



**FIVE
ELEMENTS
OF**

FAITH

KEITH A. BUTLER

Five Elements of Faith

Keith A. Butler



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INTRODUCTION

Faith has five elements that we must understand and do to live successful Christian lives. The *first* element of faith is hearing the Word of God. The *second* one is receiving the Word of God, and *third* one is believing it. The *fourth* element of faith is speaking God's Word, and the *fifth* one is acting on it.

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Romans 10:8-10 tells us: “*But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*”

These verses from *Romans chapter ten* include two words that you repeatedly see throughout Scripture connected with faith – *heart and mouth*. Let’s dig into the Word and see how to use our hearts and mouths to understand and do the five elements of faith.



Chapter One

WHAT IS FAITH?

We should look to the New Testament to answer the question, “*What do you mean by faith?*” The New Testament is translated from the Greek language, and *pistis* is the Greek word for *faith*. *Pistis* means *persuasion, conviction, and assurance*. So, when we refer to faith in this teaching and context, we are not talking about some organization to which a person may

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belong. We're not discussing Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal, or any other earthly organization. **When we talk about biblical faith, we are referring to what is in you: your persuasion, your conviction, and your assurance.**

There are several reasons why operating in faith matters. ***Hebrews 11:6* gives us the first reason why faith is important – it pleases God:** “*But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]...*” Remember that *faith* means *to be persuaded; it is your conviction and assurance*. When the Bible talks about faith, it references God and His written Word. You can't separate God from His Word. The Word is God, and God is the Word.

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They are one. God is eternal, and so is His Word as Jesus taught in *Matthew 5:18*: “*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.*” You can’t separate God from His Word.

The Greek word that is translated *please* in *Hebrews 11:6* means *to gratify God entirely*. In other words, God is not pleased or gratified without faith; “*...for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him*” (*Hebrews 11:6*). Did you notice the word *must*? There is no equivocation about what God Requires. If you are going to come to God, you can only

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do it by faith. We must believe that God is everything that He said He is. He is your Father, Mother, Sister, or Brother. He is your Provider, Banker, and Protector. God is whatever you need in life; He is God Almighty. He is all-powerful, and He wants to be your everything.

Hebrews 11:6 goes on to say that when you approach God with faith, believing He is everything you need, He will reward you! When you go after God, everyone will see how God rewards you.

God is only gratified when you walk in faith toward Him – not when you doubt Him. If you are a parent, like I am, you probably understand how our faith grati-

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fies our heavenly Father. I have three kids and seven grandkids, and I am pleased when I tell them something, and they don't have any doubt about it. If Papa said it, that's the way it is. We should have the same attitude about what God has said.

The second reason faith is important is because it is the victory! The Apostle John – the Apostle of Love – presented this truth in his first Epistle.

1 John 5:4

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

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The definition of *victory* in this verse is *our means of success by which we conquer the world*. The last three words of the verse, *even our faith*, could be read, *even our pistis – confidence, assurance, conviction, and persuasion* – regardless of who you are, where you live, or where you come from.

If you have faith in God and His Word, you can overcome anything you are dealing with in the world's system of doing things. If you've got God's Word, you've got God, and if you've got God, you've got His Word. Paul expressed the power of God and His Word in *Romans 1:16*: "*For I am not ashamed of the gospel [good news or good report] of Christ [the Anointed One and*

What is Faith?

His Anointing]: *for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*” The word that is translated *power* is *dunamis* in the original Greek text. It means *miraculous power and miraculous ability*.

The Gospel, the good news about Jesus in the Word, is the power of God, unto salvation. *Salvation* is *soteria* in Greek. It means *it is for rescue, safety, deliverance, and health*.

The Word of God has supernatural ability for anyone, anywhere. Paul mentioned the Jew and the Greek, but those two groups represented the entire world in his day from

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his perspective. **In other words, the Gospel has supernatural ability to rescue, keep you safe, deliver you, and heal you regardless of your nationality, family lineage, or skin color.**

The third reason faith is important is because it's how believers are to live as explained in *Hebrews 10:38*: “*Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*” Who are the just? The word *just* means *those that are innocent and have been declared righteous*. *Second Corinthians chapter five* tell us that if you are born-again, you became the just when you prayed to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. It reads:

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“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). Just a few verses earlier, Paul noted that something supernatural happens when someone is born-again.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

What happened when you were born-again? You heard the Word about Jesus, and you applied faith to it according to *Romans 10:8-10* as noted earlier. When you applied faith to what you heard, power was

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released, and you were recreated into a new man or woman who was made righteous in God's eyes. **You are not an old sinner saved by grace. You were an old sinner, but now, you are saved, healed, delivered, and set free because of God's grace.**

Hebrews 10:38 says "Now the just shall live by faith..." In other words, faith is for a lifetime. Pistis – persuasion, conviction, and assurance about God's Word is how we live as believers. We shouldn't draw back from living by faith; we should press in. *Hebrews 10:38* confirms *Hebrews 11:6*. Without faith, you cannot please God, and He takes no pleasure in those who draw back. Instead, God derives

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pleasure when you operate in faith toward Him. Walking by faith is not intended to be a get-rich-quick scheme. It is not supposed to be merely an emergency measure that you pull out when things suddenly go wrong. No! **God wants us to live the life of faith. It should be something we do day in and day out, year in and year out.** This is how we roll. It's just what we do. We live by faith. Now, let's talk about how faith is acquired.



Chapter Two

HEARING & RECEIVING

Hearing the Word once a week is not sufficient. Constant, repetitive hearing of God's Word brings faith. *Romans 10:17* says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Pistis – persuasion, assurance, and confidence – comes by the first element of faith, which is consistently hearing the Word of God.

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Faith Comes by Repetitively Hearing

Faith in God comes by hearing, but so does faith in everything else.

You will develop faith from whatever you consistently and repetitively hear. If you hear something repeatedly in the media, you will eventually have faith in that, and you will order your life by it. When you went to school, your teachers used the same process to help you learn. They repeated the same thing over weeks, months, or sometimes years, and you ordered your life by what they told you.

Do you remember what *Romans 1:16* says? It tells us that the Word you hear is “*the power of God unto salvation.*” The Word is your res-

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cue, safety, deliverance, and health. There are two ways to put yourself in a position to hear the Word continually. The ***first*** is to listen to preaching or teaching consistently. The ***second*** is to listen to singing of the Word. Notice that I didn't say singing about the Word. **I'm talking about putting verses to a melody and singing the Scripture exactly as it was written.**

The primary way to receive the Word is described in the book of Romans.

