that person voice. Others can catch that person's faith. Fear is also contagious; it passes on from one to the other. When Gideon had a whole group of people come, God said to Gideon tell those who are fearful to go home. Nearly twenty thousand went home. And in His instructions to Moses in talking about fighting emphasizes that the fearful will not fight for him. Fear is also contagious until it contacts faith. When fear and faith fights faith wins. The peace and the calmness of God wins. There is a peace and a rest with true faith.

You can tell whether people are talking out of their heads or out of their hearts. Like someone comes and say I am believing God for this I am believing God for that. You examine very carefully. If the so-called believing and all those confessions are filled with anxieties, fear, then faith has not settled in. And usually people who talk like that the thing they are hoping for doesn't come to pass. Neither do they have the substance of faith to bring it to pass. The first circumstances, the difficulties that person faces, that person gives up. So how can that be faith? Faith doesn't give up. It was never faith. It was human confidence. Now faith talks differently. Faith has a calmness to it that says I know that God has shown me this. Sometimes a person gets excited that's alright. But there is calmness and a peace about the way a person talks when faith is there. There is a rest about the way a person talks. That person says I know that God has shown me this. I know He will bring it to pass. The way a person talks convey a peace all around. And when people say that you know that faith is there. And they will be as immovable as Noah building the ark. Come what may they will pursue it. The breastplate of faith and love and the shield of faith do the same thing. See Satan is always hasty. He that believeth does not make haste.

When the enemy's darts confronts the faith of God, the conquering peace will nullify them. We think of peace as a force that is fragile and easily broken. For our concepts of peace are sometimes inaccurate from what we see around us. Like we see the peace of nations are quite fragile. Whenever one nation upsets another war is easily provoked. All it takes is sometimes a wrong statement or taking of one foot of the other nation's border and whole nations are offended. And war has erupted over one foot of soil. We live in the world where peace is something that is so fragile. In the same way as you see the water. It is nice to see clear water running peacefully. And when wind comes you can see the ripples on the water. And our concept of peace is something fragile. But not in the spirit realm. In the spirit realm we have said meekness conquers, peace conquers. Rom. 6 says the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet.

Look at Rom. 16:20 Then the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. Peace is a powerful force. And this peace that we are talking about is a peace that results out of faith. Faith can be examined and it has its properties and it has its characteristic. Just as in chemistry you examine a substance you can classify the characteristics the chemical properties of a substance. Faith can be examined and it has properties. One of the properties of faith is peace.

Look at Rom. 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. See we have joy and peace in believing. The word believe in the New Testament comes from the same Greek word as the word faith. If we could have use the word faith as a verb instead of a noun we could have read it this way. That the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith-ing or exercising your faith in God. So when we exercise true faith in God peace and joy are its characteristics. You can tell whether its faith or human confidence working in a person.

Look over at Philippians chapter 4 this is the type of peace that must come if your prayers are to be answered. And of course we see the connection that it has with faith. The reason why not many people's prayers are not answered is they don't have faith. Without faith God can not be moved.

Phil. 4:6-7 Have no anxiety about anything. Paul did not put that verse in just to fill up that line. Anxiety is an enemy of faith. You can't exercise faith and be anxious at the same time. Faith has hope and confidence. There is no anxiety in faith. Paul says don't be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep our hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

See this peace that we have seen is produced according to Rom. 15:13 from faith. When you have removed all those anxieties in your life and allow the Word to be a revelation in your life, that revelation or that rhema of the Word of God in your life in your spirit is faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the rhema of God. Rom. 10:17. That rhema of God becomes a revelation to you. And that revelation is faith being birthed in you. And that faith in your life will give you a rest, a peace, a calm. It's a powerful peace.

The bible says in Phil. 4:7 peace garrisons your heart and mind. Have you ever imagine peace as a soldier. That's the picture it gives you. Peace is a soldier it marches around and around your heart. Peace guards you. And it is this peace that guards you that is faith as a shield of faith demonstrating against the enemy. When the enemy throws a dart of fear, a dart of anxiety, this peace that is faith guarding you will be able to stop those fiery darts so that your peace is not disturbed and your position of faith remains. Satan can throw a missile at you and the peace that is guarding you can block the missile and it can not get in. Provided it's the peace that comes from the revelation of the Word in your life. Two people can come up to you with the same sickness with the same problem. And both of them are on medication. One of them said, "I believe the Lord has touched me. God spoke to me through His Word. I know I am healed. I know God has touched me and done something in my body. I am putting away all the medicine." Another comes and asked, "Can I put away all these medicine?" Your answer to the first one is I believe that God has really touched you. The answer to the second one is no you can't yet. See that is why people get into

problems. They don't discern faith when it comes. Faith can be discerned. Acts chapter 14 tells us that as Paul was preaching he saw that the man has faith to be healed. Faith can be discerned. You can discern faith when it is there. And when faith is there and its acted upon a miracle takes place. Jesus can discern faith. When they open the roof He looked up and He saw the faith of the people. They have such confidence, where against odds they try to come into the house there was no room. Ordinary people give up but not faith people. Its sure would take faith to dig a hole in a roof just to get to Jesus. Ordinary human confidence would have given up. But there was something in them that say they know that person would be healed. Faith is a knowing so confident, so peaceful, so full of calm and rest that it is a shield, garrison upon your heart and on your mind.

Now there is more to it here. Lets look at the book of Hebrews where we can show that faith when its being acted has a rest. Hebrews chapter the context is talking about unbelief. Chapter 3:19 and chapter 4:1-2 So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief. Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest remains, let us fear lest any of you be judged to have failed to reach it. For the good news came to us just as to them; but the message which they heard did not benefit them, because it did not meet with faith in the hearers. See when you believe you enter into rest. When you don't believe there is no rest. You are anxious, you are fearful, you are doubtful. You can be easily tossed to and fro by contrary wind. But when you believe you enter into rest.

In Heb. 4:10 For whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labors as God did from His. The rest that you enter through faith will allow the work of God to come forth. It says that he who enters that rest will cease from his struggles. You cease from your works, you cease from your efforts. Because now it is that Word that has gone into you that will bring forth the works. It says now it is the Word that does the fighting for you. Its like a seed planted into you. And the life that is in that seed will burst forth now that you have entered into that rest inside of you.

I have known of people who have received faith for certain areas in their life. And when the contrary winds and circumstances come against them, the Word in them speaks to them. While the outward circumstances tries to bring confusion and fear the inward calm and peace hit the spirit. It shall be so, it shall be so according to His Word. And the peace that is inside will rise forth and the God of that same peace will see to it that the peace will crush Satan under you. That's how powerful the shield of faith is. Shield of faith is faith manifesting in your life. It must be a tremendous weapon to cancel the weapon of the enemy, neutralize it, quenched it. And that shield of faith has characteristics of rest, of peace. With that same peace the bible talks about it that crushes it underneath. If you watch carefully it is those who have that inner peace and calm who are the greatest warriors of God. It is those who have the inner peace and calm that comes from faith that when you put them in a difficult circumstances they will pull through. But those who don't have that foundation of peace in their life you put them in any circumstances they will shake, fear, tremble and fall. It's the inner stability that faith gives you. It's a powerful force. If you love and desire to defeat the enemy you must tap on this force of faith to come into your life in such a way that it produces peace, joy, rest.

Having spoken about this method, now the most important fact is for you to identify at which point the Word of God have moved into your spirit. As we have said if I

could identify for you what are the characteristics of faith, you would know when it has entered into your life and you will know when its not there. And you need to still meditate for it to get in. Just like cooking an egg. When you cook an egg the transparent white turns into a opal white. And it is an irreversible process. But in the early days in school days you remembered if you heat egg white just a little bit it will change the color. But if you retain it at a certain temperature, when it cools down it will reverse itself back to transparent. But at a certain point of temperature when it is no return, it will remain opal white otherwise it transparent. Some chemicals are that way. In the same manner you must be able to identify when faith comes in. Lets not fool ourselves. If faith is not there lets recognize it and lets get into the Word. Don't go into battle when faith has not entered. You can't fight the fight of faith if there is no faith. And the reason is people have not discerned faith in themselves and they have not discerned faith in others and it's a confused walk all the time. But when God helps you to identify and discern faith then you are better off. You know when to go into the boxing ring and when to keep training.

To discern faith we need to understand the characteristic of faith, which is why we touch on this subject. And having seen the characteristics now you can examine yourself and you can examine others whether you have faith for something. Sometimes you may have faith for certain area but no faith for other areas. You may have faith for finances but no faith for healing. Or you may have faith for healing but no faith for finances. Examine your own life. Judge yourself. Before you take a step of faith, before you go forth and proclaim boldly from the housetop examine your heart whether faith is there. If faith is not there you have not entered into the rest yet don't say anything to anybody. Just keep meditating on the Word until it gets into you. Hear the Word meditate on it and I can assure you one day when that revelation of the Word enters into your spirit faith is born. It's a supernatural force of faith that brings joy, that brings peace, that brings an inner calmness and with that inner stability you could stand against contrary winds. How strong a building is depends on the inner structure of that building and the reinforcement that is in that building. Some buildings don't have much reinforcement and so if a bomb explodes next to that building not even on that building the vibrations that take place will knock the whole building down. But modern builders discovered how to have reinforced concrete. So what they do is they put steel pars into those concrete pour cement on it and there is a greater strength in that building. And some of those building you could drop bombs next to it, it shakes but it will remain standing.

Faith in your spirit gives you a strength of reinforced concrete. How much you can stand through contrary circumstances depends on how much reinforcement is in your life. Right now you are an anxious, fearful, doubtful, timid person there is no doubt if we send you as a missionary to Timbuktu, the Christians there will have to minister to you and not you to them. What you are right now shows how much faith is in your life. None of us will send an anxious, fearful person to a difficult area. But we would rather send a peaceful, calm, full of faith and Spirit person into that area. It is the same way with God. God discerns faith and we need to see ourselves the way God sees us. There are certain things that we must be realistic. Sometimes God gives you a vision and you don't have faith to fulfill that vision yet. Be realistic. Some people have good intentions when they began. They say we are going to build this ten million dollars building. And yet they don't have even faith for half a million. And whenever they think about it they are fearful, shaking. I can assure you they won't get through. But to

fight that kind of faith you must have an inner strength that comes from faith. It doesn't mean that it comes easily.

6. THE MUSTARD SEED FAITH

We are seeking to understand the concept of faith from the bible. In Matthew chapter 17 we have a very familiar incident. Jesus was on the Mount of Transfiguration. And Jesus came down from the Mount of Transfiguration. When He came down the bible tells us that He found a group of His disciples with a group of Pharisees and other people. They were trying to cast out a demon. And they did not succeed. And as He came down from the Mount of Transfiguration the father of this child that is demon possessed came to the Lord Jesus and knelt down before the Lord Jesus and said have mercy on me. This account is also found in Mark chapter 9 and the gospel of Luke chapter 9. The father begged Jesus and said Lord have mercy on me. He wanted results. Something is not working. Something was failing. And here Jesus when He saw it in Matthew 17:17 And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation. He said it's a generation that does not have faith. What an indictment He made upon the generation. With all those people He says O faithless generation. Jesus Christ requires faith. And even though there were so many of them it did not work. It is not the more the merrier. It is to have faith its possible. All things are possible if you believe. Some times you can have the more and it does not make any difference. If you can only have one individual whether it is a child, if that child has faith it will work. Faith is the key. Apparently Jesus came down there was no faith at all. He says the whole situation that was happening there was no faith involved. And if you did not have faith nothing works. Without faith its impossible to please God Heb. 11 says. Then Jesus said how long am I to be with you? Bring him here to me.

The bible tells us in the gospel of Mark chapter 9 that just before Jesus says bring him here to me, Jesus said to the father. Jesus said if you believe all things are possible. And the father fell down before Jesus on his knees. He cried and he said I believe help my unbelief. I believe but help my unbelief. Look at Mark chapter 9 to the precise statement that he made. Verse 24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe help my unbelief". How can that be possible? Believe and unbelief doesn't exist together. What is happening here is that the father was being convicted that he did not have faith. He had unbelief. And he was saying forgive my unbelief. That's the meaning. I know that some times people use that verse to say that you believe in the heart but there is doubt in the mind. Here the father must have believed to a certain extent otherwise he wouldn't have brought the boy to the disciples to have the demons cast out. If people bring them there must be a certain level of belief. But here there is a lot of unbelief. And Jesus emphasize on faith. Before Jesus could make an entrance into that situation there was like a blockade. Jesus had to minister faith. He took the father first and He said if you believe all things are possible. That statement of Jesus convicted him. He started crying out to God. While he was talking the rest started coming. Before the rest came Jesus rebuked the demon and the demon left the boy.

After that the disciples who were not very successful came to the Lord Jesus and said Lord, Master how is it that we can not cast the demon out. How is it that you could and we couldn't? The first thing Jesus told them, lets go back to Matt. 17:19 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" Remember the paradox that they are going through. In Matthew 10 verse one Jesus gave them power over demons. Objectively they had the authority. Jesus gave them power and authority over demons. They had the authority on paper but it was not working in

actual life. And a lot of Christians had a lot of privileges and authority and blessings on paper. The Word of God declares that in Christ they have all these blessings. They have it on paper but they don't have it in practice. Some times denominations are formed when the first generation had discovered a lot of spiritual things. The second generation or the third generation had it on paper. And they don't practice it any more. They lost the experience. They believe in it theologically but they don't practice it. Divine healing is believed in many denominations but its not practiced. The gifts of the Spirit are on paper in many denominations but its not practiced.

The disciples had the authority but its not working. And they asked Jesus, "Master why couldn't we cast the demon out?" Jesus said, "Because of your unbelief." That's the first thing He said. How come they have their unbelief in their lives? How is it that they have unbelief? There was doubt in them. Understand that a little leaven, leavens the whole lot. One doubt caused Peter to nearly drown while he walked in the water. That's why we are studying on faith to see how that perfect love cast our fear and perfect faith have no fear. Now we see the situation the father didn't really have faith; the disciples didn't really have faith. So how can they make any connection with the power of God? Both the ministered and the minister have no faith. There is no power connection. Nothing resulted and the demon was laughing. There was no result, since unbelief was on both sides. No wonder Jesus came down and said this faithless generation. See the whole situation have no faith. That's where Jesus ministered to the disciples. Jesus gave them a solution. He says, "For assuredly I say to you if you have faith as a mustard seed you will say to this mountain move from here to there and it will move and nothing will be impossible to you if you have faith as a mustard seed".

And that's what we want to see this morning the mustard seed faith. The mustard seed is one of the smallest of all seeds. You don't need one ton of faith or three tons of faith. And I have examined that statement that Jesus made and asked whether He is trying use the analogy of a mustard seed in term of size. We know that is one of the usages for the illustration. A mustard seed represent the size of the faith that is necessary to do God's work and that is not much. A little bit of that will move a mountain. Just think what will happen if you have one gram of faith - the whole earth will shake.

The second reason for the analogy of a mustard seed faith is because the mustard seed represents something more than size. It represents a seed of life. Inside the mustard seed are the components and the genes for a tree. If we could take that mustard seed and examine the inward components of the genes in that mustard seed we could see a tree inside. In a sense we could say that it was a miniature tree. Jesus illustrated with that same mustard seed in another parable when He said that the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. When its planted it grows to a large tree and the birds find shelter in the tree. So we know that the mustard seed is not just a plant. It has a tree inside. But in the natural when you look at it there is nothing much just one dot. But in that dot are all the programs and all the genes that determine how tall and large that tree will become. What kind of fruit that it bears. In that tiny seed there is life. And it is that seed that is transportable, transferable and it can be planted. You try to transplant a mustard tree, you will find that it is not that easy. But you could do it through seeds. You and I started life as one tiny cell. Look at you now. You are now a huge grown up man or woman. You started from one tiny cell. And from that one cell there are all the chromosomes 46 of them altogether. That tells what color of eyes you are to have.

What color of hair you are to have. What color of skin you are to have and how tall you will be. All in that one tiny cell. The wonderful thing is that all these genetic programs are in every cell in your body. A seed you can call that.

Now with that background Jesus said faith as a mustard seed. We have always seen one picture of it and say its small like a mustard seed. But the other picture that Jesus is conveying Jesus does not use illustrations without reasons. I believe He chose that illustration of a mustard seed is He is trying to convey that faith is that tiny seed that is full of life. All the programs for the future are inside. And in that tiny seed if its planted properly it will produce, it has life. Faith has life as a mustard seed. All the time when we read the scripture we say faith is small as a mustard seed that's what we have. But Jesus is also saying that faith have life of a mustard seed. When you receive a word from God, a rhema from God. For example, God could have called you to be an evangelist to three nations. That call of God is given as a rhema to you. And that rhema comes and it is encapsulated in a seed. That seed is the Word of God. That Word is a capsule of God's plan and purposes, and is the spiritual engineering of your future. It looks insignificant. Sometimes you look at someone with a call for evangelism, from the outside you say I don't see any evangelism in you. You don't look for a picture of a tree in a mustard seed but its inside. Or you take a flower seed. Inside that seed is a plant. And that word that rhema the word has life. And that life starts as a seed. When God calls you He takes that seed and He plants it into your heart. He plants it into the fertile ground of your heart. As it enters into you, you nurture it. The first thing you realize is the call of God. Then as you move from time to time that seed grows in you. One day you began to see your faith laid a leaf. Something keeps coming up from you. And people say what's that coming up from you. It looks like a leaf of evangelism. You began to see your zeal for winning souls. You are burdened every time souls are mentioned. The leaves are coming out. And before long the branches start coming up from you. And you see that fellow now and it looks like he really has a call on his life. But many times people don't recognize it until they see the leaves. But those who are spiritually sensitive could see it even when it's a seed.

There is a difference between prophets and a minister of God who prophesize over you. Some time the body of Christ don't recognize the ministry in you yet. The minister of God move in prophecy could detect it as a seed while others can not detect. Do you know that the expert botanist could tell from a look at a seed what plant it is. You and I common people who are not experts in plants look at all the seed and they look the same. I remember one time I brought a seed to church and asked you what type of seed it is. You all couldn't tell. However an expert can tell the difference just by looking at the seed. And sometimes a man of God or a minister of God who carries a gift of prophetic confirmation in your life, they could detect it even when the body of Christ could not see it. And you yourself may not be aware that its there as a seed. Most of the time the body of Christ only starts recognizing your calling when the leaves and branches come out. Then they say now we see your call. Before that they persecute you like mad. So finally they recognized your call and then they see the flowers coming out. And they said its time we send you off. It takes time but faith starts life as a seed.

And Jesus illustrate that if you have faith as a seed you could do mighty things. That's the only way that God transfers the project of the future into our lives. For example, if

God calls you to build a university that may cost one million dollars. How is God going to take that big thing and put it inside you? What He does is He encapsulates it in a seed form and puts it into you. We have seen in our study of faith that faith only comes when the Word makes an entrance into our hearts. Before that it is presumption or knowledge. It is only when faith enters into our spirits that faith is born. It may take the Word some time to enter into our spirit. The first time you hear the Word it may be just knowledge. The second time you hear it, it gets deeper in you and it makes a striking impression. The third time you hear that same Word it gets into you and you know that something have been birthed. So it may not be the first time it gets into you that it gets into your spirit. For some reasons some things in the Word take once to enter. But other things in the Word may take ninety nine times before it enters into our spirit.

The reasons for the differences have to do with our personality, our make up and our background. Some times you have been brought up in certain situations where mentally you were geared against the Word in certain area. So for the Word to make a penetration into your life in those areas may take longer. But in other areas you were not mentally geared against the Word and the first time you hears it you receive it. Let me give an illustration: sometimes people are geared and mentally trained against the work of the Holy Spirit, especially intellectuals. And when they hear any teaching on the gifts of the Spirit or the baptism of the Holy Spirit or tongues, straight away they turn it off. They were mentally geared against it. They may hear it many times or they may even read many books but they turn it off. But another person reads it the first time receive it, got baptized in the Spirit, starts talking in tongues. So there are certain areas where this person is geared against the Word. And it may take the Word many times to penetrate the thick skull that has developed against it. On the other hand this person may not be opened to the Word on certain principles of the law of finances. But he is tongue talking, bible carrying demon casting, bible carrying, hand laying Christian. This guy his life is very disciplined. He has part of the success life built in him without realizing that the Word of God has relation to that. So we have here that this person gets into the Word lets say the laws of finances. This person gets it straight away. But this other person who is hand laying, demon casting, bible carrying Christian says the laws of finances are too worldly for me. See he is mentally geared against it. Because of our personality, our backgrounds sometimes sub-consciously we have been geared against certain things in the Word. And each of us are different in many different aspects because we come from different backgrounds.

And the same word will take different length of time to make an entrance into our lives. Jesus said the word faith is like a mustard seed. It must be planted. Do you know that a mustard seed can be planted on the carpet and nothing happens? You take the mustard seed and put it on a stone and nothing happens. You need two forces to bring it together. It needs to touch fertile ground and there must be right conditions like water and light. Otherwise it remains dormant. Lets look at Jesus illustrating on the mustard seed in Luke chapter 17. And He is answering a question, which many disciples today still ask. Lk. 17:5 The apostles said to the Lord, Increase our faith!'. They must have seen the faith of our Lord Jesus. They must have seen what a man of faith He was. He spoke to the fig tree and it died. He spoke to sickness and they leave. He spoke to demons and they obeyed. He spoke to the waves and they were calmed. Spoke to the winds and they stopped. Spoke His Word about the bread and it

multiplied. There is something about the Word of Jesus and the faith that impressed them. And they said Lord increase our faith. We need more faith.

Notice here that a mustard seed is all that is needed. Then what is required is not more mustard seed but how to nurture that mustard seed into a bigger plant. Jesus said all you need is a mustard seed. And all things shall be possible; nothing shall be impossible to you. When a mustard seed is planted correctly it multiplies. It may start life as one cell multiplies to two cells, to four cells. When the disciples said increase our faith, this is probably the picture they were looking at, and they expected a spoonful of mustard seed to fall into them. But Jesus' answer to them was obvious. Jesus' answer illustrates what we are bringing forth here. They don't need a spoonful of mustard seed. They need to learn to develop that one mustard seed into a plant. That one seed will multiply and fill their lives.

Lets look at Jesus answer in Lk. 17:6 If you had faith as a grain of mustard see, you could say this sycamore tree "Be rooted up, and be planted in the sea and it would obey you." They said increase our faith. Jesus said one mustard seed is enough. See the contrast between Jesus' understanding of faith and their understanding.

Lets read on verses 7-10 "Will any one of you, who had a servant plowing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, "Come at once and sit down at table? Will he not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, and gird yourself and serve me, till I eat and drink; and afterward you shall eat and drink?" Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty?"

When I first read this passage as a young Christian I didn't understand the relationship of what He was trying to answer. In fact I didn't understand His answer. What is the relationship? They said increase our faith and He was talking about a servant and a master commanding a servant to do all kind of things. There is a two-fold relationship that relate to the mustard seed.

No. 1 He emphasizes servanthood. He compares those who have received faith and who are operating in faith to a servant. He says that like a servant who is commanded to do all kind of things you just obey, simply obey, just obey.

Secondly He emphasizes on the commands that have been given to the servant. After the servant has performed the commands, the servant just says, "We are unworthy servant we just did what was told to us." There are two emphases here. One is servanthood and second is the commandment. And both of these relate to the picture of a mustard seed. They don't need more mustard seeds. They need to learn to take that one mustard seed and allow it to grow. They need to learn how like a servant who obeys the commandment of the master and not have more masters.

The mustard seed that is placed in you represents two things. It represents the control that will be taken over your life if you obey that. Second it represents the commands of the Lord. Jesus illustrates both. Let me illustrate in this way. See you are what you are because of the genes that have been programmed in you. You can't help it if you are slightly darker or slightly paler. You can't help it if your hair is black. You can't help it if the color of your eyes is black. There is a program that has gone into you. In

fact your whole body system is a result of the genetic programming there. The only area that can be rectified is this. Prayer can cancel those genes that are damaged by a curse. Otherwise you can pray all your life for your hair to turn blonde and you won't get it. It may be faster to just go and dye it. Your whole physical system is enslaved to that genetic program in you.

And in the same way when the mustard seed has entered into your hearts, at first you have the vision. But later on the vision have you. What God is saying is when that vision that took control of you began as a seed. The soil welcomes and receives the seed and let that seed become the program for your life. When you get into the obedience of God you live only for God. I live only for the Lord and the ministry. I lost all the desire for the things of this life. I lost all my desire for fame; I lost all my desire for riches. I only desire to obey God and be perfect in His will. You lose all these things as you obey God. I remember when I first welcome Him into my life. I was eighteen when the Lord called me. I had two goals in my life at that time. One was to be rich and one was to be famous. I want to be rich and I was looking for a career as an accountant. The second goal that I had was I wanted to be the first Asian Grandmaster. I am good a chess if I am in top form I am unbeatable. But when the Lord came into my life, I was a Christian at that time but not born again. But when the Lord calls me in one of the early morning prayers, the Lord challenged me and asked, "What are you doing with your life? You are living for temporal things." And He asked me to come forth and live for eternity. And I gave my earthly ambitions up and God's ambition has been the consuming desire. I have become in a sense a slave to the call of God.

Doesn't that sound familiar like Paul says as he wrote the epistles? He says Paul as an apostle and a slave of God. We become in a sense freewill slaves of God. We voluntary surrender our wills and our lives. And incidentally you are either a slave to the world, to the devil or to the Lord. There is no middle point. If you are not a slave to God you are a slave to some thing. And I chose the Lord because only the Lord gives the best liberty. Look at the book of Romans; it emphasizes; that either you are a slave to sin and unrighteousness or you are a slave to God in righteousness. So when the seed of God enters into your life you literally become a slave. You yield yourself to the programming of God in your life and it guides you. That's the first illustration that Jesus gave when He talk about the disciples increasing our faith. Like a mustard seed, the Word of God commands, faith takes a hold of you. The blueprint the vision of your life takes hold of you. You become enslaved to the will of God. You are a voluntary and happy slave of God.

Secondly the illustration speaks about the commandment of God. In the concept of faith the command is important. If there is no commandment that has entered into you there is no entrance of faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word. If the Word has not come into you there is no faith. Only the Word produces faith. Having seen that illustration of a mustard seed, lets now move on into Luke 8 where it says if that is so then the main key to increasing our faith is learning to be a fertile ground. The main key to letting God do what He wants in our lives is learning how to be a fertile ground.

Lk. 9:11-15 Now the parable is this. The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes the word from their hearts that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those

who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience.

All the four types of ground received the same Word. You can't say that the last ground was a more powerful resource. Do you notice that in all the four ground it was the same seed? So whether you produce fruit in your life or you don't produce fruit in your life, whether you grow as a Christian or you don't grow as a Christian and whether you increase your faith or you don't increase your faith does not have to do with God because He gives to all without respect. He gives His Word to all. He gives His leading to all. He gives His Spirit to all. He gives His salvation to all. All the ground received the same Word. The problem was not with the Word. The problem was with the ground. You can't blame God for the circumstances of your life. You can't say God why are you blessing that person and not me. The Word tells us it has nothing to do with God. It has to do with the type of ground. You can't say Lord why is that person growing from faith to faith and I am still stagnant here. Don't blame God don't blame the person. Look in the mirror and that is the one to blame. The Word is the same. The ground is different. I would say that what I am today is the result of meditation on the Word. If any minister would take the same Word and meditate on it seriously, give time to it and in 4 or 5 years time you would have the same solid foundation on the Word. It would change your mind, change your thinking, and renew your perception of things, and all this come the word the same word.

But different ground makes a difference. So increase our faith, how. Learn to be in the right ground. And here is where the key is. Lk. 8:18 Take heed then how you hear; for to him who has will more be given, and from him who has not. even what he thinks that he has will be taken away. Did you notice Jesus didn't say take heed what you hear. But He says take heed how you hear. There is a difference between what and how. Now the what is also important. If you hear worldly junk, you will be come a worldly junkie. So in the same way what we hear is important. But there must be a combination. What you hear determines the quantity of substance you hear. For example if you spend more time in the Word you have more quantity time with the Word. If you spend only about two hours a day in the Word of God, what do you do with the rest of your free time? You would be spending time in the things of the world. Quantity wise you are spending more time on the world.

But Jesus emphasizes the quality of the time. How you hear. For example you could be hearing the Word while you are doing something. Or you could be hearing the Word and seriously looking in the Word. See how your hearing is different. We need more of the quality time and the quantity time. Let me illustrate: if for example you take two hours for the Word and you spend two hours for the Word but you are half-hearted Christian. You do it because you have to. But you still do it. And having done it you go and do all the other things you wanted to do. But because of the amount of the Word how you hear, out of the two hours fifteen minutes of it got straight into you. Another person concentrates on the Word of God. When he hears how to obey and submissive to the Word he spends half an hour. But out of that half hour all the half hour he absorbed everything. Although he spent half an hour and you spent two

hours, he absorbed half an hour and you absorbed fifteen minutes. That's the relationship between quality and quantity. However if the absorption power is the same, if the quality is the same then the quantity makes a difference. If both have the same ability to absorb the Word then the quantity is going to make a difference.

The bible says we are in a race. Do you know whom you are racing against? Can not be the devil for he is outside shooting darts at you. Who is in the race? All the Christians are. Why do we run? We are all trying to run to please the Lord and set our goal to be the number one Christian. Of the whole planet earth God saw Noah and dealt with him. Of the whole planet earth God saw Abraham. Of the whole planet earth God saw His people He dealt with them. David Brainerd wrote in one of his prayer diaries that he made it a goal to be the man who is closest to God in his generation. Isn't it a nice goal? Of all the billions of Christian you make it your goal that when God looks down and say that one is closest to Me. Closest in terms of dedication and consecration.

The key that Jesus emphasizes what type of ground we are is how we hear. And what determines how we hear. That's where we cross reference to Hebrews chapter 5 verse eleven About this we have much to say which is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. Its possible to have our hearing affected so that how we hear is affected. So lets find out what really causes how we hear. Matt. 13:15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn for me to heal them. Jesus is saying that there are people in His time that hears His teaching but never get it. They heard but spiritually they did not hear. They hear only Jesus telling but it did not enter into them. How they hear was affected by the condition of their heart. And that's what we want to see here. How do we become the fertile ground? By the condition of our hearts. Sometimes your heart is not conditioned to the Word. The condition of your heart determines the absorption power in the Word. The problem is how do we bring the condition in our heart to a hundred percent absorption power.

