



A large, metallic, three-dimensional star-shaped object with the word "FAITH" engraved in its center. The letters are raised and have a slightly weathered or rustic appearance. The star is positioned in the upper left foreground of the image.

December 2020

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DECEMBER 2020

FAITH MADE PERFECT

Dear Partner, thank you for your partnership with **Keith Butler Ministries**. We are taking faith to the world because faith pleases God, and faith is the victory! *Hebrews 11:6* tells us, “*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*” And we know from *1 John 5:4* that, “*This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.*” Faith that pleases God believes that He is everything you need. He is your Father, Mother, Provider, Healer, Doctor, Lawyer, Financier. He is your all in all!

Pistis is the Greek word that is translated *faith* throughout the New Testament. It means *to be persuaded, conviction, assurance, and belief*. **We've got to believe that God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek him because there are times**

when it looks like nothing is happening. That's where faith comes into play! Faith is of the heart, not the head. **But faith doesn't merely think or believe; it also acts! Active faith is faith made perfect.** Let's look at how Jesus' half-brother, James, described it.

James 2:14-20

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Some people get the wrong idea from *James 2:14*. James wasn't talking about saving faith. Works can't save us; we are born-again by confessing with our mouths, the Lord Jesus, and believing in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead (*see Romans 10:9*). *Ephesians 2:8-9* tells us, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*"

James' statement about faith has to be understood in context. Remember, his letter has five chapters. If you only read one line out of a five-page email, you wouldn't have a clear understanding of what the writer was trying to convey, would you? James had just discussed the importance of valuing each individual in the church regardless of their social or economic status. The wealthy were not to be treated better than the poor. He encouraged his readers to help the poor, and he told them that if they missed one thing in the law, they were guilty of missing every commandment. He told them to guard against being proud of themselves for keeping parts of the law, because they inevitably broke others, and if they broke one, they broke them all!

James 2:11-13

For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

Partner, although God has some things He wants us to do, we can never do enough to be made righteous – the only way to God is through Jesus Christ! There is one perfect law, according to James: the law of liberty, which is the Word of God. In other words, Scripture is the law of freedom, and it is the law we are to follow!

When James wrote about the connection of works to faith, he used the word *ergon* in Greek. It means *acts, deeds, doing, or labor*. *Ergon* describes and effort one puts forth. In other words, faith doesn't profit without some labor or effort. Has anyone ever told you they needed something that you had – and could give them – but you didn't? James said that when we do that, our faith is dead. The word that is translated *dead* means *a corpse* in Greek. Corpses stink – and so does

faith without deeds! James challenged us to show our faith – not only by what we say – which is essential, but also by what we do!

When we truly trust God and know that He always keeps His promises, we won't resist giving to the poor because His Word says, "*He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again*" (*Proverbs 19:17*). Remember Who God is! He doesn't lie. If He gave us a promise, it is going to come to pass. We don't have to see it today because faith believes before it sees!

Fear is the polar opposite of faith. They are two sides of the same force. If fear tries to direct your actions or control your thinking or speech, stop it! Faith and fear operate the same way.

- **Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.**
- **Fear comes by hearing a negative report.**
- **Faith comes by receiving the Word of God.**
- **Fear comes by receiving a negative report.**
- **Faith comes by believing the Word of God.**
- **Fear comes by believing a negative report.**
- **Faith comes by speaking the Word of God.**
- **Fear comes by speaking a negative report.**
- **Faith comes alive by acting on the Word of God.**
- **Fear comes alive by acting on a negative report.**

Partner, fear is nothing more than faith perverted. Choose faith, not fear! And while you're at it, why not function in perfected faith? Yes, faith can be made perfect, and you don't have to be a faultless person to accomplish it! *Perfect* means *complete, accomplished, consummated, and fulfilled*. James gave us two examples of people who achieved perfected faith: Abraham and Rahab. They seem very different, don't they? Abraham was a man with whom God established His Covenant. Rahab was a harlot. As dissimilar as they are, they both had perfected faith because of one common trait: they risked it all!

James 2:19-26

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Abraham risked it all when he took Isaac to Mount Moriah, tied him up, laid him on the altar, and lifted the knife to slay his and Sarah's only child (see *Genesis 22:1-10*). My goodness! I can't even imagine doing such a thing! Abraham's faith, trust, confidence, and belief were intertwined with his actions. **Faith made perfect – faith that works – is faith that risks it all!**

Faith doesn't play it safe. Let me be clear, however, that while faith doesn't play it safe, faith is not foolishness or presumption! I am not telling anyone to throw away their medication or do something imprudent to try to prove something to yourself or anyone else.

Abraham heard clearly from God. He wasn't supposing or trying to validate his faith. He wasn't guessing about what God wanted him to do. God spoke, and Abraham listened and obeyed!

Genesis 12:1-5

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he left Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan, they came.

God called Abraham to leave his family, his inheritance, and his entire support system. Remember, too, that he wasn't a young man; he was 75 years old when he left Haran to venture to an unknown destination. He risked it all! Aside from the Lord Jesus, I esteem Abraham as the most crucial person in the Bible. His faith made the way for Jesus. Jesus is the seed of Abraham, and because Abraham was willing to sacrifice his only son, God was able to sacrifice His.