Romans 10:14-15

How then shall they call
on him in whom they have
not believed? and how

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shall they believe in him
of whom they have not
heard? and how shall they
hear without a preacher?
And how shall they preach,
except they be sent? as
it is written, How beau-
tiful are the feet of them
that preach the gospel
of peace, and bring glad
tidings of good things!

Hearing the Word preached or
taught and singing the Word repet-
itively brings faith. But you have
to put yourself where you can hear
it. That is why going to church is
important.

Scripture tells us that the closer
we get to the end of days and the

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coming of the Lord, the more we should assemble as the body of Christ.

Hebrews 10:25

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Yes, things will get difficult in these last days, but when we walk and live by faith, it won't affect us.

Do What Seems To Be Impossible by Meditating the Word

You can handle more than you ever thought possible when you meditate the Word. Consider Joshua, for

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example. How would you like to come behind Moses as the nation's leader? The people of Israel were accustomed to Moses. He was the one who led them out of Egyptian bondage. He called down the plagues. God followed them around as a cloud and a pillar of fire under Moses' leadership. The supernatural was natural with him. When Moses died, two to three million people were looking to Joshua and thinking, "*What are you going to do now that Moses is gone?*" When we read what God said to Joshua, we can tell that he was full of fear.

Joshua 1:6-9

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an

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inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper withersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make

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thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

God told Joshua to be strong and of good courage three times in three verses. Evidently, Joshua was greatly concerned. He was thinking, *“How can I do this job? How can I follow Moses? How can I walk in his shoes?”* God knew what was on his mind and He answered those questions in verse eight: *“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou*

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shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein.”

The word *meditate* in the Old Testament means *to murmur, mutter, speak, talk, utter, and imagine*. **In other words, God told Joshua, “You shall speak, you shall talk, and you shall imagine the Word day and night.”**

Note how often God told Joshua to speak, talk, and think about the Word. In other words, God told Joshua, “You’ve got a huge job in front of you; this job is massive. You can’t just do this in the morning. You need to do this throughout the day – in the afternoon, in

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the early evening, and at night. If you're awake, you need to be thinking about and speaking the Word because you are going to need faith power to carry out this massive authority and assignment that I have given you."

There are important benefits found in *Joshua 1:8*. **First**, meditation of the Word brings revelation, and when you get revelation, you get understanding. **Second**, understanding opens the door to prosperity. **Third**, you will be successful. **Take note of what God didn't say.** He didn't say, "*I will make you prosperous.*" He said, "*You will make your way prosperous.*" The word *prosper* in Hebrew means *to push forward, to break out*. *Joshua*

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and the people of Israel had been in the wilderness for 40 years. It was time for them to break out. They had to cross the Jordan River and go into the Promised Land. So, God said, *“If you do this, if you meditate the Word day and night, if you say it with your mouth, and if you mutter it and then imagine it coming to pass, you will break out. You will have good success.”*

To have *good success* means you *will be intelligent in what you do.* *“You will be instructed on what to do. You will have an understanding of what you do. You will have wisdom and guidance from Me,”* saith the Lord. So, the second way you put yourself in a constant position to develop faith is by meditating

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on the Word. Take the Word and speak it. Meditate it. Talk about it to yourself over and over and over again.

The Bible, God's Word, was intended to be read aloud, especially to yourself. Notice what the Psalmist said about meditation of the Word in the first Psalm.

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and

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night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Let's consider what *Psalms 1:1-3* says. *Blessed* means *happy, to be envied*. So, the person who meditates on God's Word has good things happening to him. His wisdom doesn't stand in the way of sinners. It doesn't stand with those who don't want to go with God. He doesn't say I don't believe the Word. The blessed, happy, fortunate, and enviable person is the one who delights in God's Word, speaks it, and studies it day and night. He is

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deeply rooted in the Word of God, and he is fruitful in his time. He won't miss the window of opportunity when it comes his way. He will not fade away. He will always stay strong. He will have wisdom and understanding. Whatever he does will work. Like Joshua, when you meditate the Word day and night, you will accomplish amazing things.

Hearing and Receiving

When we talk about faith, it's important to put yourself in a constant position to hear it from preaching, teaching, or singing of the Word. You also must meditate the Word day and night. By doing those things, you can achieve the

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first element of faith – hearing the Word.

The second element is to receive it. Everyone who hears the Word doesn't receive it. You can choose to hear it, but then reject it. To receive the Word means that you accept it as being legitimate. It means you are open to listening further.

In *Mark chapter four*, Jesus taught the parable of the sower sows the Word. A parable is a short story intended to illustrate a point. Jesus told us that this was the most important parable. *“And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables” (Mark 4:13)?* In other

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words, if you can't discern this one, then you won't have the keys to all of the rest of them.

What is this key parable? It is about sowing (or placing) the Word of God into the ground of your human spirit. We've just discussed three ways to do it – by hearing it preached, taught, and sung and by meditating (muttering, speaking, thinking about) the Word day and night. The parable of the sower sows the Word reveals how vital the second element of faith is because everyone who hears the Word doesn't receive it the same way. *“And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away*

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the word that was sown in their hearts” (Mark 4:15).

In Jesus’ example, the farmer sowing the seed intended for it to take root in the ground and bring a great harvest. But this particular seed, instead of being planted into the ground where it could produce, was merely thrown on the side of the road. Notice that Jesus didn’t indicate how Satan took the seed. He didn’t say if Satan used affliction, persecution, the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, or the lusts of other things in this instance, as He did later in the parable. The seed sown by the way side depicts the person who, when they heard the Word, said, “*No. No. I don’t accept it.*” Satan didn’t have

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to do a thing besides simply take it and walk away with it.

The first element of faith is hearing. The second is receiving. To live and walk by faith, we need to not only hear the Word, but we must also receive it. Now, let's look at the third and fourth elements of faith.



Chapter Three

BELIEVING & SPEAKING

The third element of faith is believing, and it is clearly described in *Mark 9:23*: “*Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*” The word *believe* means *to commit, to trust*. Jesus said all things are possible. What does all mean? It means *everything*. What is left after all? *Nothing*. Another way to read *Mark 9:23* is this: “*Ev-*

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everything can happen to them that commit their trust.” All things are possible if you commit your trust to God and what God has said.