I give you a few keys to do it. One is worship. When you wake up in the morning you find you can not absorb yet. Your mind got too many things on. Worship the Lord and your heart is conditioned. You read the Word. Or when you pray in tongues. Look at Jude verse 20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit. That is not saying that faith comes by praying in tongues. Praying in tongues doesn't build faith. It builds yourself. What he is saying here is that when you pray in tongues much it waters the ground and make the absorption qualitatively better and make the condition in our hearts better. And of course if there is sin in our heart it prevents the Word from being absorbed. So we see this morning that how much faith we have, how to increase in faith, how to let that mustard seed grow depends on very much of what you do in our heart. Do you have a lot of other things filling your heart? If you have unforgiveness, bitterness, grudges, if they take room there is less room for the Word and faith to grow. We all know that when you plant a plant, it will grow according to the room you give. You plant it in a pot it can grow to a certain height and no more. But if you plant it on a free lot it will grow to the fullness of its genetic program. So how much room do you give for the mustard seed in your heart. We need to love Him with all our heart, mind and strength. And He says in Mk. 11:24 that when you pray believe that you received and you shall have them.

But verse 25 says when you pray forgive. If there are other things that fill the heart it prevents the seed from growing. Take care of your heart. Don't give your heart to anybody but Jesus. It belongs to Him, surrender your heart to Him, worship Him, and pray in tongues to build yourself in the word, in prayer. And the absorption power in the Word is greater. Then can your faith increase and grow in you.

7. FAITH AND THE PROMISE

We are going to look first at Hebrews chapter 11:1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

The author of Hebrews goes on to list all the people who walked by faith in the Old Testament. I remind you again the word substance (assurance) is actually not a noun but a verb. It's a participle that says now faith is substantiation. Faith is the substantiation of things hoped for the evidence (conviction) of things not seen. In other words there is a movement that is going on that brings the unseen into the seen realm. And the process of it is what we call faith. And we actually are beings that have been made to flow both in the natural and in the spiritual realm. God has made man spirit, soul and body. After Adam and Eve fell their spirits were cut off and men became what we call a soul and natural beings. When we are born again God restored our spirits back into fellowship with Him. And we are supposed to be able to move much in the invisible realm and control, overcome and exercise dominion over the natural world through spiritual means.

Lets rest on that part for a moment. See man everywhere is striving to change his circumstances. Natural man try to change the world around him by applying natural forces and natural laws together with the forces of the soul. They do their best to change the world around them through natural means. But the spiritual man is supposed to change the world around him or her by spiritual means and spiritual laws that supercede the lower laws. When Jesus Christ walked upon this earth He overcame this world. He exercised dominion and authority by operating in the spiritual realm and exercising complete control over this entire natural world. That is why the natural laws were submitted to Him. He could walk on water, healing could flow forth. As long as your mind is restricted to the idea that the things around us is only changed by natural means it would render you crippled or partially crippled to move in the spirit realm to change the order of the things around us.

Jesus never was limited by the natural resources. Jesus knew that His resources were in the spirit realm. When there is a natural need, for example, there was not enough food to feed the five thousands, He went into the spirit realm and was able to bring forth the multiplication of the loaves through spiritual means. So when Jesus had a financial lack the bible tells us that He knew in the spirit exactly where to get His tax. He sent Peter to fish and He got the tax to pay for His Peter's tax needs. Whenever Jesus had a natural need He found the provision in the spiritual realm.

All the blessings that God has blessed us with are in the heavenly places, which is the spirit realm. Now faith is the process of taking the things of the spirit and changing the things around us. Like we have studied in the Greek word faith is the substantiation of things hoped for the rebuttal from the spirit realm to change the realm around us. What we want to see this morning is what faith is in the realm of the spirit world.

Faith has more to do with pleasing God than it does with pleasing man. Faith is to obtain a good testimony. The author of Hebrews 11 introduces the subject in verse one of faith. He introduces the subject of faith and then he tells us what it does in

verse two. He says that faith obtains a good testimony. And he goes on to list all these men of faith like Abel in verse 4 by faith Abel. In verse 5 by faith Enoch was translated. For before his translation he had this testimony that he pleased God. He obtained a witness from God. We know that we are called witnesses in Acts 1:8. But do you know that God is the witness? God is the witness to the things that people exercise faith in. And the purpose of faith is to bring about an act of God confirming the faith that pleases Him. God bears witness to faith. The purpose of faith is to obtain a divine intervention in the order of the things around us. Faith is winning a good testimony in the presence of God.

In verse 6 Without faith it is impossible to please Him. Now we can not miss that. Sometimes when we study the trees and the leaves we forget about the forest. This morning we want to see the overview of the book of Hebrews chapter eleven. That in looking at the substance of faith, what does faith do? We do not want to forget the overview that the author of Hebrews was bringing forth - that in the full essence it is to seek to please God.

Verse 8 By faith Abraham obeyed. Have you noticed up to here that what he started with in verse one was true in every case? That faith is the substantiation of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. Every one of the people who exercised faith had circumstances to change. Every one of the people recorded here faced impossible circumstances. Every one of the people here have to move by what they believe that God said and not be moved by what they see.

See in starting with Abel, Abel was exercising faith in what was to come. Through the offering of the lamb he was looking towards the blood of Jesus Christ. It was not seen yet. He was thousand of years ahead. But it was in the offering of the lamb that he looked forward to the things that are not seen, and that was the manifestation of Jesus Christ.

Look at Enoch it tells us that he pleased God. He walked with God contrary to the way the world walked. In his time according to the book of Jude the world was wicked and he was like a prophet going among them prophesying about the destruction that will come on the wicked.

Look at Noah in verse seven. In Noah's time they had never seen rain before. He spoke of things that are unseen. This morning we seek to encourage you to realize that exercising faith in the invisible realm and changing the natural circumstances should be second nature to us. It should be normal for us exercising the same kind of faith as these saints who have gone before us.

Abraham obeyed God. Do you know that Abraham had never gone into that new place that God called him? It was an unknown and unseen realm in the natural. And he was leaving behind his kinsfolk and his security. He has to go off into the unknown, unseen realm. Faith is the substantiation of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.

Here we have verse 11 By faith Sarah received power to conceive. You know Sarah has passed her menopause. It took a miracle for in fact before that she was also infertile. It was again the unseen spirit realm overcoming the natural circumstances.

Then we have a list of all these people here. And it tells us towards the conclusion when everything was finished he says in verse 39. In verse 39 he synchronizes with verse 1. He says And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. So the author of Hebrews does not want us to stop in the first few verses. Here it says they have not obtained the promises. What is he talking about?

Look at the context in verse 33. Who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions. And then in verse 39 it says And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise.

Do you notice that apparent contradiction? Verse 33 says they obtained promises, verse 39 says they did not receive the promise. At first when you read it, it looks like a contradiction but it is not. Verse 33 says they obtained the promises verse 39 says they have not obtained the promise. There is a difference. That means all these other people who have walked in faith obtained a measure of blessing in accordance with what God promised in their days. Like for example, Abraham did have Isaac but the ultimate fulfillment was in Christ. Like for example, when they exercise faith in the Jericho wall, they obtained the city of Jericho. So they obtained the promises. Everything that God said that they are to have as they exercise faith they received.

But there is something special that Hebrews 11 verse 40 says is reserved for the New Testament saints, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. There is something different and reserved called the promise (verse 30). The question is what is the promise? What is the promise that is special that there is a “the” that comes before it?

There are many general promises that the Old Testament saints have obtained. When we use the word the in front of a noun we are specifying some specific element to the subject. What is the promise that he is referring to? Thank God the author of Hebrews answered the same question himself.

Let's read the background of verse 40, God having provided something better. You have something better than Abraham, than Enoch than Abel, than Joshua, then Daniel, then all the prophets. We have something better. First he tells us the promise and everybody looks for the promise. Then he says there is something better. What could be better? He is building everything up to a conclusion - that they shall not be made perfect apart from us.

Chapter 12 verse 1 continues and starts with therefore and that means the verses before are important. It's the conclusion. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. Who is the cloud of witnesses? Those who he has named before us - Abel, Enoch, Abraham and the rest of them. He named all these men of faith in the Old Testament. And then he reaches a conclusion and says therefore because these people are still alive and are up there with Jesus Christ. Therefore surrounded by all these testimonies of faith, all these cloud of witnesses, like we are in a grandstand. Apparently in heaven there is a place where you could sit down and cheer God's people on.

I know that anywhere in heaven or any place in heaven God could supernaturally cause to see what goes on this earth. But there seems to be a special place in heaven called the grandstand. Robert Liardon went to heaven when he was 8 years old. And he is one of those who went to visit that part of heaven. See many people have gone to heaven but each one visit different parts. But he went to a place in heaven where a group of people gathered in heaven and they could look at what goes on in this earth. This earth is like a stadium. The seats are in heaven, and we are down here. And up there they are cheering on. Like for example, some of you facing may be facing some temptations or a battle of faith. And they will be looking down and say come on, come on. They are cheering you on. They say come on, Come on. They are cheering you on a cloud of witnesses. And sometimes when the battle gets fierce the grandstand turns to a prayer. They are praying for you. And sometimes when you are just about to give up and quit they will be praying for you.

There is a cloud of witnesses and he says let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance (endurance). You know what the word endurance actually should have been translated? Patience. It's the Greek word hupomone, which we have touched on. Hupomone is the word that is translated as patience in James chapter one. And it's the combination of two words hupo, which means upon and mone, which is from the word mano to abide. The word mano has been used in John 15 where Jesus said I am the vine and you are the branches; let My words mano in you. So patience and endurance are the same forces if this translation is what it is. They translated hupomone as endurance. Patience and endurance is the ability to hold on to God's Word and not let it go but maintain it in season and out of season, in difficulty and in ease, in opposition or in favor that we hold on to the Word of God unchangeable all the time, saying the same thing, believing the same thing, visualizing the same thing, to remain the same. If you are like a yo-yo, you are not exercising patience. We can not call you hupomone.

So he says let us run it with patience the race that is set before us. Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or faint-hearted.

Weariness and discouragement are symptoms of faith about to fall. Discouragement is not part of the walk of faith. Weariness is not part of the walk of faith. They are symptoms that show you are giving up. They are the first signs and indications of a spiritual sickness. In many forms of natural sicknesses one of the first thing that happens is a fever. Spiritually some of the first manifestations and symptoms of a faith that is about to fall or fail is discouragement and weariness.

Now what is the promise and what is something better that he refers to in his conclusion? He refers to Jesus Christ the author and finisher of our faith. There is some force that is different and released into the hearts and the lives of believers only in the New Testament and not in the Old Testament.

What is the promise? It is the Spirit of Jesus Christ. In the book of Acts the promise is referred to the coming of the Holy Spirit. In the book of Galatians 3:14 That in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The promise refers back to the work of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ work together. Jesus is the author of our faith in our lives. And Jesus finishes the faith that He has authored in our lives. In the New Testament there is a spiritual impartation into our spirits that was not present in the old.

Let me try to illustrate as much as I can. We have read about Leonardo da Vinci who was a great scientist and great painter too. He painted the Mona Lisa and did all kinds of scientific research. Suppose I were to ask whether you could you do what he did. Your answer would be no. Could you paint in the same degree that he did? You would say no. But if it were possible for me to take that his ability to paint and to invent and put it into you, would you be able then to paint and to invent? Your answer would be yes.

Of all who exercised faith on this planet earth Jesus would have been the best, looking at all that Jesus had achieved and accomplished. What actually happens in the New Testament is that the same faith of Jesus Christ, the same ability that He had, the same wisdom, the same steadfastness, and all the life and substance that was in Jesus Christ is taken and placed in you. What are working in us are actually the life and the substance of Jesus Himself. In the supernatural He has taken of Himself and placed it into us.

That is why in the New Testament in the epistles you find it to be so. In verses like Galatians 2:20 Paul actually says I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God.

When we say I live by faith in, it does not convey a stronger meaning as I live by faith of.

In the Greek the word in and the word of are two different categories. Strictly speaking if the translators had followed the Greek they should have placed the word of. But because there is a lack of teaching in those days that the faith of the Son of God is placed in us, people assumed that when that is mentioned it is talking about exercising faith in the Son. In doing that they do the translation an injustice. For the bible was trying to convey to us that New Testament promise was something better.

Now here is what it is. Not only can you do what Enoch do. Not only can you do Abel do. Not only can you do what Abraham did. You don't just have the faith of Abraham or Enoch or Abel. It is the same faith. It is the same substance of faith and the same faith that Jesus had when He worked those miracles in the four gospels. It is the same faith that He flowed in when the woman touched Him and she was healed. It is the same faith that was in Him when He spoke and said, "Lazarus come forth." It is not a different substance. The same substance of faith that He used is taken and placed into you. What we have inside us is not a new substance but it is the same substance of faith that Jesus had walked in.

You know how sometimes religious Christians get a bit sentimental about the physical things that Jesus used. I believe one of the reasons why there is no real picture of Jesus is because if there is people will worship it. Have you heard about the Shroud of Turin? They say that is the actual garment that wrapped Jesus. Incidentally there are several. But people get sentimental with it. They would say that this is the actual cloth

that wrapped Jesus Christ when He was buried. They will look at it awe. People get awed with all these natural things that praise God that in spite of these things He still love us. Or people who get into a sentimental feelings when they visit Jerusalem and the tour guide takes them around and said this is the very same road that Jesus walked.

Spiritually speaking we actually have the Spirit, the substance of the Spirit of Jesus in us all the time. See natural people look for the natural substances. And yet the Spirit is there. And Jesus has actually given us the same substance that was in His life. The same substance of the same faith that He exercised when He was raised from the dead had been placed it into our lives. So what is in our lives is actually a substance that has already fought and won. It is a substance that has already healed many sicknesses and diseases. It is the substance that has conquered death. The substance of the same Spirit of Jesus Christ is placed in us.

No wonder Paul had that revelation and he said we have something better that Abraham did not have, that Isaac did not have, that Enoch did not have. The only reason why it could take place in the New Testament is that it can only take place after the blood is shed on the cross and after men has the possibility of being born again. And it is only to the New Testament saints that Jesus said the works that I do you shall do also.

Lets go back to Leonardo da Vinci and suppose he takes a few disciples, including you. Then he trains you in the technique of painting. He teaches you for about 10 years. And in 10 years time you would have learnt quite a lot of his technique. Then he dies and left his disciples. You would have the same skill that he has and could develop it further. That is a different sense of impartation. Let say we can take out the substance from him and put it into you. You don't even need to learn. You can do it. It's a higher realm. Did you know that this was the way the spirit world operates all the time until man fell. After man fell everything slowed down. It takes many years for some of you to learn musical instruments. Some of you who are longing to play musical instruments, your teacher says that there is no shortcut except a miracle. Percy Collette has been to heaven. He doesn't play the piano he only plays tennis. When he went to heaven he saw that huge piano. He took one look at it and he played. See the spirit of it gives you the ability. There is a difference between learning things in the spirit and learning things by the natural. The natural is slow. It takes years to learn something. But in the spirit it is an impartation.

Have you noticed that is the way God operates all the time. When He calls somebody to be a prophet, He imparts the substance of the office of a prophet into him. You may not have experienced what Apostle John and others experienced where God gave them a scroll and he ate that scroll. After John ate that scroll it was sweet in the mouth but bitter in the stomach. Bitterness talks about judgment. God told John, "You shall prophesy." You know what God did? In a few seconds, if you can measure the spirit world by seconds that it takes to eat that scroll ten, twenty years of prophecy has been placed in that person. The spirit world operates by an impartation.

We see a form of it when in Deut. 34 it says that Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses laid hand on him. It says because. Joshua had the same wisdom that Moses had instantly. I know that all those years he was learning from Moses but there is difference between sitting under somebody and learning the technique skills and principles that is what the world operates by. Human beings call

this gift. They look at the child and say this child is gifted in something. They call it the natural ability that is there. What is exceptional for the natural is normal in the spiritual. It is actually the modus operandi the way the spirit world operates. And that is how Jesus imparts that same spirit of faith into us.

So in Colossians there is a translation here. Lets read first in chapter two verse 7, Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught abounding in thanksgiving. He talks about a rooting and grounding in faith. Now look at verse 12 And you were buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Now here is where a vast difference in meaning arises because of the different translation. In the King James it reads through faith in the working of God. If you put the word in it means you believe in God working. But if you put the word of, he is talking about God working in you.

What does the Greek says? It says through faith of the working of God. He is talking about a substance of God working into you. So we have seen thus far that everything we have in the spirit life comes in what human beings call intuition. You know what is intuition the ability to know what to do. Like for example, how would the animals do things like migration and reproduction? By intuition. Humans being call it instinct. When a baby animal is born they know their instinct tells them to do something. They don't have a school where the animals were taught what to do. But human beings are different they seem to have lost the ability totally. And there is such a thing as spiritual instinct that is placed in us. Like for example, if you do not know how to do something, God puts something in you. Without school without education you will have the ability. It is that realm of impartation that is in faith.

There is so much to consider about impartation but this is where we conclude. All impartations in any realm whether they be wisdom, ministry or any other areas come through faith. Faith must be imparted. See everything that is done in the New Testament is different from the old. In the New Testament we are all the body of Christ, so Jesus actually imparts His substance into the body and the body behaves like Him. Not only does the bible tell us that the body behaves like Him, the body is the body of Christ. Those who believe in Jesus are the body of Christ. The bible even calls us members of the body of Christ. The bible even says that the whole church is the body of Christ where He is the head. So in spiritual actual fact we all have received some measure of impartation and operation of faith in our lives. In that way we will do according to that substance of the gifts and the callings in our lives that He has imparted to our spirit man.

The bible tells us that was God's way of operating even when He created the world. How did Adam have such wisdom to name the animals when he has never gone into a zoological school? When he was created there was an impartation of substance of faith into him. So here is where we make it practical. We understand the truth and we understand that the impartation is taking place continually. It does not take place once. It takes place continually in your walk with the Lord. That is why Jesus said, "Abide in Me and let My Word abide in you." When you constantly abide in the Word, there is a continual impartation into your life. That ties up with the Word as seed. Seeds are the germs of life. And when the seed has gone into you the substance of that seed produces after its kind. God imparts the measure of faith when you were born again

Rom. 12. Everyone of us received a certain measure. On the top of that God imparts measures of faith to do different things according to His will. And above that the impartation of that substance continues in us as we walk with the Lord and apply all the other spiritual laws like prayer, worship and meditation on the Word. The most powerful life giving substance is available at your fingertips and it is called the Holy Bible.

I conclude by reading Hebrews chapter 4:12 For the word is living and powerful like a two edged sword. The words living and powerful are adjectives. This means it describes something that the Word is capable of doing. There is an inherent ability. Sometimes the old translation brings a little meaning except that the word has gone obsolete. The Old King James said the word of God is quick. But the word quick has a different meaning today. In the old English the word quick means that is able to make you alive. Now the modern English put the word living and we may lose the impact that it brings. What he is actually saying is this. For the word of God is life giving - it imparts life. The Word of God is life giving. That's what quickening means. But the proper English is living. The Greek actually is from the word zoe and it turns the word zoe into an adjective, which means a substance which is able to impart life. And that is what the word is.

As we understand this truth we can apply in this manner. We recognize what God has given to us when we are born again. We recognize what God gives us through impartation through ministries. And we recognize what God can continue to impart through our walk with Him in the Word, in prayer and in worship. And what we must do is to have the skill to open ourselves to receive that substance. If we realize how this world operates and learn how to open ourselves to receive the substance then there is something that began to work in our lives. Like for example, the same illustration of Leonardo da Vinci. I take a substance of him and put it in you. you san no I rather sit down and learn. See there is a learning process to receive the substance of God in our life. And the key here is this. That whenever the substance of God's life and God's faith move into you there is like a sharp sword piercing dividing your soul and spirit. There is something that takes place in you. There is life imparted. And that is where faith takes root. So we understand that faith is no more this hearing and mental knowledge. But there is an actual impartation that comes into our lives. It is in the spirit realm. It is not even in the sub-conscious realm. It is higher than the sub-conscious realm. Its not that you hear something and it sinks into your sub-conscious and then you do it. It is a substance that enters into your very spirit and heart that makes you what you are today. Spiritually, instinctively you will know exactly what to do. Whether you are called to be a prophet, pastor, evangelist, and teacher. Whether you are called to the ministry of help, ministry prayer. There is something in you that enable you to do it.

In the opposite is the same. When there is a spirit of blindness what does it do? It brings blindness. Spirit of deafness causes deafness. What about the Spirit of God? When the Spirit of wisdom comes on you what do you have? You get wisdom, not slowly but instantly. When the Spirit of might comes on you what do you have? You get might instantly. When the Spirit of joy comes on you what do you have? You get joy instantly. Learn what to receive. If you need prosperity you need to receive that substance of God's life that produces prosperity. If you need health and healing you

need to receive that Spirit of God's life that produce health and life. It gets into your spirit.

8. VISUALIZING AND CONFESSION

In Genesis chapter 12 we want to see two of the most important aspects on peace and faith. I notice some of it may be familiar to you. But since we are on the topic on faith we will need to cover systematically and not miss out on these two points. There are two very important keys when we look at faith. In the exercise of faith and believing God for any area of our Christian life, we need to make sure that we do these two things.

Gen. 12:4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Abram was seventy-five years old when he left Haran. Sarah was ten years younger. Sarai would have been sixty-five years old. The next part of the scripture that I would like you to pay attention to is in Gen. 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty," walk before Me, and be blameless. When he was ninety-nine years old God changed his name and his name became Abraham. So for twenty-five years he went by the name Abram. And in his final year when he was to have that promised child that God spoke to him about his name was changed to Abraham. So for one year he confessed his name. He started calling himself Abraham, which means father of many nations. And Sarai's name became Sarah the mother of many nations. For twenty-five years he went by the name Abram.

Abraham is the father of faith. And we need to balance these two aspects of faith. When we talk about faith and believing God some people have the impression that Abraham changed his name and was confessing his name for twenty-five years. Actually he only confessed it for one whole year. For twenty-five years what happened was God was dealing with his vision. The bible tells us that God gave him a word saying that your children shall be like the dust of the earth Gen. 13. Then later in Gen. 15 God told him that your children would be like the stars of the sky. If you can number the stars of the sky then you can number your children. Gen. 13:16 "I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your descendants also can be counted. In Gen. 15:5 Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

So Abraham was given the vision of his children as numerous as the dust, his children as the stars. God made him meditate on the vision that He was implanting into his spirit day and night. In the daytime he meditate on the dust. In the nighttime he meditate on the stars. Day and night God caused him to meditate and visualize.

That is the first area when you exercise faith. Some people when they exercise faith they are never able to receive. Yet the bible says that faith pleases God. Without faith it is impossible to please Him. The opposite would be true. Faith pleases God. And God always hear our faith. He always seeks to answer what we can exercise our faith for. Why is it that the answer doesn't come to people's life? Faith sees the result of what you are asking for. If you can not see the result, if you can not visualize it, faith has not taken a hold on your life yet.

Faith must see into that realm of the spirit and regard those things as if it is real. Faith is a vision. That is the first important key. Faith is a vision in the spirit realm. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. You began to see in the spirit world the evidence of something. Heb. 11:1 says Faith is the substantiation of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. Notice it very carefully that it says faith is the evidence. If for example you came to the church this morning and you found my bible lying there on the platform. So you can conclude that I was here. I have been there. If my bible is there, there is evidence that I have been there. The evidence proves the existence of something else. The evidence proves that something else has happened. The evidence is not the real thing. But the evidence shows and proves something else that exists. For example if Susan were to go off and leave her bag here. And you came around looking for her. You see all the evidences, you see her bag and you said she must have been around. There is evidence that she was around.

But the evidence is not the real thing. The evidence takes the place of something else that is real. In the similar manner if your account clerk says that he has banked in a certain amount of money into your company's account. And he gives you a bank slip. The bank slip is not the amount. But the bank slip proves and is the evidence that there is a certain amount that has been banked into your account. The bank slip itself is just the evidence. It is not the amount itself. You can't use the bank slip to buy things. The bank slip is only evidence.

Faith is an evidence of the things that are not experienced yet. Faith is evidence of things that are still in the future. See things hoped for means things that are in the future. The things that are not seen mean the things that are in the spirit realm. So there are two places where the things you are praying for is. One is in the future and second it is in the spirit realm. Now faith is required. Faith is the evidence of the things that are coming to pass. It is evidence, sure evidence. When Susan finally comes and you said now I have the evidence that she is really here. She is not the evidence she is the real thing. So we must differentiate what is real and what is evidence. By the time you see Susan you don't need evidence any more. She is right here. You don't need to prove her existence.

Now we know that many things that are invisible exist. Scientists tell us that there are radio waves in the air. How can you prove that the radio waves are there? You can't feel it; you can't touch it. You need an instrument to detect them and to bring them into the realm where they are tangible to us. The instrument called the radio receiver makes the radio signals into sound waves. The radio receiver itself is not the signals. But it gives us evidence that the radio waves do exist. It alters the radio waves into sound waves so that we could hear it. In a similar manner when you have evidence it is not the real thing. When you have the real thing you don't need the evidence any more. Some people don't understand it. They say that I will believe when I see it. When you see it then you don't need to exercise faith. You don't need to exercise faith on the fact that you are sitting on the chair now. The chair is real you don't have to have difficulty believing that it is there. But if the chair is not there that's when faith is required. You need evidence. Whenever you don't have the manifestation that is when you require faith. If you could see it, you could feel it, you don't need the evidence any more. It is manifested. When the evidence comes in you don't need to exercise faith.

Faith is required when the thing that you prayed for is not in manifestation. So God gives you a bank slip, God gives you evidence in your spirit that says that it is there. And it is yours and it is coming to pass. That evidence that you received called the assurance, the convictions of the things hoped for is placed in your spirit. So although the world can not see it yet in your spirit you have that assurance. You have the evidence that it is real and it exists in your spirit. You carry it about until one day it manifests then you don't need the evidence any more. You have the real existence of the things that you prayed and hoped for.

So what we are saying here is that it is when you are exercising faith and the things had not been manifested yet then you need to exercise these two keys constantly. You need to be able to see and visualize. Lets take for example, they go to a place and they start digging up the sand. And on the sand they dug up a huge big bone. It's a dinosaur bone. And as they finished digging it they saw the whole structure of the dinosaur. Now those bones proved that dinosaur exists. Here you have the evidence buried in the sand that it is real. The evidence is not the real thing its dead its only the bones. But you know that it existed. That once upon a time there was a huge animal that moved upon this earth. As they see the evidence they try to visualize what the animal look like. The evidence helps them to picture what is real. Have you seen all those drawing of dinosaurs in children's books and in some science books? Nobody had actually seen a dinosaur. They took that evidence and visualized the dinosaurs.

The difference between them and you is that they took the evidence and visualized the past. You take the evidence and visualize the future. It is too bad that they are studying things that have passed away. What can you do now I mean what's the point of visualizing dinosaurs. But here we are changing lives; we are changing our future. The seeds of our future are in the present now. So God gives you evidence. Instead of using the evidence you just say thank God I have an assurance the evidence of what is to come. Perhaps you are believing God for your business. What is the skeletal structure that you have evidence now that you can visualize. Or you are believing God for your family to be saved. Can you see it? My question is you got the evidence but can you see it? Don't just leave it hanging there. That evidence is supposed to be visualized.

Perhaps you have a prophecy an assurance of the ministry God has for your life. It is an evidence inside you. You have a conviction and assurance. Can you see it? Can you visualize it? The Holy Spirit will help you paint the picture if you would allow Him to. The evidence is only the skeletal structure of what is to come. And we need to visualize it vividly, clearly of what is to come. We have the assurance of our own land and our own church building. But it's only in the spirit realm. We have the evidence of it in the spirit. But we need to visualize it. We need to see it. We need to see clearly. Perhaps you are praying for your needs in your family. Can you see the answer? The question is not seeing your problem but seeing the answer. Can you see the answer; can you visualize it.

God dealt with Abraham's life and help him to see for twenty-five years. Mk. 11:22-23 Truly, I say to you, whoever (These are the words of Jesus for truly, I say to you whoever, any one any body, Tom, Dick or Harry. Say the whoever means me. So you place your name there.) says to this mountain, "Be taken up and cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. It says whatever that means anything you ask.

Sometimes preachers say this God supply your needs and not your want. If you believe that statement you go to the other extreme and you forget the fact that the Father wants to give you more than your needs. I know what they are trying to come against. They are trying to come against people who are covetous and abuse God's Word for their own selfish gain. But why do it to the exclusion of our Father's desires to bless us above what we ask. If we want to teach on that we should not make a statement like that. But we should make a statement and say that you can have what you desire except don't use it for your selfish gain. That would be better than say my God supply all my needs and not my want. And those who say it don't realize that God is much more like an earthly father. Those of you who are parents, will you just supply your children's needs? Or do you include some of the things they want. Think about that. Your children come to you and say could I have an ice cream for dessert. You say no, you just need food. That is your want and I don't supply your want, an ice cream is extra. No, but you can have that rice and vegetables and that's what you need. Think about parents doing that. What kind of relationship will you have with your children? As parents to a certain extend you try to meet your children's want. If your children want something that you know is not good for them, you may teach them what is not good for them. And those who say it do not read the bible because the bible says the Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want. The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not need anything. No, the Lord is my Shepherd you shall not want. God supply your want that He knows that is good for you. The book of Psalms 34 tells us young lions don't lack and suffer hunger, but those who trust in the Lord shall not lack want; shall not lack any good things. So we realize that is in the bible God does supply.

So here we are on Mk. 11 verse 24 whatever things you desire, whatever that is good for you, God will supply above and over what you need. God doesn't just supply what you need. We have to go beyond that point to have the abundance of God in our life.

So here we are talking about the two main keys in exercising faith. We need an assurance. Notice in verse 23 that unless you believe and don't doubt in your heart, what you say will have no power. And the heart must believe. How does the heart believe? Do you know that the main primary function of the heart is to have an assurance and to visualize? Your heart is first your visualizing machinery and mechanism in your spiritual life. When the bible talks about the heart it always uses the word dianoia, which means imagination. Lk. 1:51 the imagination of the heart. And in Eph. 1:17-18 Paul pray that they would receive the spirit of wisdom and revelation that the eyes of their understanding which is the eyes of their dianoia. He is actually talking about the part of your mind that visualizes.