Galatians 3:6-8

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

All nations are blessed because of Jesus, who came through Abraham! What about Rahab? How does she exemplify perfected faith? Rahab, a harlot, risked it all when she helped two of Joshua's recon men to plan their attack on Jericho. Jericho's king knew that the Israelites had been to Rahab's house, and he sent militia to capture them, but Rahab protected them and hid them. Undoubtedly the king of Jericho would have rewarded her handsomely had she turned Joshua's men over to him, but she chose to believe what she had heard God had done for His people instead of doing what was easy and convenient.

Joshua 2:9-11

And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

If Jericho prevailed, Rahab would have been killed for committing an act of treason, but she believed God. She risked it all, and her entire family was saved!

Partner, don't be afraid to take God's side. Faith without works is dead, and in this day and time in our society, you may have to risk it all for your faith. Just remember how it worked out for Abraham and Rahab. It will work for you as well!

Pastor Deborah and I considered it a tremendous honor to serve with you as we take faith in God's Word to the World! We love you and are so thankful to our Lord and Savior that He sent you to partner with us. Know that we love so very much! 2020 is almost over and 2021 is almost here. Let's pray and watch for the great things God is doing and is going to do. All praise to our soon coming King!

With heartfelt thanks and with His love,



Keith Butler Ministries (KBM) is dedicated to spreading God's life-revolutionizing message around the world. We are committed to ministering to the needs of pastors and ministers through teaching from the Bible via seminars and ministry to individuals or groups that are hungry for God's Word; to assist with strengthening the local church in European countries through the ministry of God's Word; to developing PISTIS Bible Training Centers in the European areas God has assigned KBM; to conducting Faith Seminars throughout Europe with concerts that may be performed as a part of the program in these seminars; and to teaching the Word throughout Europe as God opens the doors for KBM.

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TESTIMONIALS

OUR PARTNERS GIVE PRAISE TO THE LORD FOR HIS GOODNESS!

Back in January, I felt led of the Lord to leave my job. I had been praying about it for some time and once I made the decision, I only felt the peace of God. The Lord never spoke words to me about it but I had peace on the inside everyday up until the time I left. I put in for early retirement in order to move towards the career that God had for me, but I kept checking in with Him to make sure I was on the right track up until the very last day. I followed Colossians 3:15 and allowed His peace to rule in my heart. Back in January, the job market was great and things looked very promising at least until Covid-19 hit, but our Tithers confession included receiving good jobs so that's what I was believing for. All during the pandemic, I felt the peace of God even though I didn't exactly know which direction He would take me.

I had created a confession regarding my new career and I spoke it out loud just about every day. I even recorded it in my phone so that I could play it back. Part of my confession was that my career was looking for me even harder than I was looking for it and then I would send the angels out to cause it to come to pass. I would pray that my resume would fall into the right hands and that favor would go before me and prosper my way. While I was not working, I listened to

several podcasts stating that you had to make hundreds of connections on LinkedIn and network in order to find a job. You also needed to tailor your resume to fit each position you applied for and up to ten other things in order to find a job in this market. Well God knows EVERYONE and He is the Ultimate Strategist when it comes to making divine connections so I simply put my trust in Him to make things happen for me. I still looked for a job but my trust was in the Lord.

I volunteered with *Keith Butler Ministries* back in March 2020 to be a blessing to others while I waited for the manifestation. The Lord also led me to sow a financial seed as an act of my faith towards my new career. The amount that He told me to



sow was hard on my flesh, but I was obedient.

In September it was on my heart to go on a vacation alone with the Lord. During that time, I simply spent most of the time in praise and worship. I thought I would be studying the Word and praying but praise and worship is what was on His agenda, so that's what I did. During the vacation, several recruiters/hiring managers contacted me about job opportunities. None of those opportunities fit what I was believing for but about a week later I was contacted by another recruiter and when he sent me the job description, it fit. A couple of days later, a KBM volunteer, Gill, called to pray with me and I asked that he'd join me in faith that I would get the job. I interviewed five

different times with various people and God's supernatural favor manifested during each and every interview. Not only did I get the job but I received a \$10,000 raise over my last job and the opportunity for another \$10,000 as an annual bonus!!! God is good and He is Faithful!!! I am so grateful that I followed His leading and put my trust in Him! —L. Johnson

One of our KBM partners in Kenya, Africa states we called 6 months ago and prayed for her brother to get off drugs and he has been drug free ever since.

We had another KBM partner who called for prayer for her granddaughter's pregnancy as she was told that the baby's feet were in the down

position and the cord was wrapped around his neck. She was told that if the baby didn't turn she'd have to stay in hospital until the baby is born (another three months)

Partner called a few days later and said that the prayer was answered, and that the baby turned around in the proper position and her granddaughter was able to return home to continue her pregnancy at home.

Received a written praise report via email, partner states that since COVID she and her family have not been touched at all. They are healthy, employed and have lacked nothing, in fact they have prospered more than they ever have and her husband was told by his manager that he had set the record for receiving the highest check ever given.

Partner who had COVID and was unconscious for 20 days is fully recovered and doctor told him he was a miracle.