Believing is of the Heart

Believing is something you do with the heart. Earlier, we looked at *Romans 10:9*: “*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*” Man believes unto righteousness with the heart. **Believing is a decision.** You make a decision to believe the Word with your heart. You hear it, open yourself up to receive it, and then you decide, “*I believe with all my heart what I have heard. I commit to trust God’s Word.*”

Believing & Speaking

The elements of faith that we have discussed so far are:

1. Hearing the Word
2. Receiving the Word
3. Believing the Word

You Will Have What You Say

Now we've come to the fourth element of faith: speaking the Word. *Mark 11:22-23*, a famous passage, reads: *“And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”*

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Reread *Mark 11:22* and substitute the definition of faith that I gave you in chapter one: “*Have trust, have confidence, have belief, be assured in God.*” The words *say* or *speak* in *Mark 11:22-23* mean *to command, to call, or to answer.*

There may be mountains in your life. But if you have heard the Word on the issue, and you’ve decided to receive the Word on it, and you’ve decided to believe what God’s Word said about it, now you must choose to agree with God out of your mouth and say what His Word says. Begin to say, “*I command this to be so. God’s Word says this, and this is who I am. This is what I say.*” **The fourth element of faith is powerful and will produce.**



Chapter Four

ACTING

Let's review the elements of faith we've discussed so far: (1) Hearing the Word; (2) Receiving the Word; (3) Believing the Word; and (4) Speaking the Word. The fifth and final element of faith is described in *James 1:22-24*: "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto*

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a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.”

The fifth element of faith is acting on the Word. The word *act* means *to do*. It also means *to move forward*. You can have the other four elements of faith working in your life, but most people stumble on number five. They might hear the Word. They might receive it. They might believe it. They may even talk the talk, but they won't act like it is really true, and that is what is required. **You've got to do all five elements – hearing, receiving, believing, speaking, and acting.**

An Illustration of the Five Elements of Faith

The *fifth chapter of Mark* gives us an excellent example of the five elements of faith in the account of the woman who had an issue of blood. Let's break it down piece by piece and see how she implemented the five elements of faith.

The account begins in *Mark 5:25*: “*And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years.*” Anytime you see the word *certain* in Scripture, it means it is not a parable. This was not a fictional character; this was a real woman who had constant bleeding or hemorrhaging for 12 years. The next verse tells us that she was not only sick; she was also broke

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and that she got worse even after she went to the doctors. *“And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse” (Mark 5:26).*

The next verse introduces the first element of faith: *“When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment” (Mark 5:27).* Faith came by hearing. Someone told her that Jesus was the Messiah and that He was in town. This was something her life was based on, something she had heard in the synagogue all her life when they read from the Prophet Malachi.

In *Malachi chapter 4*, we read that the Jews believed when the Messi-

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ah came, He would have healing in His wings: *“But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall”* (Malachi 4:2).

When you see the word *wings*, don't think of wings like those on a bird. The Hebrew word here is *kanaph*; it means *the edge of a garment or skirt*. In other words, this woman heard all her life that when the Messiah came, there would be healing in the border of His skirt. So, when someone told her about Jesus, and she heard the Word, she then decided to receive what she had heard.

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Once she heard and received the Word, what did she do next? She believed it and spoke it: *“For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole” (Mark 5:28)*. In the Greek text, it indicates that she said the words repeatedly. She repeatedly said, *“The moment I touch the border of His garment, I will be whole. The moment I touch the border of His garment, I will be whole.”*

I know she said she would be whole because that is what Jesus said to her. She said it again and again. **The more she said it, the more faith came. The more she said it, it moved her feet. The more she said it, she got up with her frail body. The more**

she said it, even though there was a tremendous crowd with many desperate people, she pressed in.

If you've ever been around a large group of desperate people, you know that they jostle, fight, push, and do all kinds of things. **What did this woman, who was physically weak due to 12 years of bleeding, do? She fought her way through.**

Remember, she was not well or strong, but she was determined because she had been saying it again and again. "*When I touch the border of His garment, I will be whole.*" Notice what happened. She did exactly as she had said.

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She touched the hem of His clothes
“*and straightway the fountain of
her blood was dried up; and she felt
in her body that she was healed of
that plague. And Jesus, immediate-
ly knowing in himself that virtue
had gone out of him, turned him
about in the press, and said, Who
touched my clothes*” (Mark 5:29-
30)?

The word *virtue* is *dunamis* in Greek. It means that *miraculous power, or healing power* had gone out of Jesus. He knew someone had touched His clothes. Touching Jesus' clothes was not the only way that people received healing from Him. However, this woman received by touching the hem of His garment because she believed

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what she had heard; that is what she received; that is what she said, and that is what she did. She acted on what she heard, received, believed, and spoke.

Notice what the disciples said:
“And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me” (Mark 5:31)? In other words, “What do you mean who touched you? You are surrounded by people. They’re all trying to touch you!”

Mark 5:32-34

And he [Jesus] looked round about to see her that had done this thing. But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what

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was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.

The woman told Jesus her entire testimony. Jesus said that her faith, her trust, her assurance, her being reliant upon Jesus made her whole. Note the term *whole*. She had not only been physically sick, but she was also broke. When Jesus told her to go in peace, He said, “*Shalom*,” which means *nothing missing, nothing broken*. She was restored physically and financially.

Acting

We see all five elements of faith in this account. The woman heard. She received. She believed. She spoke, and she acted, causing the power of God to be released.



Chapter Five

SATAN'S PLAN TO TRY TO STOP YOU

Satan knows everything I'm sharing in this teaching. Therefore, I want to give you some insight into the devil's plan to try to stop you from living by faith and from having the miracles of *Mark 9:23 – all things are possible to him that believeth*. Satan has a plan of attack, and you need to understand what it is. Jesus knew that you would need to know it, so we're go-

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ing to look at that now. Remember that *Romans 10:17* tells us that faith comes by hearing. **It doesn't say that faith comes through tests and trials. The purpose for tests and trials is not for building faith. Tests and trials are for the purpose of destroying faith.** So, let's go back to the parable of all parables and learn how Satan tries to stop you.

Mark 4:13-15

And he said unto them,
Know ye not this parable?
and how then will ye know
all parables? The sower
soweth the word. And
these are they by the way
side, where the word is
sown; but when they have

Satan's Plan to Try to Stop You

heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

The subject of this parable is the Word of God, its ability to produce, and Satan's attempts to stop its miracle-working power. We discussed the seed that was sown on the way side in chapter two. These are people who hear the Word, but they don't receive it. Satan can simply walk in and take it; it's all over for those people because they didn't receive the Word. The next verses introduce another kind of person.

Mark 4:16-17

And these are they like-

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wise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

The *earth* here refers to *the ground of the human heart*. So, these are people who hear the Word preached, taught, or sung, and they immediately shout, “*Oh! That Word is good!*” But they are not like the man described in the first *Psalms*. They don't meditate on the Word day and night, and therefore,

Satan's Plan to Try to Stop You

they do not have deep roots. When affliction (*pressure brought against them through negative circumstances*) or persecution (*negative situations that come through people influenced by Satan*) comes against them, they don't last long.