There are about five Greek words for the word mind. The word dianoia speaks about the visualizing ability of your mind. This is closely connected to your heart. So when Mk. 11:23 is exercised in your life in faith you must use the evidence that God placed in your life to visualize. If you know that God has spoken to you and said that you are going to be a song leader in the things of God, you need to visualize it constantly in your prayer if you want it to come into being. If God speaks to you and say you are going to be an evangelist or a pastor you must be able to visualize it in your life with the evidence God has placed in your life. So in order not to doubt in your heart we must have the vision crystallized in us. When you could see something clearly you won't doubt it any more. The reason why many people doubt is that the vision has not

taken a hold of their life. The picture of the things that are to come is not locked into their spirit yet.

Abraham took twenty-five years to build it into him. And if you read the story of Abraham, you will notice that in that twenty-five years he doubted here and there. One of his biggest doubts was when Ishmael came about. Same like most of us. Your struggle is many times in the area of visualizing. You could see it clearly in a meeting when faith and the Word of God is preached. It got a hold of your spirit and you could see exactly what God wants you to be and to do and to have. When you leave the meeting circumstances come and try to put adverse pictures into you. The other types of pictures come into your mind - pictures of want, pictures of need and pictures of yourself not being able to do the things that God wants you to do. And your doubts begin to rise. However if you have the evidence in your heart and the vision is built clearly into you doubt will not arise.

That's the first thing that must be done. The first key when you exercise faith is that the evidence must produce a picture, a vision in your heart. And it is not necessary instant. Sometimes you received a picture it takes time to lock into you. You need to visualize and there are four steps of the picture that we have already touched on Heb. 11:13 Those who have died in faith, not having received what was promised but (No. 1) having seen them afar off (No. 2) were assured of them, (No. 3) embraced them and (No. 4) confessed...

So your vision must go through these four areas. No. 1 you have the vision. You could visualize it. And as you visualize everyday and you pray, you began to have an assurance of them. It builds up. You know that you know that it will come to pass. The doubts become eradicated from your life. If you keep seeing them and seeing them the day comes when the doubt get eradicated. The assurance is so strong doubts can not arise. If doubts can not arise Satan is defeated. Thirdly even though those doubts have stopped you continue until you could embrace them. To embrace means to experience it as if it is real. Your feelings and all your senses began experience it even when it is in vision form. No. 4 confession which is what we are going to talk about the second main key.

Lets look at Mark chapter 11. Now verse 22 and 23 are connected. He emphasizes on the heart here. But three times in verse 23 he emphasizes on what you say. Verse 23 Truly, I say to you, whoever says (that is the first time the word say comes) to this mountain, "Be taken up and cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believe that that what he says (second time) will come to pass, it will be done for him (he will have whatever he says {the third time} in place of it will be done for him.)

Please look at the verse very carefully in verse 23. Truly, I say to you; who is saying that, Jesus. Whoever, who can do it, whoever, anybody say to this mountain be removed and be cast into the sea. Does not doubt in his heart but believe that those things will come to pass he will have what he says, he will have what he says (repeated several times). I want you to get it into your spirit and get a revelation. Did He say he will have whatever he believes? Did He say he will have whatever he thinks? Did He say he will have whatever he sees? See seeing and speaking both must work together. Visualizing may be twenty-five is to one. Visualizing may be the main area of faith. It's the hidden part of the iceberg. Visualizing is the hidden part, its important we have emphasized that. Let me remind you that you have what you say.

In other words Jesus is saying that he will have not just what he believes. But he will have what he says.

Do you know that many people don't have it because they didn't release the material for the things to be formed? What is happening in your life is like what is happening when this earth was created. In Genesis one the Holy Spirit was brooding over the earth. It tells us that there was darkness and the Holy Spirit was hovering over the earth. Nothing happened. We don't know how long that happened. That hovering process speaks about the visualizing process. Do you know that I could go on forever unless some words are said? And the Holy Spirit was hovering over the earth the Hebrew word is brooding over the earth like a chicken hatching an egg. He is visualizing something. So the Holy Spirit was hovering over the earth and nothing happened but a lot of things are taking place but nothing happened yet until God said let there be light and the light came. Let me emphasize here if you try to confess before you visualize, your words have no power. But after you have visualized you must give out words as materials for God to form it into whatever you want. Mk. 11:23 says he will have whatever he says. If you don't say it you don't do the fourth step it will never come to pass. It is not just having what you believe. It is having what you say. Not saying your problems. It is not just coming to God and say I don't know why things are that way. You are not doing what Jesus said. That is not Mk. 11:23 you are saying the circumstances. Like for example if you are believing God for a job. And every one you go to you says I don't know why I can not find a job. I don't know why I can not find a job. You are saying what you have and you will continue to have what you say. You say what you have and you have what you say.

The first thing that must happen is to see. You must allow God's Word and God's Spirit to place a vision in your life of what He is able to do. The Word of God paints a picture in you. So you realize my God supply all my needs according to His riches in glory. God is able to get me that job that I desire. You just graduated from the university you are qualified but there is no job available. You know what you are able to do. You know what you would like to do. You know what is the key area of professionalism. But you have no job. What must you do No. 1 visualize. Can you see it? Only when you can see it crystal clear it begin to take place. So you begin to work at it. And you begin to visualize. You begin to see it clearly. At first you see it blurry. You need spiritual glasses. You know what spiritual glasses are. Your spiritual glasses are the Word of God. It helps you to see into the spirit realm. So put on the spiritual glasses call on God's Word. And you look at it carefully and you say now I can see clearly in the spirit realm. And you begin to visualize the things in the spirit realm.

Wait you haven't complete the process yet. And as you see clearly, you begin to have an assurance. Third you began to embrace it. It becomes more and more in you. You know that it will come to pass. The assurance builds up in you. You got step No. 4. You must give God the material to bring it to pass. You won't have just what you see. You won't have just what you believe. And he will have what he says, and he will have what he says, and he will have what he says. So you come before God and say, "Father God I will have what I say so I say it now. Father God I am working for a good firm. I have a good job. It's a well paid job. And it has good working hours. That gives me enough time to spend time with your Word. I have it God in Jesus' name. Thank you Lord. I have what I say. I say it now I have it in Jesus name. That in the spirit realm I am working in a good company. I have good working hours. I have a

good pay.” You say it. Then everyday when you wake up you come to God and say it again. You don’t come to God and say God when is it going to happen? Why is it not happening? You can have what you say. So you got what you say. Some wives are praying for their husbands. But as they are praying for their husbands they say I don’t know why he is so nasty still. You shall have what you say. So he will be nastier. Some husbands are praying for their wives. And they say I don’t know why my wife is going this way and that way. He can have what he says. And she will be worse.

And as you are praying for your family salvation, there are two areas that are preventing your faith. No. 1 you are not seeing them saved. You are seeing them unsaved. If I were to be able to cut your spirit heart open and take out the picture of what is actually inside. And if I see a picture of you still having that unsaved husband or wife. No wonder your husband is not coming forth there is no faith. And many husbands are praying for their wives and inside they are still seeing them as they are. They are not seeing them as they should be but as they are. Some wives have been so quote unquote persecuted by their husbands. They have very clear visions of the horror, the beast of their husband still inside them. What are they doing meditating on that vision? And inside their mind they see their husbands losing their temper, shouting at them persecuting them. And the more they pray the more beastly their husbands become. The more clearly they see the more they become a beast. What happen is the wife has to change that vision. Put away the evidences of the things that are. Reaching into the spirit realm, let me ask you this question, what do you want him to be like, you say I like him to be a man of prayer, the head of the family. Can you see it? You say I can’t. Every time I try to see it I see him coming at me. Read the bible. Can you see Jesus gentle, loving, kind, compassionate? Can you see Jesus? I want you to right now see your husband next to Jesus and see the same attributes of Jesus in your husband. You are putting on your spiritual glasses. The evidence of things hoped for. So you began to see it. It may take you months. Can you see the answer to your prayer? Unless you see it you haven’t even got the first step of faith.

Finally the wife sees it and the assurance starts coming to her. And finally at the third stage of seeing she begins to see herself with her husband going to church. But that’s not enough. You must release step four. She is not going to say in front of her husband I say you are going to be bible carrying, tongue talking hand laying, demon chasing. No, you can have what you say. As I teach on faith remember I talked about the free will of another person. So here a free will is involved. But what is happening is you are making it easier for that person to choose. It is of course easier to believe God when you are the only one involved. But when the free will of another person is involved you must have the Word of God about them. Which you have Act 16:31 they have salvation plan for them. So you can visualize what is in the bible for them too. To make it easier for them to come to God. Every morning you look into the mirror and you could see your husband with you there. And you say praise God lets go to the church now. In the name of Jesus Father I can have what I said. I say it now my husband and me are going to the church. My husband is the head of the house. He is reading the bible. He is a good man. He is a man of prayer.

You have released the Word into the atmosphere. You have released the creative force. And everyday you would say it because you can have what you say. There are many Christians exercising faith who don’t do that. Think about the things you are believing God for. You have learned about visualizing but have you been saying

them? Have you been releasing the creative force to create those things? Have you been speaking them out? Have you been saying them? Not say what you are but say what you are going to have. You can have what you say. So here we have the importance the second key in exercising faith is to say it. Go to a place or a prayer closet and say it out what is going to have. If it is a financial need say it in the presence of God. Say Father God I can have what I say. I see it now, I believe it, I visualize it, I embraced it I have an assurance of it I say it now Father God in Jesus name I have abundance. Say God I thank you I have such and such an amount every month. I release it in Jesus name. I thank you for it. You must say it.

One of the reasons why we have to say it is that Jesus is the High Priest of our confession. Jesus needs materials to work from. And the words you say becomes the materials He works to produce the things that He can give to you. Once you are born again you have in you the creative ability of God in your lips.

Lets look at the book of Hebrews as we close. Heb. 3:1 Therefore, holy brethren, who share in a heavenly call, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession. Heb. 4:14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, he lets us hold fast our confession. See every time Jesus is mentioned as a high priest our confession is mentioned. Jesus takes what you confess and say out. Some of you in the ministry is wondering why it's not happening. Let me tell you, some of you could be song leading. Do you say what you want to have? Perhaps you visualize. You see all those things. But do you go in the morning to God and say Father God I say in the name of Jesus that it shall be a good service. I say in the name of Jesus that your angels are all around us. And I say in the name of Jesus that your presence is with us. You must say it. You shall have what you say. So if you are not saying it, you won't have it. Jesus said you shall have what you say. What are you saying? Are you saying that it's difficult all the time? Are you telling your situation all the time? You are going to have what you say. And even Mk. 11:24 when it say whatever things you desire when you pray believe that you received and you shall have them. The word have them is tied to the verse 23 have which is tied to your confession. Having is having what you say. If you don't have something spoken you can not have it. The force and the power of releasing to the spoken word must come forth. You have what your word says.

If there is no saying, you are not having. One of the reasons people exercise faith and are not having is because they are not saying what they are going to have. There is nothing, no materials to form what they are to have. Jesus said say it to the mountain. Jesus said you can have what you say. We can have what we say. We must say it. Say it in your private closet. Say it in front of people. Keep saying it all the time because as you keep saying it you will have what you say.

9. TWO AREAS OF FAITH

Heb. 11:1-3 Now faith is the assurance of thing hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

Today we are going to concentrate especially on the difference between exercising faith under the anointing within and exercising faith under the anointing upon. There are two different aspects when we exercise faith. For the anointing within it would be what we call the believers' anointing. You are exercising faith for something you are believing God for. And all the principles of Mark chapter 11 verse 23 and 24 play a role. What are those principles? One of those is that when you believe you must believe that you have received. In the Greek it is actually in the past perfect tense. Verse 24 it says that when you pray believe that you have received and you shall have them. There are three tenses in that one verse. One is the present tense, one is the past perfect tense and one is the future tense. In the present tense when you pray. You must believe past perfect tense that you have received something in the past. And then you shall have it, the manifestation will come.

In line with this exercising of faith is Roman chapter 4 where Abraham was like God who called those things which be not as though they were. The reason he can do that is because he believe he have received. Therefore he calls it and speaks about it as if it has already happened. Abram changed his name to Abraham in chapter 17 of Genesis. Calling himself a father of nations when he had no children yet, it would have been an utterly foolishness to the world. But yet because he believed he received and he was exercising this character of faith. He must believe that it has already been done in the spiritual realm. He confessed it accordingly. That avenue of faith is quite familiar to many of us. And its what I call the general area of faith. And I classify it as exercising faith under the believers anointing. Or tapping on the believers anointing that is within. That's how we release and have things done through personal faith.

On the other hand exercising faith under the anointing upon is slightly different. Let me give a bible example in Mark chapter 5 Many times we don't realize the difference and some times people want to receive something from God. They don't realize that receiving by personal faith and receiving by the anointing upon take two different processes. They are like two different avenues of doing things. There are many ways that God has ordained for us to be blessed by Him. These are like two separate different avenues and different laws are operated and they function differently. Sometimes they look like they are contradictory but they are not. They function in their own respective ground then you would see no conflict between them.

Just like prayer in tongues is greatly misunderstood by the non-charismatic world. Because they think that prayer in tongues is speaking in tongues. They think that the gift of tongues and praying in tongues are the same. That's why they get confused when Paul asks, "Do all speak in tongues? implying not all. Paul was talking about the gift of tongues, which is a message from God to His people. So the direction is this way God to His people through an instrument that needs interpretation. But praying in tongues is from us to God. So when we began to divide God's Word clearly and see the difference between the two we are not confused. We realize that prayer in tongues is praying in the Spirit which Paul says in I Cor. 14:14 For if I pray in a tongue, my

spirit prays.. Now every believer has the Spirit and every believer needs to pray with the Spirit. And if you pray in the Spirit it would come out in tongues. Obviously every believer should pray forth in tongues and have the ability to speak to God in tongues when they learn to pray in the Spirit. So there is no problem for us to understand God's Word that every believer can pray in tongues. But not every believer may have the gift of tongues to operate in a church or in an assembly of fellowship where they could get a message from God and give to people. That is a different avenue. When we began to divide God's Word correctly we see that it does not contradict; rather it compliments.

In the same manner exercising faith under the anointing upon is slightly different. And the principle sometimes looks contradictory to exercising personal faith.

Mark chapter 5 verse 25 Jesus was on His way to Jairus' house to heal or rather raise Jairus' daughter from the dead, And here was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years, and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard the reports about Jesus, and came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If I touch even His garments, I shall be made well," And immediately the hemorrhage ceased; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. And Jesus, perceiving in Himself that power had gone forth from Him, immediately turned about in the crowd, and said, "Who touched My garments?" And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing around You, and yet You say, "Who touched Me?" And He looked around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had been done to her, came in fear and trembling and fell down before Him, and told Him the whole truth. And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease."

Notice she did exercise faith. He said your faith has made you well go in peace and be healed of your affliction. Lets examine the faith that she exercised. In verse 27 and 28 tells us this. Verse 27 tells us she heard about Jesus. See faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Faith comes by hearing and sometimes by the word of testimony. When you hear of people getting healed your faith is kindled. See whether the Word of God came through a testimony or the Word of God comes through preaching or the Word of God comes through teaching, faith comes by hearing the Word of God. So she heard about Jesus. Things that Jesus had done and her faith was kindled. Now this is similar to personal faith. So there is a basic principle where it's the same. There must be hearing. The hearing of faith must take place.

But verse 28 says this, for she said to herself, "If I touch His garments I shall be made well." There are a few things that are different from personal faith. No. 1 there is an "if". You don't place "if" when you exercise personal faith. "If" is a badge of doubt. In the prayer of faith you must not pray with "if". Only in the prayer of dedication you are allowed to which is not a prayer to receive but a prayer to surrender. When you want to receive you can not use "if". When you pray a prayer of surrender you can use "if". I will do whatever you want me to do Lord. If you want me to go to the North Pole I will. The word "if" implies a surrender that is a prayer of dedication and its not a prayer of faith. Prayer of faith completely requires that the word "if" be absent. You can't pray a prayer of faith lay hand on a person and say, "Lord if you want to make him well do so Lord." That's not a prayer of faith. It would not bring the result that the prayer of faith would bring. So No. 1 you see the word "if".

No. 2 you see the tenses. She says if only I touch Him I shall be healed. Shall is a future tense. It is not even the present tense. She was not even confessing I believe I am healed. She was confessing a future tense, I shall. If you are familiar with the faith message you are not allowed to say shall. There are many people who try to receive healing by personal faith and say I am going to be well. I shall be healed one day. One fine day I will be well. You know that many people died that way. They died wishing and hoping that they will be well. When you have a future tense it is classified under hope. Faith is in the present tense. Faith is now. Shall is always a future tense. So there is a slight difference in the way these things happened here. She said that if I touch Him I shall be made well. It's a future tense. It is forbidden under the teaching of faith. We don't use future tense when you exercise personal faith. We use present tense. In fact we use past perfect tense. I believe I have received my healing.

So there must be something different in this case and there is. This woman was stepping on the anointing upon Jesus. It was no more personal faith, which taps on the anointing within that each one of us has personally. There are different laws that operate. But let me repeat those things that are similar. In both fields of exercising faith, one with the anointing within and the other with the anointing upon, there are things that are similar and there are things that are different.

The similar areas are here. No. 1 both come by hearing and hearing by the Word. You need to hear the Word of God. And for us to help people to healing we have to focus on the principles that are the same for both. Whether people are going to receive the healing by anointing or by personal faith, they have to emphasize God's word. God's word is important. So there are principles that are similar. That's No. 1 that both come by hearing. Faith comes by hearing you don't change that it remains the same. It is the universal spiritual law - faith comes by hearing. If you don't spend time hearing God's Word your faith will grow weak. Your faith needs to be nurtured constantly. We need to constantly hear God's Word, day and night. Sometimes in the sub-conscious realm you don't realize it. You just keep a tape player going on. The Word keeps getting into your life. We need the Word of God.

Secondly both touch on the principle of the spoken Word. The Word needs to be spoken. In Mark 11:23 Jesus said that if you have faith as a mustard seed and if you say to this mountain be thou cast into the sea and shall not doubt in his heart but believe that those things which he said shall come to pass. Three times the word say is emphasized. Whoever says to this mountain, believing that those things which he says shall come to pass, he shall have whatever he say, Mk. 11:23. He emphasizes the power of the spoken word. Romans chapter 4 in Abraham's case and he is speaking about how he is like God calling those things as be not as though they were.

One of the strangest things about the Hebrew bible is the tense where they put God as saying something in the future in the present tense. It confused many bible scholars. You can read about it in Robert Young who wrote the Young's Concordance. He also has a very good translation, which I rarely see nowadays. I have a copy of that called the Young's Literal Translation of the bible. And any Hebrews scholar will tell you that one of the biggest debates among the Hebrews scholars is the debate about what they call the vowel conjugation "waw" and how they pronounce that. They say that whenever that word is mentioned it speaks about the future in the present tense. And our Old Testament scholars who translated the bible could not translate it. So they just left it as a future tense. I remember how when I went through some verses with you in

the Young's Literal Translation and he kept right to it and translated it as the present. This sounds very foolish, like sometimes they say, God says, "I have given you this land," when He was talking to the Israelites and was still in the future.

But there is an element that they missed out about the character of God which Paul brought out in Romans 4 that God always call those things which be not as though they were. As though it has already taken place. It is one of the characteristics of faith. Although it believes that those things which be not is past and the manifestation may be in the future. The spoken word is utilized. God calls. Jesus spoke the Word. Mark 11:23 speak the Word. Believe that those things that you say will come to pass. You must believe in the power of the spoken Word and you must speak. Saying it has an important effect on our receiving. It is part and parcel. You can't isolate it and talk about saying it. It is part and parcel of the whole thing. Saying it is part and parcel of exercising our personal faith to receive. You have to say it and lock yourself in a position to receive as you are praying and exercising your personal faith for something. Its different if you keep quiet about it. Don tell any body just keep quiet and pretend that is alright. That is not faith. Faith starts speaking it. You lock yourself in a position of no return. You say I believe this is going to happen. I believe I have received. I believe I have received my finances. I believe I have received my healing. You look foolish to the world but you keep saying it. So the principle of saying is important in personal faith.

And the principle of saying is also important when you talk about receiving by the anointing of God. See there are two principles that are vital to both; hearing and saying. This woman constantly said to herself if I touch His garments I shall be made well. Don't know how many hundred of times she may have said that. The Greek says she continually say it to herself. It was different from the other exercise of faith because this woman was using the future tense whereas the exercise of personal faith would require the past or present tense. That is why people don't understand why they can go to a meeting that is anointed and not received anything. Because they have been saying the wrong thing. Part and parcel of tapping on the anointing upon is involved in our mouth. You can sit under Benny Hinn ministry and you could be telling your friend I don't think I will get anything out of that. I have heard it all before. And then you can sit at the meeting and not receive anything. You did not receive because you have said you will not receive it. You have locked yourself in that position. Death and life is in the power of the tongue. And the opposite is true. The release of the anointing upon is involved in saying it. Sometimes before you go to a meeting you say it out loud. You say I believe I am going to receive something from the Lord today. Say it out loud to tap on the anointing. What you say is important. As you say I believe I am going to receive something from the Lord you do. Say I believe God wants me to be there. If God wants me to be there I believe I am going to receive something from the Lord. Just open your spirit to the anointing upon. In the bible when Jesus went to His hometown in Mark chapter 6 all His relations were saying who is He? He is just a carpenter. They were saying it. This is what prevented the anointing on Jesus coming upon them. The two principles are the same; hearing and saying.

Now here is where its different. The anointing within and the anointing upon. On this side there is firstly a release. There is a point of contact and release. The woman said if I touch Him I shall be made well. So the faith that is exercised here concentrated on

a release of an act of faith to pour the anointing upon. Let me illustrate if you really know there is a big barrel of water here and this tap controls it all. But the tap is operated in such a way that only when you press the button fully it will bring forth the water that is inside. So when you come to receive, if you come with a tiny little cup, I know how much water you are going to receive. See you believe that its really there and you need water. You came with a little tiny cup. You need plenty of water but you came with a tiny cup. That's all the water you will receive. Another person said I know there is water inside. And he brings a barrel. He gets the whole barrel full and he goes home.

Now the anointing upon is so strange and interesting. In a sense it a real tangible force if it's in manifestation. I mean its not something make believe. It is real. God imparts and gives to His body. He gives the anointing upon to His vessels not for Himself but for people to tap upon. So if you really believe that there is an anointing upon, you would come ready and say, "The moment he touches me I get it." See the difference. But in personal faith you are not supposed to do all these things. Over in personal faith you are supposed to receive by yourself from God. You are not dependant on any external forces because you have your anointing within. You are not supposed to look out to all these other areas.

That is where the difference starts coming in. And those who don't understand the two different areas when exercising faith get themselves confused. You could go to an anointed meeting with this personal faith attitude. And the man of God is laying hand and you say, "I don't need him to lay hand on me." If you keep on with that kind of attitude you will never get anything from the anointing upon the man of God.

So you see what happen is we have to understand both grounds, both areas. The attitude of personal faith works in these areas. But when you talk about the anointing upon there are differences. In the anointing upon there is a need to have faith in the release. You believe that it is there. One of the reasons why Jesus had to say the Spirit of the Lord is upon me is so that the people could believe that it is there. And one interesting thing that Jesus told Kenneth Hagin when He appeared to him and put His fingers on the palms of his hands and said, "I give you a special anointing." And then He told him this, "You must tell people about what I tell you. You must tell people that I appeared to you. You must tell people that I have given you that special anointing why." Do you know why? So that people could exercise faith in the anointing upon and have a release. See when somebody like Hagin comes and tells you Jesus appeared and put the fingers of his hands on His palm, you will be sitting there with two choices. Either this man is telling a fairy tale or its true. You would be confronted with a choice. And according to your choice you determine whether that which Jesus had given as a gift to the body will work for you and bless your life or not.

For example Morris Cerullo comes to town and say one of the things the Lord told him was to transfer the imparting to others. You have a choice to receive or to doubt. We will continually have a choice. And here is where we can not take the attitude of personal faith it's a different realm altogether here now. There must be a release of faith. A point of contact and a point of release if I touch His clothes I will be made well. That indicates a point of release.

Together with this principle is the principle of the anointing. The anointing upon will move and work based on certain factors. One of those is based on need. The other is based on faith. The third is based on unity that is present. What do we mean by need? For example if an evangelistic anointing is there on the man of God but there are no souls that are lost. Do you think God will manifest the anointing for salvation? Of course not. See the anointing will come into manifestation according to need. It is one of the factors that determine the anointing. So there is where we have to be sensitive to the anointing. Don't try to cook it up if God don't manifest. But if God manifest that anointing, flow with it. Anointing will manifest based on need. If the need is not there God will not manifest it. But sometimes you sense a healing anointing and you don't sense a need. Then it is God developing your life into that anointing. I am talking about operating in the anointing of God.. Sometimes in your home fellowship you sense that an evangelistic anointing is present there but everybody there are Christians for many years. It would be very foolish to stand up and preach an evangelistic message and give an altar call for old sinners when there are no sinners and where everybody is born again. And incidentally God is smarter than that. He won't manifest a particular anointing where there are no corresponding needs. If there are no sick people the healing anointing won't manifest.

Secondly, besides need there need to be faith. There is sometimes could be need but there is no faith. That will also prevent the manifestation from coming forth. Faith is an important ingredient. Learning to exercise faith in the area of the anointing upon. Here we have a certain level of expectancy that is required to release the anointing upon. Of course unity is one of the factors that were involved. Here we are talking about faith. The woman says if I touch His clothes. There was a release. She has reached that point where she wants to release her faith. This type of faith needs a point of release or pressing the button. And when she pressed the button right at that point and there is an anointing upon, guess what? The anointing upon will flow like a river of water into her life. But it requires a release of faith and she has built herself up.

The second difference that we will see here is the future tense. She says I shall be made whole. Its contradictory to personal faith you are not supposed to do that on personal faith. But here under exercising faith in tapping on the anointing upon is one of those principles involved. Releasing our faith is determined by the time factor of contact. And it is not present. The woman was not saying I am healed now. The woman put it in the future and said if I touch His clothes I shall be made whole. I shall be, I shall be, she was putting her healing to the future. On the personal faith level you are not allowed to put your healing to the future. You will never receive at all. But here the woman released her faith. She placed it on the future tense to the moment she touch Him. And she build herself up to that point and she received. Faith to tap on the anointing upon is in the future tense and it is contrary to personal faith where we are not supposed to put things in the future.

Now a question will arise when you hear a teaching like this. How do I know which area of faith God wants me to exercise in the area of healing or problem in my life? How do I know? Your approach should be this. All the time you should be walking on personal faith. But whenever you are attending a meeting where the anointing upon would be manifested where there are people who stand in the five-fold ministry, you prepare yourself to receive in those areas and those gifts that they carry. So in that way you have both personal faith to tap on the anointing within you and the expectant

faith to tap on the anointing upon the five-fold ministers. In this way there will be a release in your life accordingly.

There is an inner knowing that will come on you. At certain times it will be that you know that you are going to receive a greater healing anointing and it will affect a healing in our life. You know it and you keep saying it, "I know this is going to happen in my body the moment the anointing is transmitted upon me in that meeting," and it does. Your conscience also will be the check on your faith level so that you know whether you could have a complete release or not based on faith coming by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. And the Spirit of God will witness within you. Sometimes for some people they don't have a completed faith here. And when you want to try that your conscience condemns you. Your conscience says, "No your faith level is not there." So you go according to your faith level. Stretch out as much as you can and be sensitive to the faith level that your conscience bears witness to.

The reason I mention that is so that people will not have disappointments that they should not have. Sometimes they excite themselves where they say I am going to be completely healed when he touch me. But inside them they don't hear as much as that woman has heard. And there are other factors that affect the anointing flowing. See the anointing can flow at different levels. Sometimes it is not at the level to perform that. Or the faith level is not there to receive that. There still a lot of hidden doubts, can it be, maybe, inside unspoken. All over the place inside their heart and mind the Word still has not cleansed them. So these will prevent the complete flow. This woman had given up everything. There was no other road for her to go. She had spent all her money on the best physicians and in fact every door was closed. She had only one choice. You see how desperate she was. But for many people they don't only have one door. They have many doors. Sometimes its good but many times its bad. Because that means people will not commit themselves fully as they have so many alternatives. They don't commit themselves fully to the Lord. They don't trust the Lord fully. They say if this fail I still got this. So their commitment is not as much. But that woman has no other choice. In fact the bible says she had spent all her money. It literally bankrupted her. She had no more money to spend even if a new physician comes to town. The bible says she got worse too. She practically has given up. She was on the road of no return. In our modernized society today we have many alternatives. As they go to a meeting they say, "If this fails I got a backup plan." In fact they don't have a backup plan - they have ten backup plans. They can go to Kenneth Hagin's meeting, Morris Cerullo's meetings, Benny Hinn's meetings, Tim Storey's meetings, Oral Roberts' meetings etc. So there is a difference and a commitment.

And neither do we recommend after you hear this you throw everything out and you say, "Now I have learned I must have no backup plan," and put yourself in an area where you may be disappointed. You don't do it in the flesh. You do it only when the Word becomes a revelation in your life. How do I know when I don't need medicine? You will know it when the Word becomes a revelation. But if you were to ask somebody else, "Do you think I should still take medicine?" then you better take. The Word is not a revelation to you. If the Word is a revelation to you, you won't be asking people. You will know that you know that you don't need it. See when you have to ask you are still trusting in other people's words and faith a little bit and you are not so sure. And that uncertainty is going to kill you when you throw away that

medicine. It has to be an inner revelation that is invisible inside our hearts. It's so hard for people to examine because its in the unseen realm.

That level of release and expectancy must be there when you exercise faith in the area of the anointing upon. You would know if you check your own heart the release is there. And at that point just as in both realms whether faith in the anointing within or faith in the anointing upon, doubts are still not permitted. Fear is still not permitted in both realms. All those things that eat up faith, that neutralize your faith, unforgiveness will still prevent faith from both sides. So there are things that are similar and there are things that are different. Understand the difference and be blessed on both sides. Those who minister can learn to minister by personal faith and they can minister by the anointing. Those who receive they can receive by personal faith or they can receive by the anointing upon. We don't have to limit ourselves to one avenue. For some people all they know is this avenue. For others all they know is that avenue. It's a pity because when there is no man of God in town they are down and out. They are so dependant on them. It would produce very weak Christians. Strong Christian are produced from personal faith. Yet for us to continue to be blessed to the level that God wants us to be, we need to move in this realm, in the realm of learning to exercise faith for the anointing upon.

That is the reason why if you have this understanding you will learn to receive an anointing. Men of God have laid hands on some people but the anointing doesn't seem to come on them. They haven't learned these two aspects of releasing their faith. They know personal faith but they don't know about releasing their faith in this realm of receiving the anointing upon. Not only are this necessary for healing but other areas too. When a man of God lay hand on me I act on this principles here. So that the anointing that is imparted upon my life is really imparted. I could sense it. Here is where its important for us to realize this. Benny Hinn can come and go. He can impart his anointing to people. But not many people carry on in the anointing. Do you notice that? Some people can be just blessed and go off. It is a different thing to learn to receive an anointing and continue in it. Some people are blessed in the anointing but they don't know how to continue on in the anointing. The only way we learn to continue is to learn these principles of learning to receive by faith from the anointing upon.

There are two elements here. There is a point of release, whether it is through a man of God laying hands on you or through some other form. When you release you turn the switch and you just open yourself to receive. The other is your expectancy that has been built up. That you have prepared yourself that the moment its done, I shall receive. I shall receive. You have prepared yourself. Unless you know these truths here you won't to be blessed by ministries to the measure that you could have. In the Singapore International Charismatic Fellowship Conference they told me the day before that Jerry Seville is going to lay hands and impart the anointing upon to the committee. So the moment I heard that I started preparing myself. See what I mean. Here you walk on the personal faith. But when I realized that there is going to be some blessings in this realm, I started exercising my faith on this realm. I start saying to myself, "The moment he lays hand on me I am going to receive all of the anointing. I am going to receive all of his preaching anointing." I started preparing myself. With personal faith you are not taught to do that. On personal faith you are always talking in the past tense and on the present tense. You are not supposed to talk in the future

tense. You see you can not exercise personal faith for the anointing upon when its not there. You could exercise personal faith for the anointing within but you can not do that for anointing upon. You have to put on the future tense where there is a release. Just before his hand came I could feel that the anointing arising. There is a difference in these two truths. It is important for us to learn to receive and understand faith.

10. TWO WAYS OF DISCERNING FAITH

We are talking about faith and today's message is tied to the last message where we showed how there is a slight difference between exercising faith to receive from the anointing upon a man of God and exercising faith in our personal private life to receive from the anointing within. There are principles that are the same. But there are principles that are slightly different. So there is a difference between exercising faith to receive or to be healed under the anointing upon and to receive something from the anointing within by personal faith. There are slight differences but both do require faith. Faith is predominant in both. We are going to speak specially this morning and show one of the most important aspects of faith is acting on discerning the presence of faith in someone to be healed. There are slight differences between acting in faith under the anointing upon and acting in faith under personal faith or the anointing within.

Acting in faith under anointing upon is slightly different. The difference is in the discerning of faith. Lets look at Acts 14 and read a passage of scripture that will give us light in this area. Paul in his missionary journey has traveled now to Iconium and now as he continued preaching they went to Lystra and Derbe in verse 6. Verse 8-12 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting, who could not use his feet; he was a cripple from birth, who had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking; and Paul, looking intently him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and walked. And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, because he was the chief speaker, they called Hermes.

In verse 15 Paul told them "Men, why are you doing this? We also are men, of like nature with you, and bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways, yet he did not leave Himself without witness, for He did good and gave you from heaven rains and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness. With these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them.

As we teach this series on faith, we pray that you would become a more positive person. It is not possible to be a person of great faith and be negative at the same time. All pessimists tend to be unbelievers. One day I asked a businessman who was very pessimistic and very negative why he was that way. Why do you choose to be a pessimist? And he said, "If I believe that something good is going to happen and it doesn't happen I may get disappointed. So I might as well get disappointed now so that I don't get disappointed later." I hope that's not your philosophy. It is not God's philosophy neither is it Jesus' philosophy. See the pessimist live as if there is no God, as if there is no future. What the businessman said was correct in the natural but it is incorrect in the spiritual sense because the element of God helping us was not brought in. If God is our hope there is no disappointment. In fact the bible does say that faith does not disappoint. God does not disappoint us. In fact everyday as you grow and experience new experiences, you become either more positive or negative. We ought to become more positive in faith. Faith is a positive force.

And here we see that Paul as he was preaching in the streets. Many times we have constructed in our minds and in our mental conception the fact that God can only work in an auditorium. We forget that many of the miracles of Jesus and of the apostles took place on the streets. Right out there where they are the hard knocks of life, where you have no time to pray. You have to do all your prayers before that. Where you don't even have the time to sing Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. All the homework has to be done in your private life. And when you go forth you expect God's gifts to operate while you are on your job – when you are working on your computer, while you are taking your commuter train. Wherever you are you expect the gifts of God to manifest. It takes place in normal circumstances of life. Many of Jesus' miracles were without a song leader or without preparation because Jesus had done all the preparation. He gets up very early in the morning to seek the Lord, to wait upon the Lord. He had done His homework. The reason why many times it takes a long time to get into a position of God's operation or God's manifestation is people don't do their homework. And you know homework. Homework is homework whether it is spiritual or natural. If you don't do it at home you got to do it outside. If we all do our spiritual homework and develop a relationship with God we would just launch into the Spirit any time any place any here.

So here we are with Paul on the streets preaching his heart out. He loves God and he loves to preach the gospel. So he is announcing the good news about Jesus Christ. And there was this man Luke who wrote this gospel and the bible qualifies him as a medical doctor. And in the writings of Luke you will find more detailed description of sicknesses that can only be observed by one who is skilled or knowledgeable in the medical sense. He would qualify what kind of sickness. You compare with the other gospel he is more explicit in describing the kind of sicknesses.

So here in verse 8 he says a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting and he was crippled from his mother's womb. He had never walked before. But there he is sitting down and listening to the gospel. And of course Paul noticed him. It does not record that after he was healed there were muscles added. You see since he had never walked before his legs would have no muscles and his legs would look like matchsticks. He was just healed and there he was dancing away. But if God had done a creative miracle then muscles would have been added instantly. So here he was walking and leaping on his matchstick legs.

You ask me, "How do you get such clear details in your messages?" You see we taught how to develop your devotional life. There are three ways you should read your bible. One of the ways is to read the bible with your imagination. The first is use the Word as a meditation tool; it is food for you. Take out scriptures and meditate on them. The second is to study by revelation. When God gives a revelation you have to check it up with the Word and that can take time. Some of you received a revelation while you are sitting here. God speaks a word that tells something about His scripture. Like He could say something to your heart like God had forgiven you. But you are not sure where the scriptures are. And you take that Word and you study everywhere about forgiveness, the revelation of forgiveness and cleansing. So one thought and one revelation is followed up by studying the Word. The third way is reading the bible with your imagination. As you read one sentence you close your eyes and you see what actually happened. How do I do that? The Holy Spirit is your tourist guide in the

spirit realm. God did not leave us without a Comforter. To paraphrase for us modern people where tourism is a No. 1 earner in many countries, God's Holy Spirit is the tourist guide in the spirit realm. There are many places we have not been in the Spirit. There are many things we have not experienced in the Spirit. But when we ask the Holy Spirit, "What is that? Show me this thing in the Spirit." He will begin to show. He will tell you how it all started. He will tell the details of the story. So that's how we got it.

Here we are back on this topic on faith. So this man is walking about healed. Now there are two things we want to see first. Here is the man sitting down listening to the Word. It may have been his first time. The apostle Paul was preaching. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Fear comes by hearing and hearing by the word of the devil. Do you know fear is also educated? You are trained to fear. If you were not told that there is a plane crash after many hundred flights, you may not have the fear of flying. But once the fact comes to you that there is an air crash after every ten thousandth flight, you will be thinking whether the plane you are getting on could be the ten thousandth. How did you get that fear? Fear comes by hearing and hearing by the word of the devil. We develop fear; we learn to fear. And faith comes by hearing God's Word.

Paul saw this man got faith. The bible says in verse 8 and 9 says this man heard. Faith comes by hearing. So this man heard the Word of God. So he heard the Word of God and faith started pouring into his heart. Faith was growing as the Word came to him. Here is a fact that we want to note here. This man had faith. The bible says he had faith. How do we know? The bible says that Paul looked intently. That's a very polite way of saying. We could have put it as Paul stared at him. Naturally and socially we feel that people who stare too long are rude. Do you notice that people who stare in the natural either love you a lot or they are very angry with you? So there is Paul staring at this man. The reason Paul stared or looked intently was because he saw faith taking place in him. You can't see faith until its acted or you can't see faith until it is expressed by facial expression, by verbal confession or by action. Here is the man lying down. He is not doing anything. He probably was staring back too. So there we have the story of the two staring at each other. Paul was staring at him and the crippled man was staring back at Paul. But Paul discerned in the Spirit.

See faith can be discerned. Discernment is different from discerning of spirits. The gift of discerning of spirits mentioned in I Cor. 12 is a manifestation of the Spirit that takes place under the anointing upon. And it does not talk about the area of judging right or wrong or discernment of good and evil. But it speaks about discerning of spirits plural. It talks about the ability to look into the spirit realm to see spirits whether its angel or demonic spirits. Neither is it just a negative gift just to see demons. But it is discerning of seeing of spirits. What we are talking about is the discernment, which Philippians chapter one in his prayer Paul says he prayed in verse 6 and 7 that the Philippians church would grow in discernment. That's what my New King James says. In your Old King James it says grow in judgment. But that's the same word translated discernment as in Hebrews chapter 5 where those who are matured and know the solid food of God they could discern good and evil. They have their spiritual senses trained to discern good and evil.

So here in the book of Acts chapter 14 noticed the apostle Paul seeing or discerning that he had faith to be healed. Now here is the amazing thing. He had faith to be

healed and he was not healed yet. Between the time he had faith and the time he was healed, he was still lying there looking at Paul. The bible says that he had faith. That's what we are speaking on today that faith must be acted out. Faith must be acted out to complete the whole process of faith. Faith hears, faith sees, faith stands and faith acts. It must complete the cycle of faith. Here is where we want to see a little point here. Paul knew there was faith. The man did not even know he himself had faith. Of course their spiritual positions were different. This man may have heard the gospel for the first time. We can accept this as a fact that he was new in the things of the spirit. He was unfamiliar with the things of the spirit. This man had something taking place in his spirit where faith was being imparted that he did not know of. He had faith and he didn't know.

Paul knew that he had faith. Paul was matured as a Christian. He had been many years in the Lord. He was born again in the book of Acts chapter 9, which is about A.D. 35. And he went into the ministry after a period of about 9 years when the Lord separated Paul and Barnabas in Acts chapter 11 in about A.D. 44. He was told to help in the church of Antioch in his ninth year as a Christian. Then in Acts 13 in verse 1 to 3 while they were praying together he started his missionary journey. It could be A.D. 45 or 46. It may have been about 11 years after his conversion. Now he is here on his missionary journey, which may have taken time. So by this time Paul is a matured Christian. He had known the Lord at least more than a decade. So he was more familiar with the things of the Spirit. He knew the things of the Spirit and he could discern when something spiritual was taking place. He could discern faith.

There is a difference between those two people. The lame man had faith and did not know it. Paul had faith himself and knew that this man had faith. And this man doesn't know and Paul had to help this man. Its important for us to realize that faith must be there first before the action comes. If there were an action before faith comes it would have been disastrous. That has happened sadly in many Christians' life. Remember we talked about discerning faith by the conscience. This man had no way of knowing. Paul knew. How did Paul knew and discerned faith? So here is where we see the major difference between exercising faith personally by the anointing within and exercising faith when the anointing upon is being operated. Here Paul was also operating by the anointing upon. Whether it be anointing upon or anointing within faith is necessary. You try to operate the anointing upon without faith it will not work. It doesn't mean that when God gives you a tangible manifestation of the anointing upon that you can operate it without faith. No, faith is the universal force of this universe. It is a primary force according to Hebrews chapter 11 verse 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were created by the Word of God. The prime force of this universe is faith.

Just to remind you those who are familiar with Kenneth Hagin's I Believe in Visions. Do you remember the time that Jesus appeared to him? Jesus put His fingers in Hagin's palms and said to him, "I give you a special anointing to bring healing to the sick." And the very next chapter was entitled "If"- The Badge of Doubt. Under the anointing upon, Hagin started ministering to a man who could not bend his back straight as a plank. And he laid his hand on him and he discerned that there was a demonic case. God told him how to discern the difference. He cast out the demon. There was no manifestation of the demon coming out. It doesn't mean that when you cast out demons there must always be a scream. So here after he discerned the demon

and cast him out, Hagin said this, "See if you can bend." The man tried and he can't bend. He did that again. "See if you can bend." "I am sorry I can't." Finally he gave up and the man started going back. When he was going back Jesus appeared to Hagin. Jesus said, "I told you in My Name they will come out." And Jesus was very authoritative when He spoke that. And Hagin looked back very timidly and said, "Yes, Lord I did but they didn't come out." Jesus stepped a little nearer and said, "I told you in My Name they will come out." And the man was walking halfway and all the whole church heard the conversation between Hagin and Jesus except they didn't hear Jesus' conversation. And the man was walking back stopped halfway because he heard Hagin talking to somebody. Then finally this is what Hagin mentioned. He said for the first time he saw what Jesus looks like when He was very angry. The first time he met Jesus he looked into Jesus' eyes he saw rivers of love. This time Jesus looked very angry and Jesus pointed a finger right between his eyes. And He said, "I told you in My Name they will come out." And he said when he looked into Jesus eyes it looks like His eyes were on fire. Then suddenly revelation came. He realized his mistake. He called the man back. Again he laid hands on that person and said, "Come out in Jesus' Name." And then he said, "Bend." The man could bend and was completely healed. The difference was Hagin had earlier said, "See if you could bend." If is a language of doubt. Even though Hagin had the anointing upon, that anointing could even be hindered when there is some doubt.

Small things like that determine whether a miracle takes place. Small, small things make a difference between a miracle and a failure. Small things determine whether you sink or you swim. It was just the small, small thing that determined whether Peter could walk on the water or he would be sinking. So here is an anointing upon that was not operating because there was no faith. See before there is an action there must be a discerning of faith. Don't ever forget that. Before you act on faith whether it be for a healing or whether it be for a financial situation you must discern faith. If there is no faith and you act please get the ambulance ready because disasters will strike. And God is not responsible. Don't blame God. God has principles in His Word. The people would just look at half of the faith message and jump off without looking at the whole plan of God in His Word. There is similarity in both. Faith must be discerned. If you are ministering on anointing upon you must discern faith before you work a miracle. Two hundred people may come on a wheel chair. It doesn't mean that when the anointing upon come you just run to all and kick them out of their wheel chairs. Some may get healed. We still must discern faith when we operate under the anointing upon. Unbelief and doubt will cripple an anointing upon.

Mark 6 Jesus had an anointing upon and He could not work because the people did not believe. So faith must be discerned as you operate an anointing upon there will be a flow of faith. On the other side on your personal level, if you are operating on your personal faith or going to act on an area you must discern faith in your heart. Now you see the difference. The minister who is operating under the anointing upon must assume the responsibility of guiding you to the area. He is the one who helps you to discern faith in your life where you may be able to discern. The responsibility rests a lot on the one who ministers. That is the reason why it is easier to get healing or blessing by the anointing upon as we don't do anything. We just had to be opened and lean on that person. But Jesus still does that. He allows us to flow with another person's faith because we are all growing from faith to faith. None of us are independent in a sense we are all inter-dependent. We all grow together in the Lord.

And there are areas we do to a certain extent lean on one another. And part of the key of receiving is also learning to trust on that one who is ministering. And so under the anointing upon the responsibility of discerning faith rest upon the one who ministers. You have to be sharp at that. And it is an area where you could train yourself in. Sometimes it is so clear that you can not miss it. Sometimes it is an area that needs finer tuning.

In the early days of my ministry I used to ask the people to just line up and lay hands on them one by one. And so I was doing that in one of the old folks homes. And as we prayed for the first one and the second one there was some manifestation where pain has disappeared. And I remembered how it felt like. Then about the third or the fourth person you could almost see the faith bubbling up. He had seen the others in front of him. You see what was happening. He was about the third or fourth and he saw the others in front of him got healed. His problem was more serious. He had an accident and could not walk. And as he was just limping forward, you could see the faith bubbling up. And that was the first time I started discerning what faith was like under anointing upon. I was learning in all those things. There was expectancy; there were all these things that go together with one who has faith. And before we could do anything there was a demon afflicting his life. It left and he fell under the power and he got up and started walking normally. And that is one of the ways where we learned to grow in the anointing. After the meeting is over you try to remember what it felt like. So that the next time it happens you are more familiar with your way of sensation. There are some things you are supposed to forget but there are some things you are supposed to remember. And God helps you to know which one to forget and which one to remember.

And so here was that discerning of faith that was wonderful. And through time I realize that this was something like what Paul experienced when he saw faith. When I was starting off in the ministry I was not so sharp in discerning of faith. In the early days in the faith message you can get carried away. Here was this person he was in his house and he was lying down and can not walk properly. So here I was strike up with the Word of God. I said to him, "Believe, confess it is done. Whatever you believe, when you pray you receive." This operates in the personal anointing but operating in the anointing upon is slightly different because you got to discern faith in others. If you exercise that for yourself its different. If you are exercising faith for somebody else you got to discern faith and flow with that level of faith. You can not put your faith on people. And here I was bold as a lion. After I prayed for him I didn't discern anything. Straight away I went to that person and said, "Get up and walk." I actually pulled that person up. It was the most embarrassing thing that took place. He fell back right on his chair and looked worse than before. So we went through those things like that. We made mistakes in those areas.

In the early days whenever people hear of your faith, they will come to you. And people from various churches and various places, when they get into trouble or sickness they will do their own praying. They may reach a point where they have nowhere else to turn. The doctors said there is no cure. Their own churches have prayed their hearts out. And everything seems to fail. They always remember you at the last minute. And here you are going like a super hero and they are in the dying stages. Remember they have tried everything and you are the last hope. I was not so discerning in those days. And I used to go and say, "Okay I will pray." The way I pray

is very positive. I never prayed for people to die. I pray in the bible way. I say, "I will pray together with you and pray for healing." That's the way we should believe. Basically this is my philosophy that if a person is going to die any way you don't lose anything by exercising all your faith for them to be healed and they die. You make no difference. After all they are going to die. See if somebody is going to die of some disease give it the fight all you can. After all if you didn't do it they will still die. And you did it and they die you have everything to gain and nothing to lose. Except this problem when nothing happens don't look for a scapegoat.

In the early days we get a lot of blame just because we were there giving hope to people where we are not supposed to give hope. We learned to be more discerning nowadays. I still have that philosophy in a sense that if everything is lost do it all you can. You got everything to gain and nothing to lose. After all that person is going to die anyway. But with a little added wisdom of discerning faith where you could tell whether the patient has faith to be healed you become sharper. You could tell whether this could flow in this area of faith and bring forth that miracle. And in the anointing upon the responsibility to discern rests on the minister. On the personal faith there is a difference. You are on your own in a certain sense. Yet the responsibility of discerning faith is to be done by somebody who has that anointing upon and that happens to be you. You are the one who must discern faith in your life. You must discern whether there is faith to do those things. When you act in faith there is a need to discern faith. Under the anointing upon the responsibility falls on the minister because the minister is the one helping others to act on faith. But under your personal faith where you have grown in faith, you must always discern faith in yourself.

You need to act in faith and there must be no doubt. Faith without action is dead. Let me just throw out some scriptures here. In Matt. 7 Jesus talked about the wise man and the foolish man. Please do not think that Jesus was just talking about people who understand and know. Jesus did not say the wise man is the man who hear and understand. Neither did He say the foolish man was the one who did not hear. Both heard. The wise man heard, the foolish man heard. The difference Jesus said was this. He who hears and do it. It is when you act in faith that something is crystallized in you and there is a completion of the whole process of faith in your life. Something is birthed in you. See you can have faith but not act on it. And remember this, the level of your discernment of faith many times rest upon your spiritual level. We have illustrated with Paul and that man. That crippled man was new in the things in the Spirit. He could not discern faith when he had it. Sometimes because we are not sensitive to the Spirit we have faith and we know not. What needs to be done is to act. And you are not acting. See faith has come and we know not and we acted not and we received not. The level of our discernment is proportional to our spiritual life. As we grow in the things of the Spirit we could discern faith whether its there for something or not. But if we are new and are growing in the realm of the Spirit, just remember to be opened to the things of God. Sometimes in another anointed atmosphere the ministry of another man may help you to discern faith in your life where you didn't discern before. In all these things it will not violate this principle that after you discerned there is confirmation in your heart.

How do we know what kind of confirmation? If you read the book of Galatians chapter 5 verse 22 and 23 it talks about the fruit of the Spirit. But people missed the whole point of what Paul was trying to say. What Paul was trying to say is how to be

led by the Spirit and know that you are acting in faith. See Galatians is a book that talks about faith contrasting with the works of the flesh. Lets turn to the book of Galatians chapter 5. See the context of the fruit of the Spirit was verse 18 But if you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law. And then he went on to talk about the leading of the Spirit what it would be like. Verse 22 starts with a But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. So here we have the fruit of the Spirit. And this is one of the tremendous tests. Whether you are acting in faith under the anointing upon or acting in faith under the anointing within the fruit of the Spirit is operative. Galatians 5 in the first few verses says faith worked by love. That's how it helps you to discern. Sometimes when you act in faith love is not there. If the fruit of the Spirit is absent then it is not faith. That is why sometimes when you see some ministers of God who don't discern faith properly. They are rough and pushy. Its not faith it's the flesh. Faith works by love. The fruit of the Spirit will always be there. And as you act in faith the fruit of the Spirit starts growing. See the work of faith requires love and the walk of faith requires action. There is a movement in faith.

Sometimes we need encouragement to move. Even the book of James tells us faith without works is like a body without the spirit. So it says faith needs works. How much faith you really have is demonstrated right now by how much you actually acted. For example if somebody said I have faith for a million dollars. Let me check how much you have really given. See how much you give tells me how much faith you actually have to receive. How much faith you have to give tells me how much faith you actually have to receive. You may deceive others and deceive yourself by claiming things that are beyond your faith but you can not lie by your action. Your action shows your real level. People say I have all the faith in the world to be healed. But they lie down and do nothing. One thing that amazes me sometimes is when I go and minister in hospitals and pray for people, Some of them are given 6 months to live. Some are given 3 months. And they want to be healed; they desired to be healed. But they are not desirous to give it all they have got. Lying on the hospital bed are tons of worldly magazines, Time Magazine, Newsweek, all the different types of newspaper and the bible is hidden somewhere. Six months to live and all they do is read news here news there. I am amazed because the action of that person does not show that he really has the faith to recover. And that person wants healing but how do you want to be healed? If you can not get it by personal faith, you have to get it by receiving from the anointing upon a man of God. But even then to receive from the anointing upon, you will need to have a certain measure of response and openness and faith.

This is what I would have done if I were in that position with 6 months to live. I would say, "Please don't give me anything of the world. Let me hear day and night only God's Word. Please give me the bible don't give me the newspaper. I want to hear God's Word." They want the spiritual but they are more in the natural. You can't; either you are in the spiritual or in the natural. So as you act in faith in any area of your life is demonstrated by your action. So lets examine our hearts. Are we acting and of course before you act have you discerned. How do I discern? You pray in the Spirit of God. You grow in the Spirit of God. Even Peter in Acts 3 when he told the lame man, "Silver and gold have I not but what I have I give to you. In the Name of Jesus, rise up and walk." They all surrounded him after the healing was done and Peter said this was done because of faith in the Name of Jesus. Acts 3:16 And His

name, by faith in His name, has made this man strong. Notice Peter did something. The first word of Peter to that man was not, “Silver and gold have I none.” The first word Peter spoke to that man was, “Look at us.” Why did he say that? He wanted to discern faith.

The same thing in Acts 14 is taking place here now in Acts 3. Peter said look at us and Peter stared intently at him. You see in verse 4 what did Peter do. He fixed his eyes on him saying, “You look on us,” and as the man looked back something was taking place. He was discerning. That man was lying there. He saw faith and he was so bold and he pulled the man up. Minister of God discern faith before you do that. But when you discern faith you must operate under the anointing upon. If you don't operate under the anointing upon nothing will happen. When you discerned faith act on it and keep acting and keep acting.

11. TWO WAYS OF RECEIVING BY FAITH

Last week we talked about discerning faith. Heb. 11:1-3 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

In the last messages we have been discussing the difference of receiving by exercising personal faith in the anointing within your spirit man and receiving by exercising faith in the anointing upon another person's ministry. There are similarities but we need to know the differences so that we know when we should be exercising personal faith in the anointing within and flow with the principles involved. And when we should be exercising faith in the anointing upon and flow with the principles involved.

Bear in mind that the spiritual realm is not a realm that we can not understand. The spiritual realm as far as God is concerned is systematic. His administration is well organized and there are laws that govern the spiritual realm. Of course when we don't understand something it is a mystery. Just like electricity was a mystery to men. Only when the man grew in the understanding of how electricity operates can man tap on the laws of electricity to their benefit. Similarly the spiritual realm is a mystery only as long as you don't understand it. But once there is an understanding of the laws that govern the spiritual realm its no longer a mystery. It is no mystery when people get healed. It is no mystery when miracles take place. We understand the laws that govern those areas. In talking about receiving by personal faith and receiving by the anointing of God, for the past few weeks we have been touching on the difference between acting by faith in the anointing within your spirit man and acting by faith in the anointing upon a minister of God. Then there is difference between discerning faith under the anointing within and discerning faith by the anointing upon. There is also a difference between receiving what we believe by the anointing within and receiving what we believe by the anointing upon. There is a difference.

In the life of Jesus Christ you would notice that every healing is to an extent instantaneous. Every time when He spoke the Word, there was a healing. And even when there was a gradual healing it does not take longer than an hour or a day. Under normal circumstances we would consider that quite instantaneous. And the question rest in Christians' minds is why is it that in Jesus' life it is that way. And today sometimes when people are exercising faith it takes them a year or two or even ten years before they see results. Why is it there is such a difference?

We need to understand in receiving by faith there is a difference in the time it takes to receive from the anointing within your spirit man and the time it takes to receive from the anointing upon a minister's life. When Jesus was on this planet earth during His three years ministry He ministered primarily by the anointing upon. In fact I would go as far as to say that was the main way and the only way He ministered in His three years of ministry. See the anointing within was not manifested until after the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost when there was such a thing as being born of the Spirit. So in all the incidences in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John Jesus ministered by the anointing upon. You would read about passages of faith. But as we see that even in the anointing upon faith is required. So the faith that is exercised under the anointing upon and the principles that govern the receiving by the anointing within

fall under the laws of faith. All those miracles in Jesus' ministry took place because of the anointing upon. Therefore there is a difference.

The bible says Jesus is the first born from the dead, talking of His resurrection. It is only after He was resurrected that the miracle of the born again experience can take place in the hearts and in the lives of human beings. After He was resurrected people have the opportunity to experience what we call the born again experience. And the born again experience is receiving the Holy Spirit to dwell in us. It is called the anointing within. I Jn. 2:27 says But the anointing, which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. This is the unction or the anointing within that teaches you all things and helps us to operate in certain realm. For that reason we began to see that after the resurrection of Jesus and from the start of the church age we have the opportunities to see the manifestation of the anointing within and the manifestation of the anointing upon. There are differences involved. When we receive by the anointing upon there will be an immediate manifestation when the act of faith is done. There will be a certain measure of manifestation. In the anointing upon there will be a discerning of faith by the one who minister to discern the presence of faith in the person who wants to receive from the minister's anointing. The one receiving from the minister's anointing will exercise his or her own faith and rest on the minister's faith.

So lets continue where we left off last week in Acts 14:8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting, who could not use his feet; he was crippled from birth, who had never walked. He listened to Paul speaking; (faith was coming) and Paul, looking intently at him (last week we said the reason why he observed him intently was to discern faith) and seeing that he had faith to be made well, said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and walked. Instantly the man was healed. Paul discerned faith and there was an instant miracle that took place when an act was done. There was an act of faith and there was a command to act.

Last week we balanced it by saying how that unless you discern faith you should not act. You should build up faith in your hearers until you could discern faith in them. For if faith is not there the act will futile, it would be disastrous too. After discerning faith the act is done. When the act is done upon discerning faith there is always a change that takes place in the physical. And in this case there was an instant miracle. But in the book of Acts chapter three a similar healing in Peter and John's ministry is recorded in some details. Peter and John were on their way to prayer and it was about the ninth hour, which means it was about three o'clock in the afternoon. In Verse 2 And a man lame from birth (here is another man who is lame and never walked before) was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful to ask alms of those who entered the temple. Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. And Peter directed his gaze at him, with John.

Peter was walking by when he asked for alms. Peter fixed his eyes on him. Notice that is the exact thing that Paul did in Acts 14. Acts 14 says Paul looked intently at the crippled man, discerned faith in him and commanded him to act. The man did not know that he had faith. As we have said that according to our spiritual level we can discern faith. The man did not discern faith. Paul discerned faith and got him to act

and he received. Here is Peter doing the same thing. The first word of Peter to the man was not rise in the name of Jesus. The first word of Peter was look at us. And those first words were as important as the other words that say I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; they are as important. It means that there was a discerning of faith taking place. And as we mature in the Lord we may not need that eye ball to eye ball contact once you know what its like. You could sense faith even from a distance. You could sense faith in an atmosphere. When two thousand people are gathered together you could sense faith in certain areas and the lack of faith in other areas. You can learn to discern faith.

So Peter says, "Look on us," fixing his eyes on him. So he fixed his attention upon them, expecting to receive something from them. Remember he was there everyday and the church had a meeting everyday. Everyday they saw the man but they did not pronounce healing on the man. Nor did the man demonstrate any position of receiving like he did on that very day. Some time had passed by. See sometimes when we are not healed in a meeting and we keeping coming to hear God's Word and sitting under an anointed atmosphere, a time may come when faith drops into your spirit and its time to receive the healing. In Kathryn Khulman's meeting some of the people who came were healed by the third time or the fourth time they attended, not the first time. For many it was the first time. But for some it was several times before they reached a level where the miracle of God operated upon their lives. And it's the same way in this man's life.

And here Peter said I have no silver and gold, but I give you what I have; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk. So a command was given to this man to act. You never give a command to act unless you discern faith. And so here he discerned faith and gave a command to act. Apparently the man didn't act yet. It looked different from Paul's incident. In Paul's incident he raised his voice and the man just stood up. But here a command was given and apparently there was no reaction yet. And in verse 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Please note that the manifestation took place only when the act was released. Not when the command was released. It was when the action took place. The bible says as he lifted him up immediately his feet and ankles received strength. This is quite instantaneous. And there was an anointing upon that was already flowing in that kind of atmosphere they were in and faith was required. Faith is required to exercise even when there is an anointing upon.