Note why Jesus said affliction and persecution come – for the Word's sake. In other words, Satan will come to you immediately after you get the Word and try to hit you with affliction and persecution.

In the parable, those whose hearts were stony ground were offended by the affliction and persecution. The word *offended* is *skandalizo* in the Greek. It means that *they were tempted to stumble, trip, and fall away*. The purpose of affliction and

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persecution is to get you to back away from the Word of God. Satan wants you offended so that you ask, “*Why did God let this happen to me?*” Do you see that purpose for tests and trials is not to build faith? Tests and trials come to try to destroy faith. Jesus continued His parable with another kind of heart that hears the Word.

Mark 4:18-19

And these are they which
are sown among thorns;
such as hear the word,
And the cares of this world,
and the deceitfulness of
riches, and the lusts of oth-
er things entering in, choke
the word, and it becometh
unfruitful.

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This time, the seed wound up in the thorns. These people heard the Word. Every one in this parable heard the Word, so faith was available to them all. However, what they did with the Word they heard is what really mattered.

The word *cares* in *Mark 4:19* is *merimna* in the Greek. It means *a distraction*. If Satan can't stop you with affliction or persecution, he will try to distract you. He will attempt to get your focus on something other than God's Word. It could be race; it could be money; it could be something as mundane as sports. It could be any number of things that take up your time and your focus.

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Another one of Satan's distraction, which is the fourth method, is the deceitfulness of riches. Note that Jesus didn't say that riches were a problem; *being deceived by them is*. *First Timothy 6:10* tells us that "*the love of money is the root of all evil.*" It doesn't say money is the root of all evil; it says the **love** of it is. You can commit that sin and not have a dime, a denarius, or a ruble in your pocket.

People whose hearts are thorny ground often have their complete focus on money. They think, "*If I just get the money, everything will be all right.*" If you live long enough, as I have, you will know that you can get the money, but it can make everything worse. These

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people are not good ground because they chose to put most or all of their focus on things and little or no focus on the Word of God.

The fifth distraction that Satan uses to try to stop you is the lust of other things. *Lust* means an *inordinate, strong desire for*. Lust says, “*I just have to have this. I just got to have that.*” Anything that you give more time to than the Word of God and time with God can become something that is a lust – something your flesh strongly desires.

The fourth type of heart that receives the Word is the only one that produces lasting fruit. “*And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the*

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word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some an hundred” (Mark 4:20). Why do some bring forth thirty, others sixty and others a hundredfold? Because people act on the Word at various levels. They hear, receive, believe, speak, and act on the Word differently. Some do it with all of their might and all of their focus. They do the five elements of faith day and night; others do them sometimes.

The extent to which you act on the Word of God and do the five elements of faith determines how much production you receive. You can be a thirtyfold Christian. In other words, you can have one-third production. You can be a

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sixtyfold Christian with two-thirds production of the capability of the Word. Or, you can have a hundred-fold production – 10,000% production. It works and affects every part of your life.

Now, notice what Jesus said at the end of this essential parable. *“If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given”* (Mark 4:23-24).

Take heed means *be aware; pay attention!* Why? Because faith comes by hearing. **Remember, it's not just faith in God's Word that comes from hearing the Word,**

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but faith in other things comes from hearing about those other things as well. As I mentioned earlier, you will develop faith for whatever you hear repeatedly. If you continue hearing things that are contrary to the Word of God, you will develop faith in that, and you will come to the place where you hear, receive, believe, speak, and act on something that is totally opposite God and everything God stands for.

So, Jesus said, *“Beware what you hear and to what degree you estimate what you hear.”* Whatever degree you do that, it will be measured unto you. If you hear the Word with the attitude that, *“God said it. I believe it. That settles*

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it, and there is no more argument about it," then you've measured it well, and you will get good results. Jesus said that more would be given. That's the way it is with God. Whatever you give God, you receive back good measure, pressed down, running over in all kinds of realms.

The more revelation of the Word that you receive yields even more revelation. Understanding gives you more understanding. Wisdom gives you more wisdom. All of that will bring maturity to you. You will grow up in God, and your roots will grow deeper and deeper and deeper and deeper, depending on how you choose to hear and do the Word of God.

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Jesus then reminded us about the first group in the parable – the way side hearers. *“For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath”* (Mark 4:25).

The way side hearers heard the Word, but they didn't decide to receive it, and they lost it right away. Unlike the way side hearers, you can decide that when you hear the Word, and faith comes, (and it always comes) that you will accept it. That is how you got born-again. You heard the Word about Jesus. You decided, *“This is plausible.”* You made a decision to believe what you heard about Jesus. Then you confessed Jesus as the highest

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authority. You said, "*He is Lord.*" And you acted on it. Guess what happened? Supernatural power was released. God's power recreated you, and you became a new creation in Christ. And guess what has been happening to you? As you hear more of the Word, and as you walk more with God, you receive more and more of the things of God.

Finally, look at what Jesus said about how the kingdom of God works.

Mark 4:26-27

And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and

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the seed should spring and
grow up, he knoweth not
how.

Once again, the seed is the Word of God. It works like a natural seed that a farmer plants. If he plants a seed on Monday, for example, he doesn't go to the field on Tuesday and say, "*Nothing happened, so it must not be any good.*" Or, "*It must not work.*" No! The farmer plants the seed in the ground, and he goes to bed, and he gets up; he goes to bed, and he gets up. Patience is required. *Hebrews 6:12* tells us to be followers of those "*who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*" The word *patience* means *cheerful endurance*. You keep your joy even though you're

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going through tests and trials, and Satan is trying to knock you out. Instead of getting down about it, you decide to rejoice because you believe: *“It doesn't matter what is happening now. I know what the end result will be. It will be the result of victory. My faith produces victory. This is the victory that overcomes the world – my faith.”*

Notice that Jesus said that you don't have to know how. You may wonder, *“How in the world is God going to get this done?”* That is none of your business. Your business is to believe. His business is to produce the miracle. Stop trying to produce it yourself.

Jesus ended this teaching with what I call the law of progression.

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“For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come” (Mark 4:28-29.)

The progression is first, then, after. The earth is your human spirit. That’s where the Word of God goes. It goes down into the real you, your human spirit. Give it time. Jesus said, like that farmer, you go to bed and get up, and you go to bed and get up, and go to bed and get up. I always add, *“and praise God.”* But you go to bed and get up, and you will come to the place in time that the production will happen. You may not even understand how in

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the world it happened, but it will be there over time. The harvest will come. That is the bottom line of the Word. The harvest is thirtyfold, sixtyfold, and hundredfold production.

So, we walk by faith and not by sight. We walk by the Word, not by our senses. We walk by the Word, not by what the media says. When you walk with God, you have victory and blessings.



Chapter Six

THE FAITH WAY

Hebrews 10:38 says, “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” The word *now* in the Greek text also means, *but*. So, we can read the first part of Hebrews 10:38 this way: “*But the just shall live by faith...*” The just are those who have been declared righteous.” *Second Corinthians 5:21* says “*He (that is Jesus) who*

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knew no sin was made to be sin for us that we might be made (manufactured as) the righteousness of God in Him.” So, we could say, *“Those who have been made innocent or righteous shall live by faith.”* The term *live by faith* means a *lifetime*. Faith is not a get-rich-quick scheme. It is not something you just pull out in an emergency. **The Word says that faith is a lifetime.**

Living by Faith is not Optional

As I mentioned earlier, the Greek word for *faith* is *pistis*. It means *to be persuaded and to have trust and assurance*. Therefore, *Hebrews 10:38* means those who have been made innocent and righteous shall live by their persuasion, their trust,

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and their assurance in God. Living by faith is not optional. Note what last part of *Hebrews 10:38* says: “... *but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*” God requires that we operate by faith. John made a statement that is extremely categorical regarding faith. In his first epistle, he wrote: “*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God*” (1 John 5:4-5)?

The word *overcometh* means *conquers the world and its system*. The word *victory* is *the means of success by which we conquer the world*.

One of the Most Important Verses in the Bible

Romans 1:16 is one of the most important verses in the Bible. It reads: “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*” The word *power* is *dunamis* in Greek. *Dunamis*, in this verse, means:

- The Gospel is the force of God.
- The Gospel is the strength of God.
- The Gospel is the ability of God.
- The Gospel is the miracle-working power of God unto salvation.

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Salvation is the word *soteria* in Greek. It means:

- Rescue
- Safety
- Deliverance
- Healing

So, let's read *Romans 1:16* accordingly: "*The Word of God is the supernatural ability of God unto our healing, unto our deliverance, unto our safety, unto our rescue – to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*" The Word of God is His manifest power for whatever you need. Let me repeat: *The Word of God is God's manifest power for whatever you need.* The Word of God is the truth of God, as *John 17:17* tells us: "*Thy Word is truth.*"



Chapter Seven

FAITH & THE WORD

Romans chapter ten is a pivotal chapter about faith. We've already discussed some verses from *Romans chapter ten*, but let's take a moment and read them in context.

Romans 10:8-17

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart:

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that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Faith & the Word

For whosoever shall 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, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who

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hath believed our report?
So then faith cometh by
hearing, and hearing by the
word of God.

Remember that the Word of God is the power of God for our rescue, our healing, our safety, and our deliverance. Also, the English word *faith* is the Greek word *pistis* and it means *our persuasion, our trust, and our reliance on God*. The English word for *word* in *Romans 10:17* is *rhema* in the Greek. It means *the spoken Word*. Faith comes by hearing. If the Word is present, then faith is present.

Therefore, faith and the Word of God are synonymous. **When the Word of God is present, faith is**

available. As you read Scripture, you can read those words interchangeably.

Decades ago, I heard a preacher use a good illustration of the relationship between the Word and faith. He said, “*You can’t order a glass of water and ask them to shave off the wet.*” In other words, water is always wet. When you get the water, you get the wet. Similarly, **when you have faith, it’s because you have the Word; they are interconnected, inseparable, and synonymous.** *Mark 9:23* reminds us: “*...all things are possible to him that believeth.*” So, whatever you are faced with can be handled for you supernaturally if you can believe.

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I like what the Word says in *2 Corinthians 5:7*: “*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*” Since faith and the Word can be used interchangeably, and since sight is one of our five senses, we could say, we walk by the Word and not by our senses. **In other words, the Word of God is what we walk by, not the things in the natural that we can smell, taste, touch, see, or feel.**



Chapter Eight

FIVE ELEMENTS OF FEAR

The five elements of faith bear repeating. They are *hearing*, *receiving*, *believing*, *speaking*, and *acting*. We know that faith comes by hearing repetitively, or hearing again and again by the Word of God. It also must be received. Why is that important? Because you can hear the Word and then reject it. You can listen to an anointed message and respond, “*No. No. No.*”

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That's it. I'm not buying that." The next element of faith is believing; that is something you do from the heart. You make a decision. Once you've heard it, you opened your mind to receive it, and you've decided to believe it. Then you speak it, which we will discuss at length later. Finally, you've to act on the Word of God as the truth. **Faith works. Period.**

The five elements of faith produce, but fear also has five elements, and they produce as well. **Faith and fear are the same force at different ends of the spectrum.**

First John 4:18 gives us some insight into fear: *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He*

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that feareth is not made perfect in love.” Earlier in the same chapter, John wrote that God is love (see *1 John 4:8*). So, there is no fear in God when you operate in God. Perfect, completed love, or your walk with God, kicks fear out because fear has torment.

The word *torment* means that *it produces burdensome anxiety, and heaviness*. The person involved in fear is not made complete in the love of God or is not actually complete in God. **You can have faith in God, but you can also have faith in the world.** Faith in God comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Faith in the enemy and his ability comes first by repeatedly hearing the word of the

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world and then receiving that word. You might hear some bad news and say, “*Yeah, that is possible.*” Then you decide to believe what the world is telling you. Next, you begin speaking it. You say again and again what the world has been saying: “*Everybody is getting Coronavirus, so I guess I’ll be getting it too.*”

Finally, fear comes by acting as though the word of the world is true. Both faith and fear work the same way, but you are not made complete in God when you operate by fear. **Although they operate by the same principles, faith and fear do not operate together.**



Chapter Nine

HOLD FAST

Let's learn some more about faith, beginning in the book of *Hebrews chapter ten, verses 22-23*:
“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)...”

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To *hold fast* to something means that you grab hold to it; you wrap your arms around it. The Word says that you have to hold fast because there is someone and some things that are out here trying to rip your faith away from you. That someone is Satan.

Hebrews 10:23 uses the word *profession* in the King James Bible. That word is *homologia* in the Greek. It means *confession, agreement, and acknowledgment*. So, we could read *Hebrews 10:23* this way: “*Let us hold fast the acknowledgment of our faith. Let us hold fast to the agreement of what we trust, what our confidence is in, and what we believe, without wavering.*” The verse goes on to say, “*For*

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he is faithful [can be trusted] *that promised.*” Who is the One that promised? It’s God. In other words, this verse tells us that we must see things the same way that God sees them. To receive what God has for you, you and God must be in agreement, and then you must hold fast. Don’t waver.