In Mark chapter 6 Jesus had the anointing upon but it did not operate because the people in His hometown did not have faith in Him. Even if you have an anointing upon and if you don't have faith it will not operate on you. Faith is essential. Don't think that just because there is an anointing upon you don't need to do anything else. God is sovereign He will do what He wants. Faith is required. Sometimes it is the faith of somebody else. In Kathryn Khulman's meeting it looks as if sometimes some people who were healed did not have faith. Let me tell you somebody was praying for them and exercising faith on their behalf. God does not violate His Word. Heb. 11:6 tells us without faith it is impossible to please God. There is no way God is going to do anything without faith in the anointing upon or anointing within. You can't violate the principles of faith. And later Peter did say that it was faith that made the man strong.

We know that for the anointing upon to operate faith must be exercised. This is where we want to show the difference between receiving by faith under the anointing upon and receiving by faith from the anointing within. Receiving by faith under the anointing upon brings forth an instantaneous miracle. It brings forth an instantaneous manifestation. Whereas receiving by the anointing within may not have an instantaneous manifestation. It may be more gradual. We must understand the difference between the two types of faith and anointing in order to flow along with them. The manifestation under the anointing within may not come as much as from the anointing upon.

In the book of Philippians chapter 2:25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for you all, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So receive him in the Lord with all joy; and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete your service to me.

There was a time when Epaphroditus was sick and the news went back to the Philippians that he was sick and he was with Paul. So in this particular case there was a process of time before Epaphroditus' healing took place. He was sick and news got down to Philippians that he was sick. In this particular case a healing did take place. But this particular healing seems to have come from a different aspect of God's laws and we would classify his healing under the laws of personal faith in the anointing within. There are reasons here for the cause of that sickness. It says in verse 30 that it was because he overworked himself. So in this particular case the physical law of rest was broken and sickness had an opportunity to come in. And when you exercise personal faith to receive your healing from the anointing within, you must consider the laws that were broken. There are physical, spiritual, emotional, mental disorders that cause sickness. Sickness does not come without a cause. But don't go around asking, "I wonder what sin he has committed." Sometimes the reason is physical. In Epaphroditus' case he did not break a moral law although breaking moral laws do bring sickness in the long run. He broke a physical law: he strained beyond his body's limits.

Although we may receive healing by exercising personal faith in the anointing within, we should not have this attitude that we don't need anyone else. Some people say, "Praise God I can receive everything by myself. I don't need anybody else. I just need God, the Word and me." They don't realize this principle too. There are some things that we can get from the other people's experience. If a person takes five years to discover a particular spiritual truth, I don't want to sit under that person's ministry since I may take five years to get that person's experience too. But if I sit under another person's ministry in five minutes I may get what he has already obtained in the last five years. See that's the advantage of learning from others. So there is a balance and we need to understand the difference in these two realms. It applies in healing and it applies in finances.

When you exercise personal faith in the anointing within the manifestation comes slower. There are two causes for that. Firstly, laws that are broken need to be set right.

If you exercise personal faith to receive in any realm finances or healing or spiritual blessings, you will never receive until you make right the laws that were broken whether it be spiritual, soulish or physical laws. So because of that there could be a delay in the manifestation, for it takes time for these laws to be set right.

The second reason is because of demonic opposition. Satan will oppose you and try to stop you from receiving God's blessings. There will be resistance from the enemy. The enemy who brought the curse upon your life will not let go easily. So these two reasons cause a delay in the manifestation.

Lets look over on the anointing upon when you receive. Those same principles of delay operate. Satanic opposition still delays. And the root causes are there but there is a different. When somebody exercises faith together with us it does something to the enemy. See we may not be so victorious in resisting the enemy by ourselves. But when we yield and submit to another person's faith and anointing, that person's anointing and words will drive out the enemy forces that were preventing the manifestation. So you can see the reason for exercising faith in another person's anointing upon is that you get results faster. But to keep that healing or blessing permanently, you have to go to that realm too. You have to quickly build up the Word in your spirit man so that you could keep the enemy from attacking you with doubts and robbing you of your blessing. In addition to that, whatever laws were broken that caused you to need that healing and blessing, you have to come to God and say, "God I am willing to change my life in any realm that You ask me to." And the secret in this area is learning to keep your healing or blessing.

Lets go into some practical areas when you exercise faith. In case you need more scriptures you can study scriptures like Timothy's stomach. He was an apostle and he had a stomach problem. You know what are the reasons? There are two that I can bring out from the bible. One is probably his timidity and it has to do more with his character. You can see in the way Paul had to tell him to fulfill the ministry of an evangelist that he was not fulfilling it fully. Paul had to remind Timothy that God has not given us a spirit of fear. Secondly there was a physical cause. And Paul gave him a physical remedy too. So it definitely points to the fact that in this case Timothy's stomach healing was taking place and during the time Paul wrote to him it was still taking place.

The wonder of it all is sometimes God determines whether you are to receive something by the anointing within your own spirit man or by the anointing upon somebody else. Sometimes you can cry and say, "Lord please let me receive my healing/blessing by the anointing upon that man of God." God says, "No it is time that you grow up and exercise your personal faith in the anointing within you that I have placed in your spirit man." Something is wrong if a 10-year-old child says, "Please can I keep my milk bottle?" When you are small as a little baby you get carried around. But you can't keep on carrying a child until he is 18 years old. The child will never grow. The leg muscles will never grow. We need to put the child down. They walk and they fall and cry and you comfort them. They have to learn to walk. There is a time that comes when the child has to walk on his or her own.

Its amazing how many people get discouraged very fast when they exercise personal faith in the anointing within. As you are learning to exercise personal faith in a certain realm, be prepared that the manifestation may not take place that fast. Remember the

two forces that are delaying the manifestation. Firstly, there are the broken laws and some of them may be quite deep rooted, and they need to be set right. Secondly there is satanic opposition.

While you are doing exercising faith for your healing or blessing, either from the anointing within you, or from the anointing upon someone else, remember the respective principles governing each type of anointing. It makes it easier when you know the principles involved. Receiving impartation or blessing or healing from the anointing upon another person gives you an opportunity to accelerate changes in your life. On your own, exercising personal faith in your own anointing within may require a length of time for the manifestation to come. We must not overdo certain things. We must give time for the Word to take effect. We have spoken about it on this series on faith of how people want last minute harvest. Tomorrow they need a miracle today they start reading the Word. There is a season. You don't plant rice today and tomorrow expect a rice harvest. You can not violate certain time pattern and season that God has set. The Word is a seed. That implies that it takes time to grow. And sometimes people wait until they experience financial problem and then quickly get into God's Word and start confessing. They confess the Word for one week, and after two weeks when they find that the results haven't come in yet, they say it never work. Just like a little child walking and the child stumble and fell and say, "I will never walk again." They have to learn to walk. In the same way in the spirit realm we learn to exercise faith. It is like a seed that takes a span of time to bud and grow. Therefore when you are not having financial problem that's when you have to keep up with the Word of God. You may have to start planting the Word today for next year's harvest. You don't wait until the problem come and then start getting into the Word. It is too late. At that time you may get your blessing or healing by the anointing upon somebody else and it is only by His grace and mercy. But sometimes if you prove yourself negligent in that area, God will not do it for you, because God wants you to correct it. At times His mercy will let you go and you keep receiving it by the anointing upon. But still in a long run you would have to deal with this area here. And in this realm we have to understand how to operate in the natural and flow with it.

Like for example lets say your child has a high fever. And the high fever reaches a point where convulsion starts taking place. And you know what to do. You start bringing water and you start sponging the child to bring the fever down. And there you are confessing, 'By His stripes you are healed.' But that was about one year since you have used those words. And you have never seriously confessed God's Word. And there you are you start exercising faith at that time on the spot and it is like a last minute faith. The whole night you are exhausted exercising faith. And the manifestation did not come instantly. What happens when it doesn't manifest immediately? And there you are the whole night you have not slept. The whole night for the first time you pull out your list of healing scriptures. You wipe off the cobwebs from it. You pull out your bible and in fact it took you one hour to find it because you forgot where you have put it. You started confessing God's Word. And as you are confessing God's Word, a friend comes by and says, "Why don't you send the child to the hospital?" "No, no, I am exercising my faith." Now this is what a person should have done. In some circumstances going along by the natural and going with medicine can be contradictory to faith, especially if there is faith already in your heart. You have discerned you have faith and God specifically spoke to you. But when there is no manifestation that proves to me that your faith is not complete. When you exercise

faith either in this realm of the anointing within or in that realm of the anointing upon there must be some sort of manifestation. If there was no manifestation then your faith is not complete. Think about that statement. It is perfectly scriptural. You never find a time in the bible when people exercise faith and it never work.

Drawing from the scriptures we can make this strong statement that every time when God's people exercise complete faith and perfect faith there will be some manifestations. If the manifestation does not come instantly or if there is no change that you see then faith has not been completed. And in that realm that means the Word still needs to get into your spirit man. And under those circumstances this is what you should do. Here the child is having convulsions. You haven't slept for the whole night. You are trying to get some sleep and you are trying to get some Word. The situation still confronts you. You know there is a delay to the manifestation. It would have been wiser for you to bring the child to the hospital if there is no manifestation. The nurses are caring for the child. It gives you time to sleep. It gives you time to take a physical rest for some hours. Then you wake up refreshed and you get some more of the Word. In the hospital you don't have to do any work. You don't have to carry water to and fro. And you could spend all those hours confessing the Word. That would have been the method to do. If you don't understand these two realms of faith operating, you would assume that any relationship with hospital or medicine is against faith. That is not true.

Lets take another example here. Lets say a person is exercising faith for good eyesight. His eyes are so bad that it is about 1000 degrees. He could not see even a huge 12-wheeler truck from 10 feet. So here he is claiming God's healing. Bless God I am healed and he acts in faith. He took his glasses off and crushed it under his shoes. He got into his car. Every time he gets to a traffic light he had to stop and get out. Let me see if it is green or not. And there he is exercising faith by His stripes I was healed. Let me encourage you in this. If the manifestation does not come yet and your eyesight is that bad, you not only endanger yourself, you endanger some other people as well. What you should have done is this. If your eyesight is that bad and you can't see without using your glasses, then at other times when you don't need it like when you are at home just relaxing away take it off and exercise your faith. But when you need your glasses put it back. When do you throw it away? When the full manifestation comes. And sometimes it can get better and better when you keep changing glasses. That would have been the wiser way to move. For example if you receive and your faith is full whether it is from the anointing within or anointing upon there will be some manifestations. If there is no manifestation then your faith is not complete. If your faith is not complete then you need to make the best use of whatever is there while your faith is building up.

Lets take another example, some people exercise faith for safe and painless delivery. "Bless God I am redeemed from the curse of the Lord." The wife is expecting. The wife also claims God's blessings. "Bless God when my wife gives birth there will be no pain at all. I am redeemed from the curse of the Lord. I am redeemed from birth pain." Good confession. Then they take a step further. I want a perfectly natural, childbirth at home. You have no training whatsoever. You hardly know what to do when the baby comes out. You have no proper tools. Praise God, childbirth at home with only you and your wife. If you don't have the training you need to get the best means possible. It is not contradictory to faith when there is a lack on your side and

the manifestation does not come. What you can do is there you get the best means, giving birth in the hospital, air-condition comfort, nurses all around you.

When you exercise faith for childbirth without pain, there are three things that you have to take note. No. 1 you have to understand your body, and flow with your body. This is what I got from my wife. We exercised faith for a painless delivery for the first child. We didn't quite make it for there was pain. But on the second child she only felt contraction without pain. So it works. It takes some time to get it working but it works. No. 1 the woman must understand her own body.

No. 2 you must fight fear with all that you have. You must not allow one iota of fear to come into you. Fear is the greatest enemy, fear of pain and fear of circumstances.

No. 3 get into God's Word all that you can. When we succeeded in the second one we wanted to know the reason. So we sat down and prayed and discussed and we found that was a probable reason. When she was in the hospital for the first delivery, there were the normal symptoms that the child is coming out. The first doctor that we had liked to do everything fast so he broke the water bag. But the second doctor was a very good one and he said, "Let it take its time to burst by itself." So we found that if nature had been allowed to take its course we probably could have succeeded in having a painless delivery for the first child. So there you have it that when you receive things by personal faith there will be some manifestations and some changes. Sometimes the manifestation comes and goes off and you have to exercise faith again. Then you know that you need help. You know that is not enough.

Let me conclude with this statement if your faith has been perfected over here in personal faith in the anointing within and you exercised your faith that one act is enough. It won't take long. It won't delay for one month. So any delay has to do with our faith still growing and faults and unrighteousness in our lives that are being dealt with. However when you exercise faith in the anointing upon somebody else' ministry, the manifestation is instant but you will have to learn to keep your healing or blessing. So without understanding of faith we will not be condemned. I would say if you are exercising faith and the situation is still getting worse there is something wrong definitely. If your faith is working it would have worked. It would have caused some forces to change in the natural. Because Heb. 11:1 says faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. There is going to be some evidence in the natural. There is going to be some changes that start taking place in the natural. Even if it is a little bit of faith there will be changes and manifestation. Your faith is in the spirit realm and it is affecting the natural. Just like Jesus when He cursed the fig tree. Even though you can't see the effects until the following day there was a change instantly. The roots started to die. So there is something being affected in the natural every time you exercise faith. If there are hindrances then we have to learn to analyze what they are, where they are coming from and deal with them accordingly.

12. THE WALK OF FAITH

II Cor. 5:6-7 So we are always of good courage; we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. It says here that we walk by faith and not by sight. As far as God is concerned walking by faith is expressed over and over again in the New Testament. You don't have verses that talk about jumping except where it says leaping for joy. You don't have the jump of faith. It talks about walking in the Spirit too. Walking tells us that there are steps that are involved when we walk.

We have covered on the two separate areas of operating by faith under the anointing upon and the anointing within. As we understand these principles and flow along with them, you understand that what we believe is expressed by our actions. Our actions tell us or tell others our faith and it's the evidence of our faith. And since our actions can grow, therefore our faith can grow accordingly. The first time you act on something it may be difficult. Then as you continually act on a certain principle it becomes habitual. And by the time it becomes habitual it also becomes a sub-conscious part of you. It becomes a character in your life. Bad habits are formed in the same way but it works on a negative area, where you do something bad first. Your conscience plays a role in convicting you. But if you keep on doing it in a certain area of evil or sin it becomes a habit. And that habit becomes a part of your character. And you end up having a desire for the wrong thing.

On the positive side walking by faith has to be developed. We can develop it until it becomes a habit in our life. And as we grow in life it will keep growing from faith to faith until Jesus comes. Those things that were hard for you to do one year ago by faith may be it is easy for you this year. But there are some things this year you have to do by faith that are not quite as easy. But two years from now you will look back at this year you will say that was difficult at that time but its easy here now. We realize that we are growing by faith and the actual growth is sealed when you act on it. No matter how much you believe something of faith, you believe something or know something, the final knock of the hammer on the nail, the final judgment pass like the judge knocking the hammer on the table; the final seal of it is when you act. We are going to speak of some areas in that area.

Lets have some scriptures in the book of James chapter 2:17-26 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But some one will say, "You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you foolish fellow, that faith apart from works is barren? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered his son Isaac upon the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was completed by works, and the scriptures was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness" and he was called the friend of God. You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone. And in the same way was not also Rahab the harlot justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so faith apart from works is dead.

As far as God is concerned He is going to judge us and reward us by our actions. He is not going to just judge by our intentions although that plays a role in the total

judgment. Paul says in I Cor. 13 that you can do something without the right intention. You could give your body to be burnt, sell all you have and give to the poor but have not love. It says it profits you nothing. There is no reward in heaven for anything that is not done out of love. If its done out of the motive of self-glorification, there is no reward. Its not placed in God's book that it was an action that was done out of the motivation of the Spirit. It was the works of the flesh. So our motivation our intentions are important to God. And if our works are not based on the right motives and intentions they are considered works of the flesh. The flesh is working but the Spirit is not motivating you.

The opposite side also needs to be considered. And that is sometimes we have the right intention, we have the right motive and we have the correct amount of knowledge to act on it but we do nothing about it. It is also not good. And sometimes we may fall into the category where we do the wrong thing about it. And we do know that the end doesn't justify the means. That means that your motives may be correct and if your actions don't conform to the Word its also bad. So the motivation alone is not for your salvation or for rewards. It is not the basis. By itself it is important because it forms a part of how God judges us. And this is important for us for one day when we stand before the judgment seat of Christ these are the areas that will be very important. Why we do the things that we do? What motivates us? It will all come forth and they will be considered very heavily.

But it is only one of the points considered. God will not just pass a judgment on your life based on that. The other part of the judgment will be passed based on how well you carried that out. Whether you did it wrongly with the right intention or you did it correctly with the right intention. Or you have the right intention but you did nothing about that. A lot of people have dreams and visions but die without performing them. A lot of Christians lived and died with the right intention. I am sure God likes people of action who believes and who have the right motives to say it; and not only say it but do it. Long ago I attended a conference when I was a seminarian student. There was this preacher who came up. He said a point not too nice for Asians but well its good to take it in a teachable way. He was making this comment. He says the Germans when they want to do something they don't tell you they just do it. The Americans when they want to do something they tell you and then they do it. Then he said the Chinese they say it and they tell it but they don't do it. It is not totally true in a sense but he was making a point. He was making a point that sometimes people get away with the fact that they say that they are going to do it but their actions do not back up their words. We need actions. We need to act on our faith. This teaching is a basis of what we have been already touching on. Don't take this tape or this teaching by itself. You can not act properly if you don't understand the other two teachings previous to this where we talked about discerning faith. This teaching this morning is based on the past two. We must develop the ability to discern faith. Having done that we need to consider the fact that acting in faith is a step-by-step process and not a jump. God will bring you from one point to the next point. Whether you walk by the anointing upon or anointing within both will require faith when you act. But faith operates step by step. II Cor. 5:7 says we walk by faith and not by sight. That tells us that there are steps involved.

What is the definition of a walk? A walk is where you put one foot before the other and you move in a certain direction. So our walk consists of steps not jumps. And

each step takes you in a predetermined direction. Depending on the length of the walk a walk consists of many steps. And each step is not a struggle. It is different from a run. A good walk is quite relaxing.

Lets give some examples here. Supposing that you were to operate by the anointing upon, God will require you to move in the anointing step by step. In I Sam chapter 16:1-2 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, seeing I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the Lord."

So Samuel was told by the Lord to go to the house of Jesse the Bethlehemite in order to anoint one of his sons as king. That was the instruction. So Samuel went to Bethlehem and as he went to Bethlehem do you know he knew the house to go to? He knew the family to go to. He even knew that the family had many sons. And he knew his objective. It took faith to take that step. By that time he had known a lot about that family. But do you know he did not know which son was to be anointed king? When he saw the first son he said, "This must be the one." But the Lord said, "No this is not the one." That tells us that Samuel didn't know. And he had to make all the seven sons stand before him one by one. If he knew which son to anoint why did he had to march all the seven sons before him? He would have hit the bull's eye if he had started from the youngest. And as he went down the line there was none. For a moment it looks as if his mission had failed. If most of us were in Samuel's place at that time we would be doubting. "I wonder whether I heard correctly or not." But Samuel knew that he heard it right. So he asked Jesse, "Do you have another son?" Jesse said, "Yes, he is taking care of the sheep." So Samuel said, "Call him," and he came. "That is the one," the Lord said. Now even when you operate by the anointing God will lead you step by step.

Let me give some practical examples. Supposing you are operating by prophecy. You have to move step by step. He may give you everything about what to do with a person. He does sometimes but still He leaves a little bit out. God always keep the trump card. He always makes sure you need faith to step out. God may show you the details of what to do in a meeting. You know a certain person to call out. You know what to tell about that person's condition, what to prophesy over that person and how to pray over that person. But you may not know when the timing is to do that. He keeps the trump card. You could be halfway preaching and He said, "Now is the time." And you said, "Yes Lord." There is always an element of faith.

Or you could be in a meeting and your normal operation by the anointing upon is prophecy. And you sense a prophetic anointing coming. You know you are supposed to prophesy to people but to whom shall you prophesy? And so you are going to move into that area. So the first sense that you may have is a certain people. You may have a drawing to certain people. You may look over the faces of people and see some indications of the Lord's Spirit drawing their life. So you call those people up.

And as you call those people up you have no idea what you are going to say to them. Now that takes faith because when they come up and you look at them and they look at you wondering why you call them up. And you don't have a word for them. Being a prophet you are supposed to act in prophecy. And you look at them and they look at

you. All you have is a good staring session. That is why when ministers are taught how to operate the Word and in training school where they are trained to do that. They have to learn what to do supposing they miss. What happens if you missed it? You called the wrong person out and you got nothing from the Lord. And as that person stepped up the Lord whisper in your ear, "You have the wrong one." What are you going to do? You must do what we call the great cover up. Say, "Praise God brother I just wanted to pray with you." That is how some of them cover up. I am sharing all these things very sincerely and opening with you to let you realize that minister who ministers do not start as perfect. They learn in the process and they grow to be more accurate in the process. They are not born perfect. And so there are times that they learn.

And perhaps if you are new in this area, you made a mistake and you don't know what to do. You have made a mistake how dumb can you be. You are so new in the ministry. You made your biggest dumb mistake in your life. What do you do? Resign and say, "Ladies and gentlemen I called this wrong person up and I am not worth it. I just missed it. I just can not make it in the ministry. You just go home. Ladies and gentlemen lets have the benediction now." That's not the way to do it. The young give up easily because they haven't faced the difficulties of life. The older you grow you, you face many difficulties and it gives you a greater persistence.

So in the anointing upon you operate by faith. If you got the first step right and as the person stands there, then God gives the next word. His gifts began to operate. Step two and then there may be step three, step five, as you move step by step, you are like a vessel hearing the instructions of God. But God will hold you through faith step by step in the anointing upon.

Under the anointing within, God deals with your personal life. God could be telling you and working in your life and saying, "I want you to give such and such amount." You have never give a hundred dollars at one time before. And God said give it. And your salary is only four hundred dollars and its twenty-five percent of your salary. And you know if you give that much you may have to fast for about three days. So you know that God spoke to you. And you took the first step. Took the hundred dollars and you brought it and gave it. The first step was not so easy. Then as you continually do it month by month it gets easier and God's blessings start coming. So you began to prosper and then finally God says give five hundred dollars at one shot. Some of you may say, "Get thee behind me Satan." Satan very rarely tells you to give. The flesh does and human beings do. Don't give because of your own personal hearing of your own self. Sometimes a feeling of self-condemnation or comparison between you and other people motivates you wrongly. Secondly sometimes you are motivated by what other men tell you. You should give guided by the Holy Spirit. Men will tell you to give but the devil never. So remember there are two places that tell you to give, man and God. So now here you are it is now easy for you to give a hundred dollars. Finally after much prayer and fasting just to check it out, you give that five hundred dollars. Then God starts blessing you and you become more and more blessed. And it became easy to give that amount. See God deals in your life step by step. He will never get you to take that step of faith without preparing your life beforehand. He will not tell you to jump the jump of faith. He will never.

An example of a jump of faith in the financial area is the following scenario. If you are new in the things of faith, and your faith is not fully developed, suddenly you have

this compulsion from somewhere (usually it is from man and wrong teaching) to sell everything you have and give up all your salary. And you did everything. You sold everything you have and you sing, "All to Jesus I surrender." And you took your whole month's paycheck and you gave it. Finally you have done everything and all you have is the shirt on your back. Then you are standing on the street corner wondering what to do next. For the next month all you have is a coconut leaf above you. And you are scavenging about for some leftover food. God didn't tell you to do that. See your faith level was not ready for that.

We need to understand that God never tells you to jump by faith. There is no scripture for that. Instead it tells us to walk by faith. There is a step-by-step process. Acting in faith is step by step. He will never tell you out of the blue to minister to the sick when you have never ministered to the sick at all and you are new to these sorts of things. He will never out of the blue tell you. I am talking not about the anointing upon but the anointing within. Without the anointing upon under the normal process you don't suddenly go out to pray for people who are sick. The anointing upon is different. You have a special leading to do that. But the anointing within as you pray for people who are sick and you visit the hospitals, your faith grows in praying for people. If you are new in praying for people God will never tell you, "Here, you see this guy with tubes all over, go lay your hands on him." And you say, "Praise God I prayed for you. You are healed now," and you start pulling out all those tubes. And before long he would be in the Intensive Care Unit all because of you. God will never do that.

If you have the anointing upon, you will have that special leading towards specific individuals as the Holy Spirit gives you the discerning of faith. By this discerning of faith, you will be able to single out individuals who have faith to receive healing. You won't have to learn all that operation. But in the anointing within you would never be able to heal the sick if your personal faith level is not up to it. But as you begin praying for people who are sick in the hospital and you are walking and growing from faith to faith, the day will come that your personal faith and the anointing within your spirit would be strong enough to heal difficult cases. Today I have the boldness to lay hands on the sick even without the anointing upon because my spiritual level has allowed me to have the discerning of faith. I could sense that a person has got the faith to be healed and with the anointing within I would be bold to tell that person to act on his faith. "Rise up, in Jesus' Name." "Be healed, in Jesus' Name." "Stand up and walk, in Jesus' Name." I would not do that if I sensed that his level of faith is not there.

This daring kind of attitude comes because you have seen many people healed. So it builds. As you begin to act on the discerning of faith, more personal faith is built into you. Each time you act outwardly something works inwardly. Increasing faith becomes established in you. This is why the bible talks about being established in faith. And there is now concrete faith inside you. It has been consolidated at that faith level. Just like those people who exercise and build their muscles big. What do they do? They start with dumb bells. After sometime it gets easy so they increase the weight of the dumb bells. Every time they increase there is more struggle in the muscles. They do it gradually. They don't go straight. Even today physicians will tell you that when you exercise you must sort of warm up. You don't just get up in the morning and go for a marathon at the maximum speed possible for a human being to run. That's not advisable since it will overstretch your body. If you want to do that

you have to build it up slowly. One day you run one mile, two miles, three miles and you are constantly building up your muscles and stamina and so your body won't be overstretched. There are people who die due to over exercise. It has to be built up. So these are areas that we have to learn. We are concentrating on acting. Today we are teaching on walking by faith and how to actually do it. The act of faith has to come one at a time.

Lets look at the life of Abraham and see how God deals with him. He is the father of faith. Notice how God deals with him. Every time you act on faith in the realm of faith there are things you give up in the natural to lean more on the spiritual. The first act of faith that God requires of Abraham was in Genesis chapter 12 when God said, "Abraham get out of this land and go to the place which I will give to you." The first act of Abraham was to give up his homeland. So in Genesis chapter 12 Abraham starts taking that act of faith to move out of his hometown. All of us who have lived in a certain city long enough know it is not easy to move to other cities too. It is not easy to shift to other towns to live in. There are so many considerations you have to think about. So Abraham has to pull his roots out and move into the unknown. If anyone of us today were to shift to a different place, you would probably find out what is over the other side before you go. Abraham didn't have the advantage that you have. He did not have a chance to find out and get everything prepared over that side. He went into the unknown. He gave up his homeland. It was his first step.

There are many other steps. He obeyed God but not fully like most of us. God told him get out of his homeland and kinsfolk. Get rid of your uncles and aunties. Don't take this scripture out of context. God is not telling any of you to do that but God may be telling you not to be influenced by them. He obeyed half of it. He left the place but he brought Lot along. That was his kinsfolk. And God had to wait until Abraham was willing to give up Lot before leading him to his next step of faith. The place he did that was in the next chapter 13. Abraham and Lot had strife. If God tells you to do something and if you don't do it, it will cause you more headaches and problems than you realize. It always pays to obey God. The devil works opposite from God. The devil tries to give you something then exacts payment later. He says "Enjoy now, pay later. Get all the pleasures and enjoy yourself." And after that he comes and collects payment. So the devil gives you on credit. You say, "I have nothing to give to the devil." Yes you have your health so he takes your health and put sickness on you. The wages of sin is death.

God works the opposite way. When you first follow Him it costs you and then He pays you. And this world is being influenced by the devil who tries to get people to spend money they don't have and kill them by debts. So this is the world system. If you are smart and you are wise in the things of God you will use whatever its there to your advantage instead of to your disadvantage. Credit cards are not wrong. If you use it not to spend money you don't have but you use it as a convenient way to travel and to spend money instead of carrying money which you have, then it is alright. As long as you base your credit card expenditure on your available bank and cash balances there is no problem with that. But behind that through the world system the devil is trying to motivate people to spend money that they don't have and sometimes can never have and kill them by debts. So there are two opposing forces at work. The devil tries to get you to take it first and pay later. God tells you, you pay the cost now and I will reward you later.

And Abraham had strife because he did not obeyed God fully. Finally when Lot and Abraham were striving over the pasture lands for their flocks look at Abraham's selflessness. He told Lot, "You choose which ever land you prefer to take and I will take the other." Abraham was giving Lot the first choice. By traditional customs Abraham should have the first choice because he was older than Lot. But he told Lot you have the first choice. You know what Abraham gave up? He gave up the best choices. He gave up the best land possible for his own cattle and flock. He was selfless. It was an act of faith to do that. See he was trusting in God to provide and not in trusting in what he can get for himself. He trusted that God would take care of him. How many people will say, "You take your pick and I will take whatever is left over." When it comes to small things maybe. If you want the chicken drumstick go ahead just give me the chicken wings will do. But it comes to bigger things like inheritance, they will be prepared to take the case to the courts. They are not giving because man basically is selfish. It takes an act of faith of Abraham to trust God. Just let them take. My source is not man its God. So that was his second act of faith to do that. And when he did that Lot took the best land and all Abraham had was the leftovers.

But when Lot has left God appeared to Abraham and said, "Abraham look North, South, East and West all that land I give to you." When he was giving God gave to him. It was an act of faith and God declare that all the land was his. When Lot got into trouble, Abraham the nice kind uncle organized an army from whatever servants he had went and rescued Lot. After he rescued Lot and conquered all those people, the kings who were held by Abraham said this Genesis chapter 14:21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself." By the law of those days it was conquerors keepers. Since Abraham conquered everything the loot belonged to Abraham. But Abraham walked by faith and not by sight. And this is what Abraham said in verse 22 I have sworn to the Lord God Most High. That means he had made a vow to the Lord. In verse 23 what is his covenant. That I would not take a thread or a sandal-thong or anything that is yours, lest you should say, "I have made Abram rich." That's a man of faith talking. What a sacrifice he made. See God was training him to give up things one by one. He is training his faith.