Anything that you will get from God has faith in it. In discussing how to get the wisdom of God that you may need during tests and trials, James revealed an important principle about faith. *James 1:5-6* reads: “*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wa-*

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vering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.”

James said, “*Let him ask in faith...*” That word *faith*, of course, is *pistis* in the Greek. So, he said, “*Let him ask in persuasion, trust, and confidence.*” The word *wavering* in the Greek means *not leaning*. In other words, that person does not say, “*Oh, I am with it*” and then says, “*I am not with it.*” He’s not this way and that way; the individual is firm.

James described the wavering person as one who is like a wave on the sea. He is up and down. What makes him go up and down are the things he hears, sees, believes,

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touches, and smells. Also, the things other people say make him waver, as opposed to the efficacy of the Word, which doesn't change or affect him. Don't even think that a wavering person, a double-minded person who has vacillating opinions, will receive anything from the Lord.

James 1:7-8

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways! In other words, if you can't be firm about God, and particularly if you cannot be firm about His Word, His power, and

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His ability, then there is no subject about which you can be totally and completely firm. Let's look again at the blessed man in the *first Psalm* as an example of how to become an individual who doesn't waver – someone who stands firm and then receives what God has for them.

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers

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of water, that bringeth forth
his fruit in his season; his
leaf also shall not wither;
and whatsoever he doeth
shall prosper.

This man is *blessed*; that means he is *highly favored, happy, and to be envied*. How did he get that way? He doesn't run with sinners or live their lifestyle. He doesn't hang out with those who don't believe the Word of God. He meditates the Word of God day and night.

Meditate in Hebrew means he *speaks it, studies it, talks it, imagines it, and murmurs it*. The Word comes out of the blessed man's mouth all of the time – day and night. What happens to that indi-

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vidual? He is like a tree planted by the rivers of water. Trees that are planted right at the water's edge have deep roots. In fact, the roots underground are many times taller than what you see above ground. The water source allows those roots to grow deep, and if there is a wind that blows or if hurricanes come, the tree with the deep roots will be the one that is left standing. **Note how he got those roots: he meditated in the Word day and night.**

Psalm 1:3 says that this individual "...bringeth forth his fruit [production God has for his life] in his season [at the right time]; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

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This part of the verse is describing prosperity. **Prosperity is not only money. Money is one part of prosperity, but it is the lowest form of prosperity.** Prosperity is doing the complete will of God, and having God's perfect will manifest in your life. The person who meditates in the Word day and night accomplishes that. **Meditation in the Word is key to the way of faith.** Let's go back to the book of Hebrews and learn more about faith.

Hebrews 10:35-36

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after

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ye have done the will of
God, ye might receive the
promise.

The word *confidence* is the Greek word *parrhesia*. It means *to be bold, to be frank*. In other words, don't throw away your boldness. Don't throw away your outspokenness. Don't throw away your confidence in God. If you have confidence in God, it means you have confidence in His Word. *Hebrews 10:35* says that your confidence will bring great reward. *Great* is *meegas* in the Greek. It means *massive*. So, your confidence in God and His Word will bring things back to you that have seemingly gone away. If you have confidence in the Word, faith in the Word makes all things possible.

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The next verse talks directly to the church, “*Ye have need of patience...*” (Heb 10:36). The Greek word for *patience* means *patient endurance*. *Patience* means *to be steadfast, not to be moved by what you see, feel touch, taste, or smell, but instead to be moved by God*. Patience means that you are the same despite the winds and the waves of life. Even when they come at you, your roots are so deep in the Word that you refuse to be moved by the circumstances.

Jesus said the person who builds his house on the rock – the Word of God – will not be destroyed. The winds will blow, and the waves will crash, but the man with deep roots in God’s Word will stand.

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Luke 6:47-49

Whosoever cometh to me,
and heareth my sayings,
and doeth them, I will shew
you to whom he is like: He
is like a man which built an
house, and digged deep,
and laid the foundation on
a rock: and when the flood
arose, the stream beat ve-
hemently upon that house,
and could not shake it:
for it was founded upon a
rock.

But he that heareth, and
doeth not, is like a man
that without a foundation
built an house upon the
earth; against which the
stream did beat vehement-

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ly, and immediately it fell;
and the ruin of that house
was great.

Being deeply rooted in the Word of God produces blessings, but you have to be patient about it because sometimes it takes time to have the full manifestation. *Hebrews 10:36* said that you need patience. The next verse says: “*For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry*” (*Hebrews 10:37*).

Jesus is coming! The just – those who have been declared righteous – shall live a lifetime by faith. But if anyone draws back, God will have no pleasure in him. God is pleased when you exercise trust and con-

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confidence in Him and His Word. Let me tell you, when your faith pleases God, something good is going to happen to you!



Chapter Ten

HOW JESUS OPERATED

Jesus is our example of how to operate on this earth. He functioned in the earth as a man anointed by the Holy Ghost. *Acts 10:38* says: “*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.*” The Word says the same about us: “*And these*

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signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:17-18).

Jesus said that we would lay hands on the sick, and people would recover, and we would cast out devils in His name. *Name* is *onoma* in the Greek. It means *His authority and character; or with His love.*

We Complete Jesus' Work

Ephesians 1:22-23 says that we, the body of Christ, complete Jesus' work on the earth. It reads: *“And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over*

How Jesus Operated

all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.” We are men and women in the earth who are anointed of the Holy Ghost. *First John 4:4* says: “*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them [the spirit of antichrist]: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*”

The Holy Ghost is the One in you that is greater than the spirit of antichrist. Jesus said: “*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you,*

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and shall be in you” (John 14:16-17). The world doesn’t know the Holy Ghost, but Jesus promised He would be with you and in you.

How Jesus Flowed with the Holy Ghost

Let’s look at how Jesus walked in the earth with the Holy Spirit, beginning in the *eighth chapter of the Gospel of John*.

John 8:26

I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.

How Jesus Operated

First, Jesus said what He heard the Father say. Let's keep reading in *John chapter eight*.

John 8:27-29

They understood not that he spake to them of the Father. Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

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You should underline the phrase *I do nothing of myself*. In other words, Jesus said, “*Everything that I do, I do because I have orders from the Father.*”

Let me give you another example of how Jesus operated on this earth. Look at *John 14:10*: “*Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*” Jesus didn’t say His own words. He said God’s words because that is where the power of God is. That is where the miraculous ability of God is. The Father got to do the works because Jesus spoke what the Father said.

How Jesus Operated

What does *Proverbs 3:5-6* tell us? It tells us to “*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.*” Part of our path is what we say. This is vitally important.

Obedience is Key to Operating in Faith

If we go back to the great faith chapter of *Mark chapter 11*, we see Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The people laid their garments and palm branches on the road and cried, “*Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!*” After His triumphal entry, Jesus went into the temple. “*And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and*

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into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve” (Mark 11:11).

Remember that *Mark chapter 11* was during the Feast of Pass-over. The temple would have been packed with people. Don't tell me there weren't some people there who were sick. Don't tell me there weren't some who were possessed and needed to be delivered from the enemy. Of course, there were. Still, Jesus came into the temple, looked around, saw everything, and did nothing. Why? Let's continue reading in *Mark chapter 11*.

How Jesus Operated

Mark 11:12-14

And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

Jesus did something strange – He talked to a tree. Although He was anointed of the Holy Ghost to cast out devils and heal the sick, He didn't do that. Instead, He spoke to

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a tree. Scripture says that His disciples heard Him, so He obviously spoke the words aloud. Jesus and His disciples went back into Jerusalem and returned to the temple, but this time Jesus did more than look around.

Mark 11:15-17

And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. And he taught,

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saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.

These same folks who were buying and selling in the temple were there the day before. Why didn't Jesus do something then? I'll tell you why. He didn't have a Word from the Father yet. He didn't do anything unless the Father gave Him an order to do it.

Here is a key to operating in faith – obedience. Faith has obedience attached to it – obedience to what the Father says and obedience to what is written because

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the Father's spoken Word and the Father's written Word is the basis for walking in faith. It is the basis for having a lifestyle of faith.

Why Jesus Cursed the Fig Tree

Let's continue reading in the *eleventh chapter of Mark*: "*And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine. And when even was come, he went out of the city. And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots*" (*Mark 11:18-20*). Or course, Jesus didn't do anything unless the Father told Him. So, the Father told Him, "*Speak to this tree.*" Why? Jesus would use it as an object les-

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son to teach His disciples and the rest of us how to operate or walk in the way of faith. *“And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God” (Mark 11:21-22).*

The word *faith* in *Mark 11:22* is the Greek word *pistis*. Jesus told His disciples: *“Gentlemen, this is how the faith of God works.”* **In other words, you get a Word from God, and then you act on that Word from God.** You say what God says. You don't do anything until you get a Word from God. God's Word has in it the power to do whatever is necessary,

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including to this tree. Jesus continued to teach about faith: “*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith*” (Mark 11:23). Let’s consider a few important points about this famous faith verse:

1. Jesus was pointing to a literal mountain in Israel.
2. Whosoever includes you if you are a believer.
3. *Doubt* means to *withdraw, hesitate, differ, stagger, or waver*.
4. *Heart* is *cardia* in Greek. It

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means *the very middle of something, and here refers to the spirit man, not the physical organ that pumps blood.*

Proverbs 20:27 tells us that “*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.*” So, Jesus was talking about your very innermost being. When you hear and receive the Word from God, it goes deep into your spirit. You believe it, then you speak it and act on it, and things change. That was how you got born-again. You heard the Word of God, received it, believed it, spoke it, and acted as if it was so.

Remember, *Romans 10:8-10* says: “*But what saith it? The word is*

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nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

The word *confess* in *Romans 10:9* is *homologeō*. It means *if you acknowledge with your mouth*, that Jesus is Lord and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with your heart, man believes unto righteousness and with the mouth *acknowledgment*

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is made unto your salvation. So, there is the heart and the mouth; both are vital to living by faith.

To sum up *Mark 11:23*, Jesus said that if we follow His example by saying what God says and if we don't withdraw, hesitate, differ, stagger, or waver in our hearts – our innermost being – we can tell any mountain to move, and it will!



Chapter Eleven

FAITH IS ON THE INSIDE

As we read in *Mark 11:23*, faith is of the heart. It is on the inside. *First Thessalonians 5:23* reminds us that our inside is as real and more lasting than our outside: “*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*” *John 4:24* tells us that God is a

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Spirit, and you are made in the very image and likeness of God. How does God do everything? How did God create the world? He said, "*Light be!*" And light was. He kept saying everything, and as He said it, He believed what He said would come to pass. God believes His own Word.

Your word is one thing; God's Word is another! Every part of God's Word shall come to pass. Jesus said: "*For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled*" (*Matthew 5:18*). Do you remember what *Romans 1:16* says? It tells us that the Word of God is the power of God to all deliverance. When you

Faith is on the Inside

have a Bible, you have in your possession God's power. When you put it in your heart and speak it out of your mouth, it will cause physical things to change.

What's inside works to change what's outside, as Paul wrote in *Romans 2:28-29*: “*For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*”

How, then, do you get the Word of God into your heart? If you recall *Romans 10:17*: “*So then faith comes*

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by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. You know that faith comes by hearing, hearing, hearing, and meditating on what God says. *Meditating is muttering.* The more you do it, the more it gets down inside of you.

When you think about, mutter, and talk about the Word of God day and night, you'll be like a tree planted by rivers of water. **Meditation on the Word and speaking the Word gets the Word deep down into your heart.** Let's read what James told us in *James 1:19*: "*Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.*" We want to be swift to hear God's Word, slow to speak, and slow to wrath. To put

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it another way, in order for faith to work, we've got to walk in love. *Galatians 5:6* says, "...*Faith worketh by love.*" The word *worketh* is *energeo* in Greek. It means *made active and efficient*. So, the verse could read this way: "*Faith is made active and efficient by love.*" Everything we've been talking about has got to be done with the love of God. **Be slow to speak. Control your mouth. Wait before you speak. Get God's Word on whatever situation you are facing.**

The world today is frightened. What should you do? Well, you could go right to *Psalms 91*.

Psalm 91:1-7

He that dwelleth in the
secret place of the most

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High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at

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noonday. A thousand shall
fall at thy side, and ten
thousand at thy right hand;
but it shall not come nigh
thee.

The world may be falling apart and some around you may have coronavirus. But God said that those who dwell in the secret place, the place of trust in the Word, who are living right before God would be safe. Everyone around you might succumb to sickness or lack, but you will not.



Chapter Twelve

WHERE ARE YOU CONCERNING GOD'S WORD?

The Word of God says what it says. The question is, “*Where are you concerning the Word of God?*” Jesus paid the price for your healing. *Isaiah 53:5* prophesied about the future: “... *With his stripes, we are healed.*” Peter looked back to the cross and wrote, “... *By whose stripes ye were healed*” (*1 Peter 2:24*). So, as far as God is concerned, He has paid the price

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for your healing. The same thing applies to sin. Jesus bore your sins. If you don't believe that, then there's no Christianity. However, the fact remains that Jesus bore our sins. *Second Corinthians 5:21* is one of many Scriptures about Jesus paying the price for our sins. It says, "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*" Whether or not you get the benefit of Jesus' sacrifice, even though the price for sin has been paid, depends on whether or not you exercise faith in it. So, although the price for sin has been paid, you can still go to Hell, even though it is not God's will.