As his faith increased gradually, God began to deal with him in one very hard thing because his emotional life was involved. You find in Genesis chapter 21 Abraham had Ishmael through Hagar. He also had Isaac by that time. But something happened in his family. There was strife. See there is always strife when you don't walk in the Spirit. Whenever you walk in the flesh you are sowing future trouble. Abraham missed God when he went into Hagar and conceived Ishmael. There was so much strife that Sarah put her foot down. Sarah said, "There is no way I am going to compromise. You got to chase this Hagar out and her son." That is the way Sarah was talking at that time. In chapter 21:11 the matter was displeasing in Abraham's sight.

I want you to realize that Abraham had normal feelings that I know a father would have. It is not easy for a mother to give up a child who is her flesh. How would you like if somebody takes your child and you don't know what is going to happen to them any more? Mothers would have sleepless nights wondering what is happening to their loved ones. But here is Abraham and it was an emotional struggle too to give up Ishmael. After all Ishmael was also his own flesh. That is why it displeased him. Here we have Abraham was able to give that up too. He was able to give up not because Sarah said it. He had listened to Sarah before and look what they got, Ishmael. But

because God said, “Abraham listen to Sarah and let Hagar and Ishmael go.” And he let them go. Emotionally it must be painful. Saying goodbye to someone of your flesh is always painful. And it is not as painful if it's temporary. This is permanent. Abraham had to say goodbye to Hagar and Ishmael permanently. It hurts emotionally but it was a different step of faith. He had faith to release it to God knowing that God will take care of them.

And the greatest trial in Abraham's life was in the next chapter. When God said, “Abraham give me Isaac,” in all the video shows about Abraham's life, the first thing that comes on would be a loud sounding music followed by a hard wrenching cry. The struggle he had but somehow the next morning he looks okay and he walks off to the mountain with Isaac. That's not in the bible. The bible tells me in the book of Hebrews chapter 11 that Abraham believed in God. The video shows portray it inaccurately. See that was not the first time God told Abraham to give up something. God has been training him all the time from Genesis 12 to 21. So he is getting into the habit of it now. Maybe if God started with that kind of demand, finished, he could never do it. But God knows us more than we know ourselves. God says, “Give up Isaac to me.” Hebrews 11 said he had great confidence that God would raise up Isaac again. His faith level was there. That was the way God was operating in Abraham's life.

So we established the principles clearly that faith is a step-by-step process. God never causes us to jump. The devil may and the flesh may and man may. See man can even open doors for your ministry. But it may be a junk that God never asked you to. So it is so important to listen to God and walk step by step. That's the walk of faith. There is an under covering principle together with this is that each step God's manifestation and voice training in your life may increase and becomes harder. One natural way I can illustrate is this way. Perhaps at step one God speaks to you. God says, “Son I want you to do this.” “Yes, Lord,” and you did it. And you grew and you mature in the Lord. Then God says step two God spoke a bit softer, “Son I want you to do this.” “Yes, Lord,” step two. Then step three God starts to whisper to you, “Son I want you to do this.” See you are matured and more sensitive to God's voice. And God's training is such that before if God had told you in a whisper, “Son I want you to do this,” you would never even respond. As you obeyed God more and more all God has to do is whisper, and you would instantly obey. Your faith grew.

Let me illustrate from Paul's life. In Acts chapter 13 Paul started his missionary journey. By now he was 10 years old in the Lord. About that time he could be in his forties. So he was quite a middle aged, matured looking man. Mature in the affairs and things of life and quite an old Christian by now. He had at least one year's experience teaching in the local church in Antioch that is in Acts 11. Now its Acts 13 verse 2 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” And of course they all heard it and laid hands on Paul and sent him off. That is his first missionary journey. The way God manifested and spoke was so clear cut confirmed by all these key leaders. They were all these main leaders in a group in Antioch. They were the top people in the church.

Paul's second missionary journey took off this way. In Acts chapter 15 they had completed their first missionary journey. They had the first Jerusalem council and in verse 35 they are back in Antioch. But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch,

teaching and preaching the Word of the Lord, with many others also. Now this is how their second missionary started. It says in verse 36 And after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Come, let us return and visit the brethren in every city where we proclaimed the Word of the Lord, and see how they are. There was no big vision. There was no voice that said, “Separate for Me Paul and Barnabas for the second missionary journey.”

You know how sometimes people are especially young Christians. God speaks in a certain way and forever they think God is always that way and they limit God. It is just like somebody crying out to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit for so long. After 5 years of crying out one day while he was in the bathtub showering away, there he was he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the bathtub. Now he had received then some of his friends who had not received he called them up and said, “Why don’t you all come over to receive the baptism in the Spirit?” They came over and they prayed and nothing happened. Then he said I know why. Come upstairs with me, he poured all the water in the bathtub. They asked, “What is this?” He said, “This is the way God gives baptism in the Spirit.” Wouldn’t that be foolish? You restrict God to one modus operandi one mode of operation.

Now Paul started his missionary fantastically. But his second missionary journey started almost like a prompting to go. There was a prompting to visit inside him. And he knew he must go. He went and that took faith. It took faith to obey the first one but it took more faith to obey the second one. It was much later that they had a supernatural visitation, the Macedonian vision. But that one came after they had moved into the second missionary journey. See it takes more faith as you begin to walk in the things of God. Once He knows you He will require of you of those areas.

Just like Kathryn Khulman was sharing in one of her books. She was sharing how Jesus did differently with people of different levels of faith. About how one day this person saw Jesus and he saw three persons there. And Jesus came to the first one. And Jesus puts His hand on the first one. It takes quite a long time and He held this person. And the second one Jesus just touched. Then on the third one Jesus just looked and then He went off. Any normal Tom, Dick and Harry would have interpreted that Jesus had a tremendous blessing for the first one, less for the second and least for the third. But no, this was the way the Lord showed. That the first one needs more attention - he was young in the Lord. The second one needs some attention. He was older but quite young. The third the Lord was pleased with him. The Lord just smiled at him. Don’t take that every interpretation had to be that way. That was a special visitation with a message.

And Kathryn Khulman was saying in her life she never had a vision. In her life she never heard an audible voice. She had to obey God the best way she knew how. But God used her. See the key is not how God must appear to you for you to be used by God. It is how much you can hear God and train yourself to hear God and obey Him. So in the same way, as we mature God deals differently and requires more faith in His dealings than before. He will require more faith. He encourages our faith.

And in the third missionary journey of Paul in Acts chapter 18verse 22-23 when he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, and then went down to Antioch. After spending some time there he departed and went from place to place through the region of Galatia and Phrygia strengthening all the disciples. It didn’t

even said what he said. He just went. Now he knew God. He knew when to do something. There was no record even of a vision like the second. In the third no vision was mentioned. Paul's faith level is such that he just moved in the mind of God. He knew the mind of God. And one of the best campaigns that ever took place within a short time was in Ephesus and one of the greatest revivals took place he was there for about three years. The church was so strong that it says the whole region heard the Word of God. It didn't start with a vision. Why, Paul's faith was growing and matured. He knew the mind of God.

God's manifestation in your life may change. Don't be a baby Christian all the time. When we grow up we are expected to take authority over some things. We are expected to be more matured. And we are expected to obey God even without some of those normal things that come. The first time that God deals in your life the angels sang, the thunder roared, the lightning flashed and the voice of God boomed and you obey it. The second round all you have was that soft voice. The third round it was an inner prompting and you are supposed to obey too. The most important thing in serving the Lord and in walking with the Lord in the Spirit is not so much the manifestation as so much we learn to hear God. The most important thing in life is to learn to hear Him whatever His manifestation with or without spectacular ones. And you will be as successful and greatly rewarded as long as you obey God. And bless God we can hear Him. We can learn to hear Him. As we mature in God His manifestation may change so that we have to move in faith in certain areas, which we were not required to before. But you would have the faith to do it because He would have trained you by then.

13. FAITH IN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT

This morning we are going to look at faith in the Old Testament and faith in the New Testament. Lets us not forget that the old and the new are different. There are differences when faith is exercised in the Old Covenant and faith is exercised in the New Covenant. The bible does show that there is a difference between faith in the old and in the new.

Heb. 11:1-3 Now faith is the assurance of thing hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old received divine approval. By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear.

We also want to see verse 40 Since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

In the book of Hebrews chapter 11 we have a listing of men of faith from the Old Testament. Lets just run through the list and see how it starts with Abel in verse 4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice. Then in verse 5 By faith Enoch. Verse 7 By faith Noah. Verse 8 By faith Abraham. Verse 11 By faith Sarah. Then he continued to list all the various men of faith after some explanation. In verse 17 Abraham is mentioned. Verse 20 Isaac is mentioned. Verse 21 Jacob. Verse 22 Joseph. Verse 23 Moses. Moses was mentioned again in verse 24 and 27. Verse 30 it was Joshua by faith the wall of Jericho fell down. And Rehab the harlot in verse 31.

The conclusion is in verse 32 onwards. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated of whom the world was not worthy- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

He named all the Old Testament folks, mighty men of valor, dedicated lives, and he says not one of them received or manifested the promised. Verse 40 he describes God having provided something better for us. Now there is no doubt that their examples of faith can inspire us. And there are many things we can learn from the Old Testament folks like Abraham, Noah and all these other people men of faith by their examples and how they believed God. There are a lot of things we can learn from them. But the bible explicitly tells us that faith in the Old Covenant and faith in the New Covenant are like two different dimensions. And unless we see the difference between these two in the New Covenant we will sometimes limit ourselves to that Old Covenant style. We are supposed to progress beyond them.

Lets understand this topic of salvation. In the Old Covenant looking forward to the coming of Jesus saved them. From the time of Adam right on to the closing period of John the Baptist all those who were saved have to look forward to what Jesus was going to do. Whether they look forward through a lamb sacrifice like Abel where the lamb represented Jesus. Or through all the Old Testament patterns like the Tabernacle of Moses. They were all looking forward to salvation that was coming in Christ. For them it was in the future.

And over on this side of the New Covenant we look back at what Jesus has done. Everything is past. He came, He lived, He died, He rose nearly two thousand years ago. And we look back at what He has done, believe it and something happens today. There must be a difference between looking forward and looking back. Looking forward has an element of the future tense, which has a stronger aspect of hope. Their faith was in the future. In the New Covenant, however, our faith has become for us a past tense.

In both dispensations there is an element that is similar. Whether it is the Old Covenant or the New Covenant when people exercise faith they move into a different realm. This earth is limited by time. Time is one of the dimensions on this earth. When people exercise faith whether it be the Old Covenant or the New Covenant they move out of the time dispensation and they move into that spiritual dimension. And in the spiritual dimension they must count it as done. So Abraham looked forward to what God promised and what he believe is counted for him as righteousness. So they looked forward in time while we look backwards in time.

And in both cases when we exercise faith we move into the realm of the spirit. In the realm of the spirit there is no time. Time does not exist as far as God is concerned. It only exists in our experience of life on this planet earth. So time only exists as far as we are concerned. As far as God is concerned yesterday, today and forever is the same. Which is why the bible says He was, He is and He is to come. There is no difference in time for Him. The future to us is the same. He is the Eternal God. He is unaffected by time. But we here are affected by time. And when we want to move in the realm of faith. We have to get out of this time dispensation and move into the spirit realm.

Nobody can exercise the kind of faith God wants them to unless they move out of the time limitation and move into the dispensation of God. Heb. 11:1 the first word says "now". Now faith is. Faith is in the "now" all the time. As far as the spirit realm is concerned they have received it. When Heb 11:39 says And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not received the promise, it means that they did not receive the manifestation of the promise on this planet earth.

In the New Covenant when we exercise faith we also have to move into the time dispensation. That is why if you want to exercise faith, and if you are going to limit God by time by saying, "I am going to confess this for two months and if it does not work I am going to stop," your faith has not moved into the spirit dimension which is timeless. Like our friend Kenneth Hagin used to say that if you are prepared to stand forever then it won't take too long to come. But if you are only prepared to stand for a limited time and so call exercise faith, your faith has not moved into the spirit dimension that is unlimited by time. Some people will only pray and believe something for a certain time. They don't believe forever. If you are going to say I will

try it for six months usually it does not work. Faith has to move into that limitless, timeless realm of spirit where you receive from God.

Now here is the main difference between the old and the new. Just as it is different if you buy goods by credit and when you buy it by cash. In the Old Testament they were so called saved on credit. The lambs and all these sacrifices were their credit card that says that they are going to be saved in Christ. When they die they go into the depth of the earth into a waiting hall called in Luke 16 Abraham's bosom. And in that very place where they are there is a chasm between those who are unbelievers and those who are believers. So people like Abraham and Isaac, Jacob, David and all the prophets went forward to that part where it is called Abraham's bosom. When Jesus came He brought all of them out. And in the gospel of Matthew 27 it says that on the third day when He rose from the dead, the graves were opened and the dead rose up. And some of them walked about Jerusalem for a while before they went up to heaven. In the Old Testament when you die you go into the waiting room waiting for Jesus. In the New Testament when you die you go straight up to heaven. The waiting room has been torn down. As far as salvation plan is concerned there is a difference between the old and the new.

And between the old and the new there is also a difference when you believe for healing. In the old because they look forward to what is to come in Christ, they can not claim Mark 11:23-24 for their personal healing. Neither can they claim First Peter 2:24. They can not because Christ has not died yet. So none of them can believe that they have received and confessed and act according to faith. Sometimes people wonder why must we be doing this when no Old Testament folks used to do this. This is special for our dispensation. The realm that we live in is different. We have First Peter 2:24 whereas the Old Testament people don't. So that is why it is part and parcel of a Christian life in some areas of your life. You have to keep exercising faith and believing and confessing them to come to pass. In the Old Covenant when it comes to healing because Christ has not come yet they were relying on the Old Covenant of healing which they have to invoke by prayer. In the Old Testament you will find there are times when the people prayed for healing. Moses himself asked for healing for his sister Miriam who had leprosy. There is a dispensation where they have to keep asking in order to invoke that covenant. The principle by which they exercise faith was slightly different. They believe that it was their right to ask but they have to ask and send in a petition.

In the New Covenant healing has moved into the realm beyond just a promise. It's a realm of a completed covenant. In other words God is not going to do anything more about the healing of the world or of us. Everything that He has done as far as healing is concerned has been done in Christ. Christ took upon Himself in Matthew 8 verse 17 all our sicknesses, all our infirmities. God is not going to do anything. In fact heaven has declared that it is completed. Heaven has declared that the work of healing has been completed. There is no need to ask any more. There is no reason to ask any more. There is a different realm in the new and in the old. The same in many areas as far as all the works of Christ are concerned.

Therefore in seeing some examples of the differences, let us look into what is it that makes such differences and in what areas. We have to know what areas are different. We will in the New Testament pray some prayers that are Old Testament style. There are some areas that must be looked into since we tap into them in a completely

different way. And the key is found in Christ. Whatever Christ has bought for, paid for with His precious blood must be treated in a different manner in the new if you exercise faith in the New Covenant. In the Old Covenant they were not born again. Their spirits were unregenerate. They have faith in God. But in the new because we have been born again and our spirits were regenerated, God is able to grant us the faith of God. There is no mention of the regenerated spirit in the old. There is no such possibility in the old. I pray God gives you a revelation of the wonderful covenant that He has given us because far too many New Testament saints are living with the Old Testament notion of God.

After all that Jesus had done here we are still exercising faith in God in the Old Covenant way. Having an Old Covenant faith in God is just like using a bicycle all the time. And one fine day there is this wonderful person who came and he said here is a motorbike. You got on the motorbike and you started pushing it like a bicycle. Now wouldn't that be dumb? You say, "I wonder why there are no pedals on this motorbike?" You are not supposed to pedal. You missed the whole point. On the bicycle you do the moving. But the motorbike does the moving for you. That's a whole lot of difference. All you need to do make sure you pump in the petrol get the engine started and there you go. It carries you. There is a difference between a vehicle that carries you and a vehicle that you propel. There is a difference between a self-propulsion vehicle and a human-propulsion vehicle.

Faith in God depends on our vision of God. If you see that God is able then you could trust Him in that area. So according to your vision of God, your perception of God you have faith in what God is able to do. If you see a God that is just capable of just doing something then you will only trust Him in something. If you see God who is capable of all things then you could trust Him in all things. Faith in God is necessary. It depends on the revelation of God to our lives, our perception of God.

However faith in God and faith of God is different. In the Old Covenant they have to keep on believing. There was a lot of human propulsion. They have to keep pressing through. They have to keep cycling and cycling. In the New Covenant you will still see a few guys cycling. They have not discovered the benefits of the New Covenant yet. They know the book of Hebrews 11:1-39 but they forgot verse 40, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. If God said there is something better for us, then it is better. If I were to tell you that I have a better mode of transport for you and yet I give you the same I should not have used the word better. If I say this is a better shirt than yours, then the word better means that it includes everything you have plus. In verse 40 it says God provided something better for us. God in the New Covenant sees that we are re-generated. And that is something that He longs to do that He was not able to do in the Old Covenant. Something in the new that He was capable of doing.

Verse 40 does not actually end there because chapter 12 verse 1 starts with a therefore. Sometimes they put the verses and chapters in the wrong places. The bible is inspired but the verses and the chapters may not necessarily be inspired. So in chapter 12 verse 1 please take it as a continuation of chapter 11. Now he is telling us about all these men of the Old Covenant, all these wonderful examples for us. And then he says that there is something better for us. He goes on and says Heb. 12:1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses. Now he is continuing on the same subject because a cloud of witnesses are these Old Testament

saints who have gone on to glory. These men of faith in the Old Covenant are the witnesses so great a cloud looking down on us today in the New Covenant exercising faith. Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. looking to Jesus.

Let me express this in the Old Covenant they didn't have "the Lamb" they have a lamb. They have only a symbol of a lamb. In the New Covenant we have "the One". The one and only Lamb of God. They didn't have Jesus. They had only a symbol of Jesus. They didn't have knowledge of Jesus. They have only a shadow of revelation about Jesus. But we have Jesus. We have seen His works. We have it recorded for us.

And Paul says looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. The word "our" is not in the Greek. It is in italics in your bible if your bible is the King James Bible. All the other translators never put in italics what they added. Only the New King James has italics. If the translators added something in italics to the scriptures, it is because they fear to add to God's Word. The word "our" is not in the Greek. Read it without the italic our and you understand the big statement that he is making about Jesus, Looking to Jesus the author and finisher of faith. Jesus is not only the author and finisher of our faith. Jesus is the Eternal manifestation of faith Himself. He is the beginning and end of our faith. He is the source and the completion of our faith. So in the New Covenant we not only can have faith in God. We have the Spirit of faith. The Old Covenant they have Him working with them but in the New Covenant we have Him living in us. There is a divine impartation of a substance in us in the new whereas in the old there is no impartation of any substance.

Verse one of Hebrews 11 says Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of thing not seen. But it's a spiritual material. Faith has spiritual materiality. Faith is a substance. In the old they do not have that substance. They had only faith in God. It was their faith in God. They were not born again and therefore they could not possess this precious substance. But in the new that same substance of faith is that faith that was in Jesus. You don't have just your own faith. Jesus lived on this earth and everything that He did was through His faith in God. He kept the Old Covenant completely. But that was not His full purpose. When He died and He rose again He wanted to take what was in Him, that force, that ability, that was inherent in Him and somehow in a wonderful miraculous mysterious way put that substance into us. That is what God wanted to do all the time. He could not do that in the Old Testament because Jesus has not come yet. There was no one to whom this substance of faith could be perfected. But God was waiting all the time for that.

Suppose I would be able to extract that substance in Leonardo Da Vinci that gave him the ability to paint and put it into you. You find that you could paint as well as he did. That is only an illustration since there is no such earthly possibility. Jesus lived His life, He cast out demons, and He healed sicknesses. He lived a perfect life over sin, over death, over the enemy. Jesus did not only come to leave a pair of tablet of stones and put there these are my commandments. Jesus came to put His life in us. He came so that in the New Covenant we will be re-produced by Him. He came and moved into that spirit realm. From that spirit realm He could take from His substance of faith and He places it into our lives when we are born again.

Lets see what Paul says how powerful this measure of faith is. In the book of II Cor. 4 verse 13 Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believe, and so

I spoke,” we too believe, and so we speak. It is called the spirit of faith. This spirit of faith was working in the Old Testament and it was working with them. It helped them to believe and speak. But in the New Testament that spirit of faith is not only working with us. The spirit of faith lives in us. And it’s the faith of Jesus that is imparted into our spirits.

And that is why Paul in the book of Colossians chapter 2:7 Rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith (He never said in our faith. In the faith, that is of Him.) as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. In verse 12 And you buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. Notice the faith is connected to what God did in Christ. It is not just your faith in Him. It is the impartation of that same operation of faith that worked in His life when Jesus was raised from the dead. And in the actual Greek it says, through faith of the operation of God.

In Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. In the New King James “in the Son of God” and all the other translations there is the word “in”. In the Old King James the word “of” is used. Of the Son of God. If you are a student of the English language you will realize that “in” and “of” are different. “In” is position. “Of” is gender, nature. It talks about a flow of impartations, of name. So here Paul says the life I live, I live by that faith that has been energized in me. Not my faith but by the faith of Jesus imparted in me. Paraphrasing what Paul is saying, he is saying, “He is the author and the finisher of faith because there is a substance of His faith that operates in my life. It is that same energizing force that raised Him from the dead that now operates in me.” If only Christians would meditate on that it is so powerful. There is an operation and energizing of His faith. And the life that we live we are not to live by our faith. We have to live by His faith. Even the prophecy in the book of Habakkuk when he says the just shall live by faith is qualified, as the just shall live by His faith. And that is what he prophesied. He prophesies about the time coming when people will no longer just live by their own faith but God will impart His faith in the New Covenant in them. And they are going to be sensitive to the working of God outwards through them. And everything that you do in the New Covenant flows from that working of the faith of Jesus within your spirit man that is flowing forth.

In the book of Ephesians chapter 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God. Any bible scholar will tell you that the gift directly applies to faith and indirectly to grace. By grace you have been saved through faith and this faith is not yours. It is a faith that is a gift of God. And the gift of His faith and the substance of His faith come into your life when you are born again. And the same one who said that emphasizes his inward working through his life. Remember he talks about the grace working he talks about the faith working too and they are connected. The gift of faith is by God’s grace.

In verse 7 of chapter three of Ephesians Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace which was given me by the working of His power. He tells us it is the inward working of God flowing through us.

Then look over at Colossians chapter one verse 29 For this I toil, striving with all the energy which He mightily inspires within me. Paul says as God works in him he works out. He seeks to work out what God works in him the faith of Jesus Christ.

By now I believe you would be firmly convinced that faith in the new and faith in the old are totally different. But exactly what makes the difference and what principles do we tap on that difference? In the new since its already working in you and the only problem is not struggling in our life to get ourselves to believe. In the Old Covenant if it is faith in God you would struggle to try to believe. But in the new it is more a struggle to yield. It is just like the same illustration about the bicycle and the motorbike. In the bicycle you have to really pedal and struggle. But when you get on the motorbike you get very tense. If I were to ride a motorbike and you get tense I wouldn't want you to be a pillion rider. I used to pillion ride before. You are not supposed to be very tense while the guy taking you. When he turns a corner you can not bend the other way. You have to be very relaxed. If you are a very tense person clutching to the bike it won't be easy taking you around. That is why it is not easy to save a drowning man who is struggling. It is easier to save a drowning man when he yields. It makes it more difficult when you fight and struggle. In the early days I didn't quite know how to pillion ride. And when the motorbike turned one way so thinking to balance up I made my body turn the other way. The front rider said, "If I go this way you have to follow along in the same direction. If you force your body to turn the other way, you will make the motorbike shaky and unstable." He is carrying you no doubt but your struggle makes it very hard to carry you. So the easiest thing is to yield the force.

And in the New covenant the greatest development in faith is more yielding than struggling. There is a sort of effort you do to yield your faith when you spend time with God. But the greatest development of faith is learning to yield. And you would think that people like Kathryn Kuhlman have great faith. It is not so much that they had that great faith. She will tell you in one of her interviews by the Christianity Today magazine, she said her main key that she has learned is how to yield. In the old there is such effort, struggle in the fight of faith. There is a fight of faith but there is a difference. In the new you yield yourself to God. And it is a past perfect tense. Everything has been completed in Christ. When you face sicknesses and diseases you don't even sort of struggle as much as you yield to the faith of Jesus in you. Many of those who try to fight sicknesses with their will power do not succeed. It is not will power to say something. The key is in yielding to the faith that has been placed within. Of course that faith can be established and grown and nurtured by the Word. The main key in the New Covenant to tap on that faith is to yield.

You could see people who struggle for healing. Another different person with the same sickness hears the Word. Its true Christ did die for my sickness. Yield daily to the realization of His faith in your life. There is a quietness about yielding to that faith in us. And it comes forth from inside. In a short while this guy gets healed and that guy didn't get healed. The key is yielding. Charles Spires was one of the early evangelists in healing. He wrote about healing in one of his books and he said in his meetings he could tell which person would actually be healed by the manifestation. Or whether it is their own faith in God or it's the faith of God working in them. And only when he sensed a faith of God working in them would he demonstrate a healing. Kathryn Kuhlman reached that point in her miracles services when she realized that in

a great meeting is that faith of the operation of God working. It is that faith that comes from Jesus. How was that imparted? Through the gospel.

You remember Acts 14 the gospel was preached to the man crippled from birth. The gospel is all about Jesus and as the man hears about Jesus what He has done, the faith of Jesus starts operating in his life and Paul saw that he had faith and gave a command and he was healed. And if you want to develop strong faith and if He is the author and finisher of faith what must you do? Go to Him. See the key. Yield to Jesus. In your life you constantly worship Jesus and you constantly yield to Jesus. When you have a real close fellowship with Jesus your faith grows. If I were to say I have the only blue bible in the world, and you wanted a blue bible you have to come to me. Jesus is the only one who can author and finish faith. He is the only source of faith. In the Old Covenant they didn't know that He was the source. But in the new He has been manifested. He has been declared as the author and finisher of faith. If you want faith you go to Jesus and worship Jesus. That is why in the New Testament we can have more miracles than in the old. Because if we could worship God to the extent that everybody catches a vision of Jesus faith catches on and the wonderful power will manifest. It is the faith of Jesus that is being imparted. Every time you meet Jesus, Jesus infuses faith into your life to reveal Him. Jesus told the Pharisees, "Why do you go to the scriptures and don't come to Me?" All that we study in the New Testament is about Him. So in the new the key in flowing in the impartation of faith is yielding to Jesus.

And the second aspect in the New Covenant is because we live past the time of Jesus. The power of praise is utilized more powerfully than the old. Since it is already done you worship and you praise Him. Lets look in Colossian chapter 2:7 Rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught abounding in it with thanksgiving. What does that "it" refers to? Some of the new translations omit the "it". It says abounding in it. What is he talking about the "it?" What does the "it" refers to? Faith. Being established in the faith and then abounding in it. That means it abounds in you with thanksgiving. No wonder every epistle is full of thanksgiving. If you live in the New Testament and you don't know how to worship God and give thanksgiving to God you have missed the whole New Testament. Everything in the New Testament operates through thanksgiving and praise because of the time span we live in. Everything in the old operates by symbols and shadows. If you don't have that you can not operate. That is why we are declared to be a people of praise in the epistle of Peter. That is why Paul in the New Testament says in everything gives thanks. Because only when you are in thanksgiving the faith of the operation of God operates as you are giving thanks to God. Have you noticed it every time you are in places that worship God whether you got weak faith or not the faith is there? But when you move out of that position you get involved with the things of the world, you get anxious, you get worried, you don't praise God anymore something is missing. It's the faith of the operation of God we must know how to abound in it, and nurture it. And thanksgiving can not be underestimated. It is the force of the New Testament. It is not only a force in order to bring something, but it begins with something that is already there. It can only be released and abounded in with thanksgiving. Do you notice that those who live a life of praise and worship and thanksgiving faith is alive in them? In that position of worship and thanksgiving the faith of Jesus Christ abounds and flows mightily.

14. WHY CHRISTIANS FALTER IN THE FAITH WALK

Matt. 17:20 He said to them, "Because of your little faith. for truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain "Move hence to yonder place," and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you."

Matt. 21:21-22 And Jesus answered them, "Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and never doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, "Be taken up and cast into the sea," it will be done. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith."

Mark 9:23 All things are possible to him who believe."

In these scriptures there is a principle of faith that faith is moved in the realm that is impossible. Notice that Jesus said in Matt. 17 that nothing would be impossible if you have this faith. How important it is therefore that we have faith in order to move in the realm of impossibilities. What does He mean when He says the things that are impossible? What is the definition of impossibility? Impossibility is something that natural laws can not achieve. And impossibility is something that is beyond man's comprehension as to how it will come about. Like for example removing a mountain, there are no natural laws that we know of that we could remove a mountain instantly. So it is impossibility.

Jesus said to His disciples in Matt. 21 what I have done to the fig tree you will also do. So the fig tree incident is nothing special. It is not something that only Jesus can do and we can not do. Christians have many times relegated things to Jesus and said Jesus can do this thing and these other things we can never do. The fact is that Jesus wants us to reach a point where the works that He do we can do also. And we are supposed to do them. Jesus said that the same thing that I did to the fig tree you would do also. Faith moves in the impossible realm. And if ever you face impossibility the most important in your life is to get faith.

If I were to tell you that there is something inside this book that will give you every solution to your financial problem. As long as you have this book you will be prosperous. If I were to say that there is something about this book that gives out. Lets assume that this is a supernatural object that if you have it nothing will be impossible to you. All your financial problems will disappear instantly. You will have the wisdom and the ability to handle it if you are in possession of this book. What would be your goal if you have impossibility? Your goal would be to get that object that would render your impossibility to possibility. So your goal is to achieve that object.

If I were to tell you that there is a substance here. It is placed in such and such a place. Whenever you have a financial need, you just go there and you tear a page off that thing it will bring something into your life to meet your need. What would be your most natural conclusion when you have need? You would quickly go to that object and take something from that place and praise God you got the solution.

Jesus said that faith, as a mustard seed will render all your impossibilities to possibility. They will blow apart things that were impossible to you in the natural. How important therefore it is to you that when you are facing an impossible situation or an impossible task that your most important consideration is to get the faith for

that. For if you have the faith there is no such thing as impossible any more. Faith moves in an impossible realm.

But there are situations that we are going to see in the bible when faith falters. When people failed. When their faith stumble. They acted in faith but halfway along the way their faith falters. They could not hold on to faith long enough. Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen. So faith is evidence. Just to refresh your memory evidence is not a true object. Evidence tells you that something else is there.