Where Are You Concerning God's Word?

The Bible tells us to pray for all those in authority: *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth”* (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

First Timothy 2:4 tells us that God's will is that everyone be saved. But will everyone be saved? No. Why not? Because they have a choice. God's will is that we walk in health and healing. The price

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for it has been paid for just like the price has been paid for sin. But what you believe will determine whether or not you, as an individual, will experience it or not.

So, you want to be slow to speak. You don't want to speak what you see or feel, and you surely don't want to speak what the news media is telling you. You want to speak what God's Word says. *Hebrews 10:38-39* says, "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe [have faith] to the saving [preservation] of the soul [mind, will, and emotions]."

Where Are You Concerning God's Word?

Remember that the Bible was not written with chapter divisions, so the next verse follows with no break in thought: "*Now [But] faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*" (*Hebrews 11:1*). Once again, *faith* is *pistis* in the Greek. By now, you should know that it means *trust, persuasion, belief, and confidence*. Remember, too, that the Word is synonymous with faith because *Romans 10:17* tells us "*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*" So, if the Word of God is present, faith is present.

Therefore, you could read *Hebrews 11:1* this way: "*Now the Word of God is the substance. The word substance means it is the ground.*" Or, we could say, "*The Word of God*

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is the floor of things we hope for.”
The word *hope* means a *confident expectation*. *First Corinthians 13:13* says, “*And now abideth faith, hope [confident expectation], charity [the love of God], these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*”

Hebrews 11:1 could read, “*Now faith is the ground of things that we confidently expect for, the Word is our evidence or proof of things not seen – things not perceived by our physical senses.*” Our evidence is not what we see, taste, touch, feel, or what other people say happened to them. Our evidence is the Word of God. The Word of God is the power of God. The Word of God is what we put into our spirits. The Word of God is what we say out of

Where Are You Concerning God's Word?

our mouths. The Word of God is what we live and act by. The Word of God is our evidence or proof. *Hebrews 11:2* continues: “*For by it [faith], the elders obtained a good report.*” Who are the elders mentioned here? They are all of the great Old Testament saints, including Abraham, Enoch, Isaac, Sarah, and many others who retained a good witness. *Verse three* tells us why: “*Through faith, we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*”

Through is the door. Through their faith – their persuasion and their trust in the Word of God – they understood or received revelation

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that the worlds were formed. The word *formed* is *katartizo* in Greek. It means *prepared or completed*. The *Word of God* is the Greek word *rhema* and *it means the spoken Word of God*. Once again, look back at the *first chapter of Genesis* and note how many times you read, “*And God said.*”

Genesis 1:3-14

And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

Where Are You Concerning God's Word?

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry

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land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day. And God said,

Where Are You Concerning God's Word?

Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.

God spoke it, and it was so. Jesus only spoke what the Father said, so Jesus took the time to find out what God was saying before He spoke. That is why Jesus went to the mountain every day to pray. **If you get before God before doing something, you will find out what words God wants you to announce to a problem.** You will find out what God's Word is on the subject of healing, or any other topic, and you can announce, "*Well, the world has this, but as far as*

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I'm concerned, Jesus Himself said in Matthew 8:17, that 'He took my infirmities and bore my sickness. With His stripes, I am healed.' His Word says that God 'supplies all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus,' not according to the economy in the earth."

You can and should get God's Word on every situation and subject and speak His promises only. As *Hebrews 11:3* tells us, "...*Things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.*" The things you now see were not made of stuff that had already appeared. God spoke, and then it appeared. You speak, and things will begin to appear as well.

Where Are You Concerning God's Word?

If you continue reading the *eleventh chapter of Hebrews*, you'll know why it's often called the Faith Hall of Fame. All of the people in the chapter received a Word from God.

- *By faith, Abel...(Hebrews 11:4)*
- *By faith, Enoch...(Hebrews 11:5)*
- *By faith, Noah...(Hebrews 11:7)*
- *By faith, Abraham...(Hebrews 11:8)*
- *By faith, Jacob...(Hebrews 11:21)*
- *By faith, Joseph...(Hebrews 11:22)*
- *By faith, Moses...(Hebrews 11:23)*

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They heard the Word of God. They decided to receive it. They decided to believe it. Then they began to speak it. Finally, they got their feet moving and began to act like it was so, and that's when they got their miracle.

This, then, is how faith works. It is the way of faith, a lifestyle of faith. Faith is not a get-rich-quick scheme. It's not a replacement or a parachute to bail you out of tough situations. Faith is the way we live. The just – those who have been declared righteous – live by faith. We live by the Word, not by our senses. We live by the Word, not by the news report. We live by the Word,

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not by what people might say, even those we may trust. We live by the Word because the Word is God, and God is the Word.

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus. Your Word says, *“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved”* and *“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”* (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9). You said salvation would be the result of your Holy Spirit giving me new birth by coming to live in me. I take you at your Word. Lord Jesus, come into my heart now and be the Lord of my life. I believe that you died for me at Calvary, that you rose from the dead, and are alive forevermore. I receive you as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you Lord for saving me. I am now born-again.

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Bishop Keith Butler is the Founder and Senior Pastor of Word of Faith International Christian Center in Southfield, Michigan. He is also the Founder and President of Keith Butler Ministries.

With the support of his lovely wife, Pastor Deborah L. Butler, and their children: Pastor Andre Butler, and his children Alexis, Angela & April; Pastor MiChelle Ferguson, her husband, Pastor Lee Ferguson, and their son Lucas; and Minister Kristina Jenkins, her husband, Pastor Joel Jenkins and their children Andrew, Austin, and Alyssa. Bishop Butler continues to plant churches worldwide.

He ministers extensively in churches, conferences and seminars throughout the United States and abroad with an emphasis on instruction, line-upon-line teaching and no-nonsense, practical application of God's Word.



Keith Butler Ministries (KBM) is dedicated to taking faith in God and His Word to the nations. In Matthew 28:18-20, our Lord Jesus commands us to, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations...Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” And that is what we are doing! We are working across the United States and Canada; the United Kingdom, Greece and France; Poland, Bulgaria, and Belgium; and throughout the continent of Africa. We are seeing people saved and lives changed by the power of God’s Word! Won’t you join us? Become a partner

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