Lets suppose you are someone who does research on dinosaurs. You dig in the sand and you found embedded in the sand a fossil of a huge big dinosaur. What do you have? You have evidence. Fossils are what happened when the bones of dinosaurs make an impression on the geological rock.

Lets suppose you go to a beach. And as you went to the beach you saw this huge big foot print about three feet long. What would your conclusion be? That is an evidence of a giant whose feet is probably size 60. Now that evidence is not the giant. That is an evidence of someone whose shoes could be size 60. It's not the real object. In the same way they see a fossil and that fossil is evidence and not the real object. So faith is an evidence of something that is not seen and something you only could hope for and its not in manifestation yet. Faith is something you see before you see the object.

Faith is like for example you have a need in your life. And somebody gives you a check. That check is crossed to you. Only you can cash it. And you need a refrigerator. But somebody gives you a check for that refrigerator. You have in your hand the potential and the ability to purchase the refrigerator. The check is crossed to you and you can't go to the shop and say here is the check let me take the refrigerator. There is no way you got to pay for the refrigerator. That check somebody gave you for the refrigerator is an evidence of your refrigerator coming. Its something that tells you that you have it. You can start rejoicing because you know you have the power to purchase it. Supposing that you received a check for a refrigerator and you looked at it and said, "When is my refrigerator coming?" And I say you got the evidence here that say you can purchase a refrigerator. You say no I don't believe. I have to see it. Seeing is believing. If you understand checks you would know that gives you purchasing power.

Supposing you give a check to a child. It would be useless since that child doesn't understand checks. Many times our concept of the spiritual realm is childish. We do not understand spiritual things and we can not convert it into the real thing when the check gets into our spirits. Faith is a spiritual check that drops into your spirit. It gives you purchasing power for all things. The spirit and soul is more powerful than the physical medium. The faith check that God drops into your spirit gives you purchasing power for whatever you need for your spirit, soul and body. And sometimes people don't understand the spirit realm. They are like little children who are given checks and they don't understand that a check equals purchasing power. They look at it and say this is a piece of paper. They use it to play cards. That is the assurance of things that are coming forth. So the realm of faith is a realm that is not the manifestation yet. But it is the in between stage to the manifestation if you hold it long enough, if you add patience with faith and you have to hold it for some time. It takes some time for you to clear that personal check for your refrigerator. And while

the bank is clearing the check you don't complain. If you understand that you shouldn't complain. The only time you worry is whether that check will bounce.

But you know the signatory of the check and He never issues any bounced check - Jesus Christ the check of heaven. So you have full confidence in the signatory of the check. So it comes into your life and you have that full confidence. It takes some time for that check to clear. While it is clearing you are filled with joy. In the same manner faith is your spiritual check that drops into your spirit. It gives you the purchasing power in the realm of the spirit soul and physical realm. And if you understand the spirit realm whenever faith drops into your heart you have the evidence inside you. You hold that spiritual check with your spiritual hand. You feel that a tangible substance has dropped into your spirit. With it comes a conviction; with it comes an assurance. Sometimes it takes time for faith to get inside. But once faith comes in something boils up within you.

There are many things I prayed for in the body of Christ. One of the things that had happened over this year is that I have been praying for the body of Christ to be perfected. I know that the Word says that the body of Christ will be perfected based on John 17 and Ephesians 4. But only this year that has dropped an assurance that I will see the perfection of the body of Christ. Before that for the past ten years I used to come to God and cried and said Lord perfect thy church. And I agonized for the church. But then it comes into my spirit this year an assurance. I have not seen the perfection of the church of the body of Christ yet. But now when I come to God I can not weep as I wept before. Instead when I come to God there is this assurance. All I could say is God I thank you for that assurance. I know that it is going to be perfected.

You could be praying for something physically. You could be praying for a van. Then as you are praying you feel that spiritual battle that goes on. Then there comes a time when the assurance drop inside. You know that you know that you have it. If you are asked to show it you can't. But it is inside. You are pregnant with the van. It is growing inside you. So all of us must be sensitive spiritually to the time when faith has not dropped in for certain object and to the time when faith drops in your approach is different. We must be sensitive to the realm of the spirit when the assurance drops into our spirit.

So faith walks and works in the impossible realm. If you ever have something impossible in your life your most important goal is to get faith. That will blow apart and dynamite away all the realm of the impossible. And there is something interesting in faith in II Cor. 5:7 it says we walk by faith and not by sight. There is a contrast between faith and sight.

There are many times when God's man of faith falter in their walk of faith. One was Abraham in the book of Genesis chapter 16:1 and 2 Now Sarai, Abram's wife bore him no children. She had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar; and Sarai said to Abram, "Behold now, the Lord has prevented me from bearing children; go in to my maid; it may be that I shall obtain children by her." And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai. Abraham faltered. The next 12 years are known as Abraham's silent years. God apparently never spoke to him any more until he was 99. Abraham a man of faith faltered because he didn't ask God. If he had asked the Lord what the Lord thought about that, the Lord will say, "No Abraham this is not my will." But he went ahead without asking the Lord; without hearing the will of God.

This is the first area where people falter in faith. They don't ask God. They don't hear from God. Faith comes by hearing from God either from the written Word or from the spoken Word you still need to hear from God. There is no way you could operate beyond what God did not say. Abraham listened to a wrong voice. Here it was the voice of his wife. It was not the voice of God. And he faltered and today we are still having the problem because of Abraham. There they are still fighting in the Middle East. We would not have the Ishmaelite if Abraham had listened to God. We would have peace in the Middle East. It started with Ishmael. They started fighting in the book of Genesis. It all started with that one wrong act. We falter in faith when we move out of God's will. There is no assurance in your heart; no assurance in your spirit, and if you start moving in the direction that God did not ask you to there would be failures ahead.

In Matthew chapter 14 we see Peter walking on the water. When they saw Jesus walking on the water in verse 28 And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus. So Peter was walking on the water to Jesus. That is an act of faith. He started walking in faith. Verse 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord save me." Here is an act of faith that started well. But along the way something happened. Doubts arose, he saw, he was afraid and he cried. He saw the wrong thing. He became afraid and he started sinking and he cried out to the Lord. Many people are like Peter who started out well in faith but along the way they give way to circumstances. That was Peter's mistake. He gives way to circumstances. He began to see the circumstances instead of the Lord and His word. Doubts started arising in his mind and he feared. The moment fear came he started sinking.

Now analyze it for a moment. Nothing changed in the command of Jesus. Peter was actually walking on the water. Some people think that he walked for about three steps and started sinking. It couldn't be he was a fisherman; he was a swimmer. You read later in the book of John towards the ending where he swam to shore when he saw Jesus on the shore. He was a good swimmer; he was a good fisherman. He knew the water very well; he had lived there all his life. If he were just three steps on the water he wouldn't scream. He would just swim back to the boat. He must have walked some distance perhaps it was mid-way between Jesus and the boat. The boat was too far to get back and Jesus was too far to reach. Here he was walking on the water halfway along he saw the circumstance.

What happened? It was all in his mind. Your mind will deceive you if you allow it. The battle is in your mind. When you walk in faith the battle is in your mind. Paul says in II Cor. 10 that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but they are spiritual. Then he immediately goes on and say that we pull down strongholds and every thought that rises itself against Jesus Christ; casting down imagination, strongholds and bringing every thought to the captivity of Christ. If you are defeated it was because your mind was on the side of the devil. For a doubled minded man can not receive anything from the Lord. So Peter was walking on the water and his mind started doubting. His eyes saw the physical realm. As long as you walk in faith you must never ever be affected by the five senses. For we walk by faith and not by sight.

Romans 4 talks about Abraham how he was strong in faith giving glory to God not considering his own body that was dead or Sarah's womb that was dead.

Circumstances told him that it was impossible. But if you ever want to move in the faith realm you must break that five senses away. As long as someone is affected by the five senses he will never have strong faith. Determine right now if you ever want to have strong faith you can not be affected by the five senses.

All the five senses will tell you that you can not do it but faith can.

So Peter was walking on water. What was his failure? His failure came from relying on his five senses. Even when Abraham faltered in faith it was because he started in faith halfway along his wife came and said see I have not borne any children. Can't you see we have no children? Every time faith falters it falters is because you take your eyes away from the spirit realm and look into the natural realm. If you ever want to walk in faith you must make a quality decision never more to consider the physical senses. If you are going to consider the physical senses then halfway along the line you will be like Peter who considered the physical senses. There are many people who start walking in faith but along the way they give up because they considered the physical circumstances. They go down back to the five senses realm.

But faith is in direct contrast to the five senses. II Cor. 5:7 says we walk by faith and not by sight. The way he puts it, it looks like they are opposite. You walk by faith, which is in the realm of the invisible or you walk by sight, which is in the realm of the carnal. You can not consider the five senses realm once you walk by faith. As Peter started walking doubts arose. Doubt is faith in the physical natural circumstances and faith in the devil. It is the same faith on something else but God. Fear comes by hearing and hearing by the word of the devil. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Fear and doubt are the reverse gear of faith. Fear and doubt are something that is learned from the natural realm.

The sad thing is that we have been in the natural realm where we were all lost in sin. Then we came to know Christ, got born again and tasted of the heavenly powers, but now we are back to thinking in the natural realm again. Lets take for example when we think about transplanting this tree to somewhere you would start thinking in the natural how to do it. But Jesus operates in the spiritual realm and He says that if you say to this tree be planted and it will be planted. He knew the spiritual realm. We always think in term of the natural forces. From the background of sin where we came from we always think in terms of the natural. And we are confident in the natural. We have developed because of our past life in the natural. Sometimes when we move into the spiritual realm we falter for we have more confident in the natural than in the spiritual law.

Faith is also call the law. The book of Romans talks about the laws of faith. And the law of faith contrasts with the law of sin and death. There are two opposite laws that you can not live under. Either you live under this law or you live under that law. You can't live under both. It is just like people who are expatriates - they are either being taxed in our country or being taxed in their country. They are not taxed on both sides. So its either you get under this law or you get under that law. You can't have both operating at the same time. One will operate and control you. The moment you choose the law of faith this law of the sense realm will try to falter you along your walk of faith.

Peter saw the waves the natural realm came to him. He saw himself walking but everything in the natural says it is not possible. The moment he saw it he could see that it is easy for him to drown. The natural forces were there. Many people believe God for financial breakthroughs but they limit God in the natural realm. Many people who are working limit God to the employer's paycheck. That is the natural limitation that you put on God. If you were to take those limits off God could move beyond that realm. Why limit God to only that one source. There are millions of sources that God could use to bring prosperity into your life. Why just that one source? See the natural tends to limit us.

But faith is walking in the spiritual. Faith is walking in the spiritual realm against and contrary to the five senses. It is always contrary to the five senses. The devil always operates in the five senses. But God always operates beyond those five senses. One day when we get into the spirit realm this understanding will become clearer. In the spirit realm the moment you think of something it is created in front of you. When we all go to heaven and supposing that in heaven you are sitting in your mansion in heaven and you are thinking of one of the fruits in the garden. The moment you ask and you pray it is in front of you. In the spirit realm something is conceived the moment you believe God for it. But it is in this fallen world that we live in that you conceive something and it takes time to come out. Why, there are forces that are operating against it. In heaven there is no law of sin and death. In heaven there is none of this operative law. Only the law of the spirit prevails. In heaven, what you desire, it just comes forth. There is no delay, there is no birthing, it is only in this natural world where the things you conceive in your spirit takes time to come forth because there is a law working against it. It is called the law of sin and death and the law of this fallen world.

So if you want to achieve something in the spirit and these other laws won't give way easily, what you do is you prevail through the exercise of faith. The first few time you do it, it may look difficult. But as you keep prevailing that law that wants to cling to you is broken. Just like when man started flying. Remember when the Wright brothers started flying. When they were flying for an hour in the sky they came down with joy. One hour in the air they celebrate. Today you think of flying one hour in the air you are wondering why it took so long. And today people think of nothing when they fly 21 hours in the air. But when you just started it was difficult to operate the law of flight. But once it was broken and the law of gravity was transcended they kept improving on that until it becomes easy.

When you first start moving and conquering in the spirit realm, the law of sin and death of this natural world pulls you down. But when you are exercising faith for the first time in your life, you are going to pray and come against sickness that tries to come on your body. All other times you rely on aspirins. Every time you got a cold you take some medicine. But now you say its time to exercise faith in this realm. So you start using the Word. It takes some time to break through into that realm. And finally you conquered it after one week of sneezing. Then you continue exercising your faith and through time its like nothing to you. You could exercise faith on almost on any area. And the first time you began to operate on finances you sow believing for a harvest. You operate it with fear and trembling. But as you began to operate it you become bolder once you have tasted the law sowing and reaping. In the early days when I was in the Baptist ministry I learnt about sowing and reaping and I started

operating in fear and trembling hoping that it will work. Some people have a fear of height. John Osteen has a fear of flight. You got to literally drag him to the plane. When the plane started taking off he gripped the plane seat; cold sweat drop from him. But after sometime of flying he got used to it. Now he goes relaxing in the plane reading the bible. It takes time to conquer it. I remember when I first tapped into that law it was not easy. But through time you become bold. The next time the Lord asks you to give you would give knowing that the return comes very fast. The confidence has been built up. You have broken natural laws. The higher laws have broken natural laws.

We have to touch on the three results of faith in your spirit.

Turn to Rom. 5:1 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. So peace is the result of faith. When faith comes peace comes.

Phil. 1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith. Faith rejoices. Rom. 4 tells us Abraham was strong in faith giving glory to God.

Gal. 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is of any avail, but faith working through love. Peace, love and joy are three of the forces that work together with faith and tell you when faith is operating. It says in Gal. 5 that faith is energized by love. In other words the evidence that faith has dropped into your heart is love. The energy of faith comes through love. The driving force and the authoring of that faith is love. The starting point of faith is love. Faith is energized through love. And joy is what continues in our walk of faith. Joy is the strength that maintains your faith. And peace comes when your act of faith has been accomplished. So you have the time frame. You could sense love at the beginning, joy all through your walk and peace when you complete the act of faith. When the act of faith is completed you will find the Lord Jesus Christ saying to you as He said to the woman, "Woman peace be with you." Peace is the blessing that comes at the end of your exercise of faith.

How does it help us? Lets look at love. It helps you to differentiate between true faith and human confidence. True faith is energized by the love of God. Lets suppose that you have confidence and you say I am going to rob a bank. It is not faith because the bible says thou shall not steal and neither is it operating in love. So your confidence is human confidence. It is not the confidence and the conviction that comes through faith. For the confidence of faith is energized by love. Every act of faith that Jesus did was an act of love. He loved the sick and He gives command, "Rise take up your bed and walk," because He loves. When He multiplied the bread He saw the need of the multitude and He looked up and gave thanks for the bread and it multiplied. Every act of faith came from love. If you are really operating in God's kind of faith it is the faith that is energized through love. I know some people hear the faith message and they don't understand that faith is energized by love. They do hear things that have no love involved. And they will always end up with failure. For it is not the true faith of God. It is human confidence.

Love is the driving energizing force behind faith. In an evangelistic meeting you could have 20 wheel chairs in front of you with people sitting on them. Without the inspiration of faith through love you could go to them with your own human

confidence with head knowledge of the Word but no heart knowledge. You could go to them and try to get all of them out of the wheel chair so that people will see and promote your ministry rather than because you love the sick. And so you end up pulling them up and doing all kind of tricks. You have a goal. The goal is to get them up so everybody will see and say, "Isn't that marvelous?" See there is selfishness involved. There is self-glorification involved. And some times the devil will put thoughts in your mind say go ahead, do it.

How do I differentiate the faith that is of God and own confidence? Very simple. True faith is authored and energized by love. I know that some thoughts are not from God as long as I don't sense that love and compassion flowing. Simple isn't it? Faith is energized by love. You could be in a ministry and doing an evangelistic meeting. You could look over at these people with a stirring compassion that comes forth. With that compassion, the love comes that will energize the faith. And you go with them the love is there but the faith is also there. As you pull them out in the name of the Lord, God will back that up. For faith was energized by love. See the difference? Faith is always energized by love. Every act of Jesus in faith was an act of love. Sad to say not every act that is made by Christians or by so called ministers even by the body of Christ is an act of love. Check yourself before you act in faith. Is it also an act of love? If you can't answer that question then you better re-examine yourself. The next time you want to act in faith ask yourself, "Is it an act of love?" If you can not answer it with the bold yes and confidence that this is an act of love, then you know you are not operating in faith. You are operating in presumption.

Then it says the joy of faith. See joy is the confirmation you receive as you are walking in that path of faith. Joy is strength. If you truly have the faith that is from God, you will notice this. The act of faith is something simple, something light and something that is not heavy so that you will not sink under. Faith lifts you up. I know that sometimes people act in faith so called quote unquote faith and it is hard. It is not. Faith has joy. I know it's a fight of faith but it's a good fight not a bad fight. A good fight is a fight that you win. One minister talked about how when he was small there was this bully and everybody was afraid of the bully. One day the bully cornered him and there was no way he could get out. So he might as well fight. And he gave him one good punch and the bully fell down. Today he looked back and says it was a good fight. I am sure the bully thinks it was a bad fight. What do you mean by a good fight or a bad fight? A good fight is a fight that you win. So a good fight of faith is a fight that you win. So the fight of faith has a liberty involved. There is joy involved as you exercise faith. And joy makes the burden light.

Lets say you are believing God for something that God ask you to do. You are believing God for example to pull through an evangelistic meeting that you organized and you are responsible for all the expenses. If it was the faith of God you would pull through and all along while the whole thing is going on the joy is there. Even while the bills were not paid you would have joy. Faith has joy. The faith that is authored by God has joy. And that joy makes your burden light. The task that you had to carry for God is light. It is easy. It is not hard. Jesus said my yoke is easy and my burden is light. So the next time you feel it difficult please examine whether you started that race or the Lord. Maybe it is not the Lord who told you to do that. It could be man. It could be yourself. About five years ago it was an in thing for Christian ministries to go into satellite broadcasting. Every minister you name was trying to get into satellites

and T.V. but within the last two years one by one closed shop because they found it hard going. They were having sleepless nights trying to get their bills paid. If God ask you will God fail halfway? No. But if you did it yourself you will need to keep on slogging. If God tells you there is joy involved. You would not have problems having your bills paid. So examine yourself whether it is God who authored it. Is God speaking to you to do that thing?

As you finish an act of faith the confirmation is the peace that comes. You know that you know that you have done the right thing. It was joy while going through that thing but when you finished it the peace of God descends upon. The manifestation may not come yet but there is a peace that accompanies the act of faith. So we are talking about the realm of faith and the realm of doubt. And we have seen how in the realm of faith there must be love, there must be joy, there must be peace if you are truly doing what God asked you to do.

Let me tell you it is the in thing today all over the world for churches to start a bible school. You better hear from God. See sometimes people hear that it is the current move of God but it may not be God's will for them. Five years ago the Spirit of God spoke all over for the body of Christ to use the best means to promote the gospel. Sometimes people hear in the Spirit but what they hear is the current move of God but it was not for them to get into that area. And it's the current move of God for schools of ministries and bible schools to start within a church. And I have to come to God and re-examine myself. We have been talking about a bible school for two to three years. We haven't even got off the ground yet. Why, we need God to author it in our life so that when you start it is motivated by love. We have to re-examine our motivation. So the joy of faith carries you all along the way the things that God asked you to do. There is joy and there is peace. You don't have to have sleepless nights when you are doing God's work. And God's work in each one of your lives will increase. God will give greater and greater responsibilities to each one of you because the harvest is ripe.

There is so much to do in the body of Christ. We need people of vision. But that vision must be actualized by faith. There are many whom God gives the vision but they don't have the faith to carry out the vision. You say with the vision faith should come. Yes, but faith must be maintained. And people must learn how to deal with doubts for the vision to take place. In a long run when we have finished everything and looked back from the shores of heaven it will be how much faith that you have that will take you through. In the long run when it comes to the test tube analysis it is how much faith is in your spirit that brings you through. It is faith that pleases God.

So there is one thing you strive for is to develop such a frame of mind that you are not moved by your five senses. Not many people have that kind of frame of mind. Some are like Peter they have it but the next moment they see the waves the frame of mind disappear as fast as the wind. It has to be a constant frame of mind. I refuse to look at things that are seen when I operate in faith. You have to keep the realm of the spirit all the time. Provided you did it asked by God. We keep on doing more and more things for God. But when you operate in faith there is a calmness that comes with it. There are bills involving thousand of dollars coming all the time. But with all those things there is joy that comes. Because if God asked you to do something your faith is energized by love, joy is on your life there is peace all the time.

About 10 years ago we started a magazine. We overprinted and we had so much left over.

And it costs us our meals. It was hard going. I didn't understand the fullness of operating in faith. We should have printed less. We printed five thousand copies. But God was merciful. I remember how every time the bills came, the checks also came just nicely for the payment of the bills. And we didn't pay the seven people who were with me in the ministry for months. When I looked back we should have done less. Maybe instead of doing four colors printing we could have done it in two colors. But here we launched a big ocean liner when we have only a few fellows to manage the whole ship. It is just like the boy who got bicycle faith and believes God for a car. He doesn't know that once the car comes he doesn't have the payment to maintain the car. So it is a struggle when you do something that faith didn't take a root in. There is no joy involved. Sometimes you feel like grumbling. But when faith takes a hold it is easy for faith has love, joy and peace. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy. My burden is light."

15. DOUBTS AND UNBELIEF

Mark 6:1 He went out from there and came to His own country and His disciples followed Him. And when the Sabbath had come He began to teach in the synagogue and many hearing Him were astonished saying, “Where did this man get these things? And what wisdom is this that is given to Him that such mighty works are performed by His hands? Is this not the carpenter the son of Mary and brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” And they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country among his own relatives and in his own house.” Now He could do no mighty works there except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief.

Then He went about the villages in a circuit teaching. This morning we want to consider unbelief and doubt and how to deal with them. The bible tells us very plainly that unbelief is a sin. Yet unbelief consists of two causes and not just one. In understanding faith we realize that the most important battle we fight is with doubts. Its what goes on within us that determines our success and not so much what goes on without. There are many circumstances that people faced that caused them to fail. Yet another different person facing the same set of circumstances can come out a success. The problem is no so much as what is without. You can face any kind of circumstances, obstacles, mountains from the outside, the problem is more on the inside.

And that is where faith comes in. Faith transforms the inside of our being first before it transforms the outside of our circumstances. Don't ever expect God to answer your prayers or your exercise of faith unless the word of faith transforms your thinking life, your believing life, your visualizing life and your whole being inside you. What is transformed outside is proportional to what is transformed on your inside. In proportion as to how much the Word has changed our inside, in that same degree and proportion the Word is able to change our outside.

Unbelief is not so much just disbelief or no belief. There are two causes for unbelief. One is ignorance and the other is a free choice. The most dangerous kind of unbelief is free choice. The bible says in Romans 10:16-18 How shall they have faith unless they hear? How shall they believe unless they hear? And faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. It tells us there is no possibility of believing something unless you have faith for it and unless you have the opportunity to have faith produced inside you. So unbelief can be caused by ignorance. By a lack of knowledge people have perished. And by a lack of knowledge people suffer circumstances that they should never have suffered. They should never have gone through that if not for a lack of knowledge of the Word. The Word brings forth tremendous knowledge that will help us to have faith in areas that we have not had before.

When Paul in Acts 19:1-2 met a group of John's disciples in Ephesus, these Ephesians have already met Jesus as Lord and Savior. They have been baptized in John's baptism. He asked them a question that they could not say yes. Paul asked, “Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believe?” The answer was, “We have not heard about the Holy Spirit.” Obviously you can't receive what you have not heard. They could not have faith to receive the baptism in the Spirit because they have not heard any teaching in that area. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

Therefore the first cause of unbelief is ignorance. Ignorance of the Word of God, ignorance of what the Word says.

The second cause of unbelief is by free choice. It comes because of a decision people make. And like the incident in Mark 6 it is this kind of unbelief that angers Jesus Christ. The hometown and home folks of Jesus had the opportunity to hear Jesus teach the Word. They even said, "What wisdom is this? Where did He get these words?" These wonderful words were from God. They wondered where He got that kind of wisdom. And they made a decision not to believe. Suppose you were one of the disciples of Jesus. He has just been crucified and raised from the dead. Somebody met Him and came and said, "I saw Jesus and He was resurrected." Once I give a person that information he has a choice. The information brings him to a position where he could say, "I believe," or "I do not believe." Supposing he had one person come to tell him that, and he can say, "I don't believe. It is a figment of your imagination." Another person comes and says, "I saw Jesus," there are two now. You can see the pressure increasing. And he says, "Couldn't be." The third person comes along and said, "I saw Jesus." Now there are three. You can see the amount of information he is beginning to receive will help him to make a choice. That is why teaching is important to get rid of unbelief. The more information is given from God's Word its easier to believe than to disbelieve. However the choice still remains.

What happened in Mark chapter six is that they chose not to believe. It was unbelief based on free choice and not based on ignorance on the Word. Believing God therefore is not automatic. Therefore you can conclude if unbelief comes because of free choice, then hearing the Word alone may not guarantee faith. Hearing the Word may give us the opportunity to have faith. But hearing the Word alone does not guarantee faith. Faith still comes from our attitudes to the Word that we hear and how we receive the Word.

In the book of Thessalonians Paul mentioned something positive about the Thessalonians that we want to take a look. First Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel did not come to you in Word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance as you know what kind of man we were among you for your sake. Wonderful statement that says the gospel came to the Thessalonians in great power. How did it happen? I Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also thank God without ceasing because when you received the Word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of man. Now that is where the attitudes come in. Hearing was not enough. It was how they hear. But as it is in truth the word of God which also effectively works in you who believe. Without that belief and their attitude the gospel would not have come to them in power. It was not only hearing the Word, it was how they hear.

The book Hebrews 4:1-2 Therefore since the promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seems to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them. But the Word, which they heard, did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. In the bible when it talks about unbelief it primarily focus on unbelief that is caused by a decision. Not unbelief that is caused by ignorance. And that is the prime cause of unbelief. It is a decision. Unbelief is not non-belief. It is believing in the opposite from what God has spoken. Unbelief is not the absence of believing. It is a decision made against what God has said even

though God has said something. Unbelief believes some things. But the things they believe are contrary to the Word of God.

In the book of Hebrews the reference is made to the Israelites who were in the wilderness. They have just come out from the land of Egypt. And they were supposed to cross over to the Promised Land. It tells us that they sent twelve spies. Twelve spies came back and ten said we saw giants. The other two also said we saw giants. But ten of them said the giants were so big that they were like tiny little grasshoppers before the giants. But two of them Caleb and Joshua said there is no problem and that they can overcome them because God has given them that land. And all the multitudes chose to believe the ten spies who gave a bad report. It was a free choice made. And God will always give you that opportunity to exercise that freedom. Faith is not automatic.

Living by faith is a decision we made.

Lets examine that passage very carefully in the book of Numbers 13:30, Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession for we are well able." He says we can do it. We are able to do it. But the rest said no we are not able. The book of Hebrews 4 tells us that they heard the Word. What Word did they hear? The Word that God said I have given you the land. The whole group had an opportunity and they chose not to believe Joshua and Caleb but to believe in the ten spies who came back and said we can not do it.

Unbelief is a choice we make and it is the opposite of what God said. Doubts form the process of the decision. Doubts are choices given to you. By the time you reached unbelief, you take a position that is contrary to God's Word. Doubts are opportunities, you haven't chosen yet. When a doubt arises you are in an opportunity to choose which direction to take. A doubt is the devil's words or man's words coming to your mind. And you see God's Word and man's words and you have an opportunity to choose between the two.

Doubting is the process of beginning to choose the wrong choices. So doubts are bad too. We must reach a point where we completely become single minded. We have to define doubt and unbelief in order to protect ourselves against them. We have to know what our enemy is doing. Since there must be a change coming on in the inside before a change can take place outside, we must therefore learn how to protect the change that comes inside. We must understand how to fight against unbelief, how to fight against doubt that comes.

Both doubts and unbelief are based on natural laws. All unbelief and doubts are the work of Satan trying to make you look at things from the natural point of view. Doubting is also having two minds about a subject. To doubt is to say this statement is true and the opposite statement is also true although they are contradictory to each other. So doubt is being double minded. The book of James 1:6 but let him ask in faith with no doubting. For he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. But let not that man supposed that he would receive anything from the Lord. He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. God declares through His words that doubt is having two minds about a subject. Not just having two minds but you begin to question God's Word and what God says about that matter. James said

you can not receive it at all. You can not receive anything from the Lord if you have doubt.

Mark 11:23-24 tells us have the faith of God and it says whatsoever you pray for believe that you received. Verse twenty-three tells you do not doubt in your heart. It is the doubts in the heart and not the devil that rob us. The devil is powerless against you if you do not doubt. The devil has no authority over your life whatsoever as long as you don't doubt and permit doubt to come into your life. The most important place of your whole being to protect against doubt and unbelief is your mind. What goes on in your mind will determine the success of your whole life in your endeavor for the Lord. If the doubt is permitted to dwell in your mind and not driven off it will take root and cause you to be in a position where God can not bless you. God can not work in your life. God can not work on your behalf.

And how do doubt and unbelief and mental thought that are contrary to God's Word work? All of them are based on one primary principle based on natural laws. It is the understanding that is based on natural laws. It is the reasoning that is based on natural laws. The bible declares that there are two ways you can reason. You can reason by spiritual laws or you can reason by natural laws.

Doubts and unbelief is as we said is not non-belief. It is believing in the wrong thing. Believing in the wrong thing means you have the wrong information and you have also a wrong concept involved. It is not just non-belief. Non-belief is you have nothing or have never heard anything. Unbelief is when you have heard but you use the natural concepts to form precepts and principles and you base your life on that. Before a human being believes, he or she always rationalizes, justifies and reasons. The only problem is that all these rationalizing, justification and reasoning are based on natural laws.

Before a person can commit a crime, they will have to justify its righteousness to themselves, although it may be a lie. Someone who robs another person will have to justify it because the conscience is at work. They will say since these rich people have made enough money they can take the loss from the robbery. The most amazing thing is that there are a lot of prisoners right now in prison who think that what they did is still right. How did they think that way? The reasoning. All human beings have reasoning powers. If there are no reasoning powers we are no more human beings. There is a reasoning process taking place all the time. Before people kill another, they have to rationalize it away. They reason that since this person is so evil they have to get rid of him. All human beings literally reason themselves into a wrong act. Believing in the wrong thing causes unbelief and doubt. And before you believe in the wrong thing you reason your way into that. And all the reasoning of doubt and unbelief is based on natural laws. Satan gets you to look at the natural laws.

Think about the Israelites who spied out the Promised Land and came back with their reports. They said that the inhabitants of that land were bigger than them, and that is why they couldn't possess the land. Is that a fact? It is a fact. They are taller than us. Is that a fact? It is a fact. Everybody knows in the natural if one guy is bigger than you, that guy will win in fight. Is that reasonable? It is. My friends, doubts and unbelief are reasonable but it is reasonable in the natural. That is the problem that we have to understand in order for us to protect ourselves against doubt and unbelief. If I see a guy who is two hundred pounds and bulging with full of muscles and if I want to

do the arm wrestling by all natural laws he will win. The Israelites said they are bigger. And they said we couldn't overcome them. Even God agrees with them and says you can't win them in the natural. God told them in the book of Deuteronomy He said you are the least. Doubt and unbelief are based on reasoning.

Satan will reason his way with you. Look at how Satan dealt with Eve. He reasoned with her. He said look this will make you wise. And he reasoned people into sin. He reasoned people into all kinds of situations. And before they know it they were in unbelief. And you said how did I get here. You got into the bus that is listed on the road to unbelief. You jumped into it and were admiring all the scenery. And the scenery represents all the reasoning of Satan, all the reasoning of man. You say yes by the time you got out of the bus parked right out there in unbelief street, something changes inside your life and you become a failure. Success and failure depends on what goes on inside you. Some human beings somewhere else have faced every circumstance that is impossible to you right now and they have overcome it. There is no temptation that has overtaken you that is not common onto all man. Somebody else has succeeded against the same circumstances.

Let's see the reasoning that they have about Jesus in Mark six. They said, "Isn't this the carpenter?" Is that true? It is. "Are not His brothers with us, Joseph, James, Judas and Simon?" They probably never heard about the virgin birth. But they said, "Are not His brothers with us. And who does He think He is?" Are they reasoning? Yes they are reasoning. They are saying, "He is a carpenter; we know Him. Where did He get all these things?" And they reasoned their way into unbelief. And by their reasoning they stopped the power of God from working. All the reasoning of unbelief and doubt are based on natural laws. It looks very appealing and very reasonable to the natural man. And that is where we must be more watchful. For everything and some of the things God has said are so opposite from the way the natural world goes.

In Matthew fourteen Jesus said to Peter to come and he started walking on the water. He saw the waves coming. By all natural laws he should be sinking. I don't know why he didn't do the reasoning before he got out of the boat. You must have a reason for your faith. If somebody asks you to believe something without a spiritual reason, you are not obligated to believe. God will present His argument on His side. When Moses doubted God and said, "How can You supply food for all these Israelites?" God said, "Is the arm of the Lord too short?"

And that is what Paul was doing in the synagogue when he went to preach. He always reasons with them from the scriptures to get them to believe in God. His reasoning is based on spiritual laws. Paul says in First Corinthians chapter two that he speaks with wisdom of God and not with the wisdom of man. The reasoning of God and the reasoning of man are contradictory to each other. When God reasons He takes into account His power. He takes into account a lot of other sources that this natural reason does not take into account. If the Israelites realized that the angels are fighting with them it would have been easy. The angels of God are much more powerful than their enemies. And they are going to fight on the Israelites' behalf. There are spiritual ways and reasons that you can establish your faith on.

As Peter stepped out into the waters, along the way I guess Satan was reasoning with him. He saw the waves. And as the waves were stirred up something went on in his mind. This is not reasonable. Who would think of a man standing on the water? And

the bible says he was afraid, he doubted. And doubts are based on natural laws. He doubted, he was afraid and he started sinking. So unbelief and doubts are based on the wrong reasoning. You could reason yourselves out of the blessings of God. There are many people who are reasoning themselves out of God's healing. They will memorize the scriptures about Paul's thorn in the flesh and Timothy's stomach where apparently these apostles too are sick. They know these scriptures and they reason themselves out of healing. There are people who reason themselves out of salvation. You preach the gospel to them. They will tell you a lot of other things and their good works. "Don't tell me that after doing all these good work God is going to send me to hell." "No we are not telling you that. Jesus is telling you that." So they reason themselves out of salvation. And there are people who reason themselves out of the baptism in the Spirit. They could quote you scriptures to prove that they don't have to speak in tongues. It's the negative application of the scripture. Scripture is used to prove why they don't have to be healed. Scripture is used to prove why they don't have to speak in tongues. It's a negative application. And people reason themselves out of the blessings of God. And there are people who let the devil reason them out into poverty. Don't be to rich. Haven't you heard of dirty money? And they reason themselves into poverty.

If we understand that the process of doubt and unbelief is the work of Satan to turn your eyes to natural reasoning and self-knowledge then we have to protect ourselves against it. The next time somebody present an argument, present some aspect of truth and then you say there is no way you are accepting his reasoning since there are higher reasons that you are basing your faith on.

When the Lord Jesus told Peter to throw his net on the right side, Peter said, "Lord we have done it the whole night and it did not work." He was a fisherman. He should know more than Jesus in the natural. But Jesus knew more than him in the spiritual. And the spiritual always win. Thank God that Peter continued, "But at your word I will do it. I have a reason to believe because You gave the word." And he put the net down and lo and behold there was so much fish that they had to call James and John to help. Their boats were literally sinking out of that catch. Jesus has His reasoning. Peter has his reasoning. But Jesus' reasoning releases the power of God. Man's reasoning based on sense knowledge will cripple you.

Learn to protect yourself from sense knowledge and from natural reasoning. We have to protect ourselves from that and move into the realm of the Spirit and be sensitive to what God says. His spiritual reasoning covers more aspects and laws that man can not see. It would have been just like the three blind men and the elephant. One blind man came and held the elephant by the tail. And he says, "An elephant is like a rope." Is he right? Yes, from his perspective he is right. The second blind man felt the body of the elephant. He says, "You are wrong my friend. An elephant is like a wall." Was he right? He was. And that is the problem with doubt and unbelief. It seems so right. It seems so right only because of the small little frame of reference. If you isolate certain things in its small little frame of reference it would look very reasonable.

And that is not what we are supposed to do. We are supposed to take God's frame of reference. Faith is having God's frame of reference and not man's. When God tells you to do something, your frame of reference is only so much. And you say God I don't comprehend beyond that. I don't understand beyond that. But based on my frame of reference Lord it is not reasonable. Later on when you obey, you found that

it was that frame of reference is that huge and big, and you realize that God was right all along. We have to protect ourselves from limiting God on a small frame of reference. When God tells you go enter into some promised area and do certain things, you say, "Lord I don't understand. My natural reasoning says it can not be done. It should not be done. It is not permissible for human beings to do so." Break down those frames of reference.

The wonderful thing about our God is that if you ask Him He will explain. If you ask Him, "Lord could you please give me more light on this area? Could you please give me more information on this area? First Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew for had they known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. For it is written eyes had not seen nor ear heard nor has entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. That is talking about man from man's frame of reference. That is the way man can understand the things of God's mystery. But God said in verse ten, But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit teaches all things yes the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him. For no one know the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God that we might know the things that has been freely given to us by God.

Do you know what Paul say the Spirit of God is to do? Read very carefully it says in verse twelve. The Spirit is given to us that we might know, that we might understand, that we might comprehend, that we may understand the spiritual reasoning for our belief. There is a natural reasoning but there is a higher spiritual reasoning which is called the wisdom of the Spirit of God.

And the reason the Holy Spirit came is to give us understanding and reasoning from God's frame of reference. And notice that unless you know you will never receive. Unless you know a thing from the way God has spoken from His frame of reference, you can not receive. For it says here in verse twelve, That we may know the things that had been freely given to us by God. That is why the Holy Spirit is given. He has been given to give us revelations. He is to lead and to guide us into all truth.

Verse thirteen these things we also speak not in words which man wisdom teaches. In other words he is not using human reasoning. It is not based on natural knowledge. All human knowledge and reasoning is based on the five senses. It is reasonable as far as the five senses are concerned. But Paul says it is not based on man's wisdom but the words which the Spirit teaches for it compares spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him. Foolishness means unreasonable and incomprehensible. But nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned or spiritually understood. But he who spiritually judges all things yet he himself is judged by no one. For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him but we have the mind of Christ. We have the frame of reference of God. We have the understanding as Christ sees it. To have the mind of Christ is to see things the way Jesus sees.

About thirty to forty years ago when Albert Einstein came forth and said that Newton's law was wrong, everybody thought that he was a mad scientist. But what Newton said was correct based on the earthly realm. See it was correct within a

certain realm. Newton's law declares that all these state of motion there is always a cause and effect. But Albert Einstein put a new dimension and he says there is a dimension where time will affect the speed of motion. The three laws of Newton are correct. They are still correct today until you move out into outer space and then Einstein's law reign. See each law has its perspective. It is correct up to a certain time.

Sometimes it is quite interesting in the fact that like for example when you see an object as a certain color. It is more because all the other colors are blocked out and not just that the colors are coming back. If all the colors that we see shine into our eyes, we see it as white. But if I block out all the other colors except red, you see red merely because all the other colors are blocked out. Not because its just only red signals. Green is a primary color in nature. But if you use the color mixture you will realize that red and blue together makes purple. And you think that green is a compound color. If you mix blue and yellow you get green. To us green is a compound color. A compound color means it is a mixture of other colors. But in science and in natural law green is a natural color. It is with green and two other colors that they make all the T.V. signals and the T.V. pictures.

As we move from one level of education to another we realize that some of the things that we think are a law we realize there is another law running from a different frame of reference. And all the T.V. colors are based on the combination of just three. If I tell you that this light is going on and off all the time, your natural eyes says you are lying. Why because you don't have the scientific apparatus and your natural apparatus can not measure it.

And sometimes when God says something from His Word. Our natural apparatus can not measure it. We say, "Lord it can not be. Your Word must be wrong. By His stripes I am healed. But Lord I still feel the pain of the sickness. So I am right and You are wrong." But your natural apparatus can not measure the healing that is already taking place until it is seen in the natural. Jesus told the fig tree, "From this day no one shall eat fruit from you." It looks like nothing happened. But immediately the roots were drying up. You can't see it yet until the next day the tree had died. See our measurement can not cover certain spiritual realms. And that is why God's reasoning and frame of reference is from the spirit area.

And the Spirit will give wisdom. The Spirit will give his reasoning if we ask. That's the purpose why the Spirit is given to us so that we would have faith in God. And we have an understanding of the things of God and launch out into the things that God has called us to. And in the last days more and more of His people are going to understand the difference between unbelief and doubt and the faith of God. And realize that to live by faith is choosing not to live by man's reasoning. To live by faith free from doubt is to live by God's higher frame of reference. And when you do that you began to realize that doubt and unbelief start going away further and further from your life until you reach a point where you are never in doubt. Where you will never move into unbelief any more. And that's the day great things are going to happen mightily in your life.

16. THREE WAYS TO INCREASE FAITH

This morning we want to look at three ways to increase our faith. Romans 10:8-16 “The word is near you even in your mouth and in your heart,” (that is the word of faith which we preached.) But if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. For the Scriptures says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For “whoever call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things.” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord who have believed our report? So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

As we look into how to increase our faith, we want to remind each one of us here that you may have faith in certain areas of your life but not faith in other areas. And so when we increase our faith it has to be applied area by area. In learning skills in the natural you can not learn all at one time. If you want to be a specialist in something you have to spend more time examining and learning the skill of a particular trade to develop skill in that particular area. So time has to be spent area by area. That is why in the educational system when you reach a certain age and a certain grade, the college or university will ask what subjects you would like to major. The reason is everyone has a limited time to avail himself or herself to study a subject. And we can not try to master all subjects at one time because we will end up mastering none. The only way to master a subject is to take it one by one. After we have mastered one subject we go on to the next subject. That is what you can do. You could go through life and study all you want to know in the science stream. Get a degree in that area and then later specialize in another area.

There are some people who have done that like some of the missionaries in the early days like David Livingstone. He holds about five doctorate degrees. But he does not earn them all at once. It is not possible to put all your time and effort into everything. As it is in the natural so is it in the spiritual. We may have faith for finances, but we may not have faith to believe God to pray for people to be healed. And some have faith to pray for people to be healed. They have developed their faith in healing but they have not developed their faith in finances. Some have faith in certain areas but not have faith in other areas. It does not mean that if you are strong in faith in healing you will automatically be strong in finances. It does not mean that. Some are strong in praise and worship. I have come across full time praise ministers. And as I speak to them they have no faith for their finances. They totally depend on their organization or their managers to supply their needs. They have no idea what it is to exercise faith. And they are so dependent on advertisements and when I checked with them, I realize that they are operating fully in the natural in that area. But when they operate in the area of their ministry they operate with great faith. Sometimes you find someone so strong in faith in a particular area maybe in believing God for miracles. And the next

moment you went out for lunch with him, you find out that guy has no faith for finances.

Normally Christians will assume that if you are strong in one area you will be strong in the other area too. But it is not always so. And the problem is it is not automatic. We have to stretch our muscles in those areas. If you are a good runner it doesn't mean you are a good swimmer. For swimming develops different muscles from running. The runners have especially strong legs or they develop their leg muscles. So it does not mean in the natural that if you are good in one area you will be good in the other areas. And the spiritual life is that way. There are so many aspects in the spiritual life. And it takes faith to operate in the anointing. People who operate in the anointing sometimes don't develop faith in practicing the Word of God in their life or faith in teaching. So people develop faith in one area may not develop faith in another area. Nothing is automatic. It takes an effort to move into those areas. Don't take it for granted that God will take care of that area. Without faith it is impossible to please God. You may developed faith in God for healing but it doesn't mean that you can say God will take care of your finances when you have not develop any faith in God for finances. My friend you have to develop faith in that area too. It's not automatic. Having realized that we need to know the keys to develop faith in all these areas. The same three keys apply.

Rom. 10:17 emphasizes that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. The word "word" comes from the word rhema, which means the spoken Word. Paul is referring more to the spoken Word than to the written Word. In Rom. 10:15-16 he says about the preaching of the gospel, the spoken word. In fact in verse eight look at the part that is in brackets. It says the word of faith, which we preach. It's important to speak the Word. And one of the keys to increasing your faith is by the words that you speak. It's the spoken word. And unless you speak out there will be no growth. The process of speaking the Word is involved in your growing faith. It's a rhema of God's Word.

And Mark 11:23 For assuredly I say to you whoever says to this mountain be removed and be cast into the sea and does not doubt in his heart but believe that those things he says will come to pass, he will have whatever he says. Saying is important to our spiritual growth in our life. And as we have shown there are two aspects of saying. One is the saying to get the Word into us. The other is the saying to decree the Word. But in both counts the Word needs to be released through our lips. There is something released when we speak the Word of God. Rom. 10:17 says faith comes by hearing and hearing is by the spoken word of God. Speaking the words will produce an increase of faith in your life. Both are important. There are two areas of speaking. One is to take the general word that is written in the bible, the written word of God and speak it out loud, whether you personalize it or you read it as it is. I have tried both and they are powerful.

In the early days of my ministry I didn't know that there were cassette tapes available of bible reading. So what I did was that I read part of the bible into tape so that it could hear it for myself. I remember in a house of one of the sisters who have some recording facilities there. I sat in that house and I read the bible onto the tape. I remember I was reading the book of Acts. I read the whole book of Acts onto the cassette tapes and that is twenty-eight chapters. It took me several hours to finish reading the book of Acts into the cassette tapes. But I noticed something took place as

I read that Word. The Word by itself is printed on white paper. There was potential power but it needs to be released. But when I began reading the Word, something happened. I have not even personalized it. I was just reading the Word as it is. I have not changed any part of the Word. Just the mere reading of the Word out loud caused something to happen. I experienced what I call a spiritual sense of taste that I have mentioned about. There was something that took place in my spirit man. It felt like you just had a good meal except it is in the spiritual sense. Faith is only potential in the written Word. It needs to be spoken with our lips and our mouth in order to release the energy that is inherent in the book.

This book the written Word is like many little segments of stored energy. Each verse is like a little stored battery fully charged with electricity. If you buy a battery in the supermarket and you take it home, that battery has energy but you need to know how to bring out that energy in order for it to be useful for you. What you need to do is to put it into the right connection to a toy or an electrical gadget. Yet there must be a proper connection. Sometimes it doesn't work because the connection has gone loose. So you adjust it a little bit so that the contact is being made. So we know the laws to draw out the power that is there. The only way to release that potential energy inherent in the Word is to speak it out. There are too many people going around with batteries that are powerful but the batteries are not being tapped. It just remains as it is. You can't use it as it is. The life inside it needs to be released as a source of energy.

Lets take another example that is far more powerful. There is a tremendous amount of energy that is inherent in each particle and matter. When Albert Einstein came and said E equal to Mc squared, then only scientists realized that energy is inherent in the mass of all atoms. If we could somehow break the atom we would release the energy that is inside the atom. Scientists have discovered that when they could succeed in doing that, the energy that is released became the most powerful weapon man has ever handled. It was far more powerful than any explosive invented in that time. Man realized that they got a tremendous source of power in their hand, the energy that is inherent inside the tiny atom.

Similarly when God gives His Word there is more energy than we realized stored in the Word. But the Word must get to be spoken for the energy force to be released out. Jesus did not say that the mountain would be removed by your thinking. But He says the mountain will be removed by your speaking. The mountain is not going to go unless you speak. No matter how much you think and no matter how much you believe, unless that Word is spoken the energy is not released. The spiritual energy that is stored in the Word is only released when you speak forth the Word. So there is enough of the Word here to give you enough energy, enough power, enough dynamite to cause your life to be prosperous, to cause your life to be abundant, to cause your life to be successful. There is enough energy here to make you a multi-millionaire. There is enough energy here to make you healthy and heal every sickness and disease in the world. There is enough energy here in the written Word of God to make your ministry a tremendous success and help you achieve what God has called you to do.

But the problem is that people are not tapping it. They have forgotten that the key is in their mouth. The key to the kingdom of God is in your mouth. But don't swallow it - give it out. In Matthew 16 the Lord was talking to His disciples. They were on their way to Jerusalem and the Lord turned to them and said, "Who do men say that I am? And they said, "Elijah and one of the prophets etc." Then He turned to them and said,

“Who do you say that I am?” And Peter answered, “Thou art the Christ the Son of the Living God.” And then Jesus blessed him and said, “Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father who is in heaven and I give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” Whatever revelation he had, whatever Word he received in himself it was when he spoke it out that the Lord said the keys of the kingdom are given to him. See the key to releasing the kingdom is in the spoken Word.

In my experience it was just the mere reading of the Word that such energy was released. How much more when you personalized it – it would be fantastic. You could take the Word and personalize it and speak it forth in your life. Today what you are is partly a result of what you have said in the past. Right now in the position that you are in, in secular or in spiritual, you are what you are because of the books you read, partly because of the people you meet and partly because of the words you spoke about yourself.

I have a whole pile of Kenneth Hagin’s Word of Faith magazine from the early days. But there was one copy that was quite precious to me. Inside it was one of his graduation ceremonies. And in his graduation ceremony was all these guys wearing red robes. And he stood up and said these words. “All that I am today is because of the words that I spoke about myself. What have you been speaking about yourself? I am good for nothing. No wonder in five years time you are still good for nothing. What have you been speaking about yourself? Think back; examine your past and remember what you have been saying about your life. What you are today is partly the result of what you spoke.”

There is power in the spoken Word. And that causes a tremendous growth in your faith every time you release it. For more faith to come and pass through you, the energy of God has to pass through you and be released from you. No wonder Jesus said he that is faithful in little would receive more. When you release what you have, you create a vacuum to receive more. The more Word is released the more faith comes in. And your capacity to receive increases with the muscles of faith being stretched. Sometimes when God tells you about something you must do and you have discerned that it is the will of God, you need to speak it out. Even though God said something about your life that you must do, you still need to say it. You still need to say it in private. You still need to say it in public. For saying it involves the process of increasing the capability within you and the faith within you to be stretched to achieve it. That is why I write down on my personal list my objectives and goals that I discern that I should accomplish in this life. I will from time to time open it and read it and say those words. Think about what it will do to you.

Lets suppose that you are starting your own ministry and you don’t have many open doors. And you discerned that God wants you to travel to three countries to be a missionary. Think about what happen everyday as you wake up in the morning. You say, “Father I thank you that I am going to these three countries.” Every morning you confess that. Every night you confess that. The process of the miracle starts happening. If God has called you to build a church, and you have discerned God’s will and you keep on saying to yourself, it builds your faith to do it. Saying it increases your faith to do it. The more you say it the more faith you have to do that thing. Remember this law that we are applying is based on the other laws. You are not supposed to say anything unless you discern it is God’s will. If it is not God’s will for

you to do it no matter how much you say it, it is going to fail. This law is based on the other laws. This law by itself is not functional as it is based on the other laws. However, on the other hand there are some people who say things that God never asked them to do. They are bound for failure. Don't remain in this extreme.

On the other extreme there are those who know what God told them to do. They discerned it very clearly but their mouth has special glue to shut it tightly. They have not told anybody what God wants them to do. And they are around for ten years and nothing seems to happen. And many times they come to God and say, "Lord, you have been speaking to me about all these things. I have been praying. I have been fasting. Why is it this thing is not happening?" Let me tell you why. You are not saying it. Saying it removes the mountain than preparing the circumstances around you. Whether you are heard or not but saying it is important to build your faith. Even though God spoke those things to you and your faith for those things has remained the same after ten years, if you have been saying those things, you move to the midst of it.

There must be a balance. Don't go over to one side and say those things that God has never told you to say. Don't go over to the other side by not saying those things that God told you to say. Be balanced in the middle. When God told you to do something you must constantly say it. Say it in the midst of unbelief and doubt. Say it in the midst of ridicules. When people laugh at you, you still say it. The first person you have to convince is yourself. The second person is your loved ones and the third group of people is the body of Christ. Some people have not even convinced themselves. They look in the mirror and say, "Are you sure you are going to do it? You say, "Brother how can I get rid of this doubt?" The doubt has to be cut off by your words. You have to say it constantly. Saying it increases your faith and capacity to do it. I told people long ago when we were involved in church planting that God is going to help us to build the largest sitting capacity church. I kept saying it. Now I would have a problem if God didn't say it to me. But if God said it to me I would have a problem if I didn't say it out. Some people will say, "Don't say it wait till you finished it then say it." The problem is faith works by saying first and then doing. You must constantly say it otherwise your capacity to do it is not developed.

The first key to grow in faith is to say it. Whether you are saying God's general word and you have to always start from there or you are saying something that God has spoken to you in your life, you have to say it, pronounce it, keep speaking about it. In the midst of doubts and ridicule keep saying it.

The second key is hearing. The words that people say contain unbelief and doubt or life and faith. We know that when people speak certain words, sometimes we can tell whether they are full of deadness, full of hurts or words full of power. Jesus in John 6:63 says, "The words that I speak to you they are life." And the second key to increasing our faith is to always surround yourself so that you have an opportunity to keep hearing the Word. When I say hearing the Word it involves many things. The books you read. If you keep reading books filled with unbelief and surround yourself with such books, when the time comes for you to go you may not be ready. You are partly what you read. So the books you read are important. If you read the right books it inspires you. If you read the wrong book it causes you to sweat and ask, "Can I do it?"

Like we illustrated last week there is pressure involved in hearing the Word repeatedly. If like the disciples of Jesus one of them comes and says, "He is risen." And you say, "No I don't believe that." The second disciple comes and said, "He is risen." You say, "I don't believe." There are two witnesses now. And the third and fourth person come and say, "He is risen we saw Him." The pressure is placed on you to believe. The opposite is true. If God wants you to do something and you constantly surround yourself with the wrong group of people and they come to you and say, "No you can never do it. Brother so and so did that and he died." And you keep on mixing up with those people you will have very little faith to do it. It eats up your faith. That unbelief and negative speaking have canceled out all the faith you have developed in your private devotional life. And you know canceling is not enough. You got to earn and move beyond that. Earning money just to pay off debts still leaves you at zero. You have to earn more than enough then you can start going into the plus. And all the faith you get is only to get rid of the unbelief that you are hearing. And in the end when it comes to balance book on faith you still have zero. And people are what they are partly because of what they read. People are what they are because of the friends they mix with. The bible tells us in the book of Psalms chapter one how important it is to mix with the right people. Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly. Are you walking in the counsel of the ungodly? Nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of the scornful but his delight is in the law of the Lord. The bible advises us it is important where you walk where you stand, where you sit. Its important how much time you spend in fellowship.

David Cho Yonggi, pastor of the world's largest church makes this observation in one of his church growth tapes. He said he noticed when he goes to a pastors' conference that all those unsuccessful pastors would gather together and share the same problem why they failed. But there are other types of pastors who gather together. These are those who got vision and those who really want to do something and they seem to click together. And they talk about the same thing. Talk about the things of the Lord. So in the end you got the failure club and the vision club. And after five years you look around at those ministers, failures breed failures. The failures talked the same talk, sat the same seat. The successful walked the same walk, talked the same talk, saw the same vision. And part of how we talk and walk is influenced by our fellowship.

So we know the power that is involved in fellowship. And for some people if they got bad habits I would encourage them to keep themselves surrounded with good people until their lifestyles become a part of them. And there are some areas of your life you know that you have to remove off before God could do more things in your life. You know those are bad habits and you try to break it personally. You find it difficult. Mix with the right crowd. It adds a greater motivation to conform to the things of God. Keep yourself in the right fellowship. And as you keep mixing before long after two years you look and say I don't like those things anymore. Those weaknesses are gone by themselves. What happened was that style of life took some time to sink into you. By the time all these friends have been with you for two years and you look at yourself you realize that it has become your habit to walk the right walk, to talk the right talk, to live the right life.

So under hearing the Word a lot of things are involved, for example your reading life and your fellowship life. As you fellowship you talk. All of us talk when we

fellowship. What I do when I go into a fellowship that talk the wrong talk I close my spirit up. I find that if the conversation drifts to negative things, to things that don't build my faith, inside me I have a trap door. I close it. I lock it. But my spirit is shut up when people say things that eat up faith. I learned to protect and guard my faith because I know its faith that helps us to do things. So I shut up my spirit, I close up my spirit. I learned that from Evan Roberts. There is a very old book by Howard Duncan about Evan Roberts. When Evan Roberts was on the street, this author said he saw all these people ridiculing him and saying all kinds of nasty things. And he just walked very calmly, sat down and continued on. And he was so amazed he said, "How did you do it?" Evan Roberts said he just closed his spirit.

Let me illustrate where people are doing it without realizing it. When I lay hands on my brother, I could sense whether he is opening up his spirit to me or not. Don't talk about laying of hand. How about just teaching people? Do you realize you could sense whether people are opened to you or not. So if our spirit can be closed, it is closed by a choice. They can be around you but you choose not to accept them. Do you notice that you can sit here this morning and you choose not to believe anything? The moment you make the choice you close your spirit. So you could sit in any place and in any kind of atmosphere and you make a choice not to accept any thing in that place. Straight away a mechanism in your spirit closes up. This is operating partly in the natural all the time. There is a natural opening and closing. There is a spiritual opening and closing. Both are related and both are taking place.

Lets take for example a couple. They are at the lower income group just making ends meet. So the husband and wife and their child come together and they said, "We can live in a better flat than this squatter area. We can believe God will supply our needs." And so they set their minds to the possibility to believe that God can prosper them and bless them and provide them a better living condition in a better flat. The moment they said, "Yes it is possible," the moment everything in their system say, "Yes its possible," their minds begin to find ways to make it possible. The moment the decision is made immediately the mind began to move to the ways. "How shall I do it? Shall I look for a job with a better pay? Shall I be stricter in my budgeting and save more to enable me to move into that?" You begin to examine your resources and how you can reach there. The moment you say its possible, your mind begins to find ways to bring it to pass. The moment you say I can't do it, your mind shuts up. Your mind has a funny way of staking the odds against you. Your mind is just like a computer. If you want all the negative things, you click in and the mind will list out all the negative things. If you believe in the possibility, you punch in it will list out all the possibilities. So its important for us to know that fellowship plays a role in all these areas.

And we must learn how to open our spirit to the things of God. So there are some situations where we guard the input into our lives. Sometimes people say things that are against us. We just close our spirit. People are going against the things of the spirit all the time. You could speak with them for one hour and it doesn't get in. But another person comes in and within five minutes received everything the Lord wants for them. So it is happening all the time. So the second way to increase our faith is to watch what we hear. Watch what you hear involves what you read and involves the people you fellowship with. There is something that you see clearly from God. And you follow along sooner or later there will be enough people flowing in the same stream. I

know churches that have grown big but they change their policy based on consensus instead of basing it on God. Then they start losing their anointing.

The third and last area is Luke 17. How to increase our faith, number one on speaking, number two hearing and number three acting. Luke 17:5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith." He illustrated the answer in verse nine and ten, "Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, "We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do." That was Jesus' answer. Jesus was saying in His parable to them that increasing their faith would involve acting. Some people say, "God called me to be prosperous and to be a Christian entrepreneur in the world to bring in the prosperity into the body of Christ." But they are not even giving at the moment. They will never reach that level because now you got to start acting and learning to give into the body of Christ before you reach there. So its important for us to realize that if you talk about having faith to go and spoil the world and bring in all the riches of the world that you may bring it to the body of Christ. But right now you are not even bringing it to the body of Christ as you are. It is tested by your action right now. You are saying it all the time and you are fellowshiping with all the right people but you are not acting at all. Acting is involved in our faith. How can you have faith to give millions of dollars away when you can not even give hundred dollars or hundred thousand dollars away? It takes faith to give. And you are talking about bringing the riches into the kingdom of God so that you could give. You want to be come a billionaire so that you could give billion of dollars. You are talking about giving billion of dollars away when you don't even have faith to give a hundred thousand. Do it now. Show it in your action. Do whatever you can do at your level of faith and that will be part of the process of growing in faith.

You talk about the ministry of praying for the sick. What are you doing now? Right now whatever opportunity you have, you should be learning to minister. You talk about ministering to thousands. Right now what are you doing? In the house group are you ministering? We learn to operate the gifts of the Holy Spirit in home groups. In the early days of my ministry not many doors were opened. I used to preach from home to home. And it is in those homes that I learnt to operate the word of knowledge and the revelations of God. I don't wait for the big meetings to come and then say now it is time. Act right now whether you are in the ministry or whether you are in finance start right now where you are or you will never grow. Acting on the word, acting on faith is part of the process of increasing faith. We will never increase in the area of faith unless we start acting in that area right now.