

THE DYNAMICS OF TRUE FAITH

"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the WORD of God."
-Rom.10:17.

Consequently, faith COMETH...this means that faith is not inherent. It is produced. It is both a gift and a fruit. This means that faith is not passive: it is active. Faith is not static: it is dynamic. Its equilibrium is maintained by the written Word. So faith is NOW!

And faith cometh by HEARING...

This brings us to another stage: "hearing." You must hear before faith comes. For the Scriptures says "....and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have NOT HEARD?"

So you must HEAR before you BELIEVE; and faith is believing.... One may ask, believe what? Christ said "Take heed what you hear ..." This means that it is not everything one hears that produces faith. There are things that drain, instead of infuse faith. So we must be careful what we hear; for our faith is not going to rise an inch above what we have heard. If we hear wrong ideas, we are bound to have wrong opinions and erroneous beliefs. This is unhealthy. There are dead messages; ^{and the one living messages} and the one we hear will determine whether we live or die. If we hear correctly [right words], we will act accordingly; but if we hear wrongly we will act wrongly and these both have different ends. One leads life from to life and the other from death to death. Therefore we must be careful of what we hear and believe [for faith comes from what is heard]. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness--Rom.10:10a. Thus, if we shall have right standing with God, we must hear well and believe right.

This brings us to another question "How shall they hear?" Or "what shall they hear?" The other half of the verse reads;..."and hearing by the WORD of God."

Consequently, "what is heard must come from the preaching of Christ. "For the word that God speaks is Alive and full of power --making it active, operative, energizing and effective..."--Heb.4:12a AMP.

The Psalmist said, "Thy WORD have I hidden in my HEART that I may not SIN against thee." And again "Thy WORD is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Also, the entrance

of thy WORDS giveth LIGHT; it giveth UNDERSTANDING unto the simple."So we see that faith depends on the hearing of the Word of God.As we hear the Word and ponder on it, faith comes. And when faith comes, we have the evidence of that which we have not seen.This brings the assurance that there shall be a performance. And because we now have substance for our hope, we rejoice and wait patiently for the manifestation of our articles of faith. This is believing God. It is acting on the Word.It is taking God's Word for what it is: eternally true.

["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."]

Thus we come to another ingredient of faith: "CONFESSION." Since faith is not static, but dynamic, it must find its expression in words which of a necessity, must be spoken in order to produce hearing- a necessary end to faith.

So faith speaks. But when faith speaks, it speaks faith. It confesses Jesus. And this brings salvation.

Moreover, faith acts. It believes. And believing is acting on the Word. Hence, it exercises itself in the written Word. It gives expression to the things believed on. It is the evidence of, " the witness to " things not seen. It forms the substance upon which hope lies. And "without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is ..." -Heb.11:6a

Therefore, "Have faith in God or have the faith of 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." - Mark.11:22-23

So, the JUST shall live by FAITH. He must walk by faith and not by sight; for WHATSOEVER is not of faith is SIN.

The appropriate Word of God received either by appropriation [of the written Word] or spoken to us by God's messenger[a carrier of good News] at the right time, is all we need to triumph over [life's] circumstances. [See also Ps 105.18-22, 107.19&20, 119.49] For "... even Joseph's feet were hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron. Until the time that His Word [God's Word] came: the WORD of the LORD tried him." - Ps.105:18-22 AND BEING FOUND FAITHFULL HE RECEIVED A REWARD.

The life of Joseph depict's the saying "Thou art the Work man and I the frame Lord, for the glory of Thy Name, Perfect Thine image on the same."

By declaring a vision [which he did not originate] he incurred the wrath of his brethren; and ended up a slave in Egypt. While in Egypt, because he refused to defile himself and dishonour his God, he procured the false witness of a perfidious woman, which earned him long years of unjust imprisonment; but he trusted and endured: for the Scripture saith "the WORD of the LORD tried him." And when he was proved faithful, at the right time His WORD [GOD'S WORD] came ... and he saw the glory of God in it all.

The Word brought triumph ;for not only was he freed but he became the viceroy of a great king; and an instrument of blessing to the people of God .

Believing the Word brings peace to our hearts and praise to our lips. "Then believed they His WORDS; they sang His praise."- Ps.106.12. Peace and Praise go hand-in-hand. And denote an attitude of Faith.

The first song that was recorded in the Bible was the Song of redemption sang by Moses and the children of Israel[Ex.15.1-21] after they had crossed the Red Sea on dry ground.

Here is a people in distress and in the greatest danger anyone could think of. They have just been secured a release after 400 years of bitter enslavement in Egypt. Wearied by their journey in the Wilderness of Pi-ha-hi-roth, they came against the Red Sea where the Lord bid them rest. But they soon discovered that it requires faith to enter into God's rest. It takes absolute trust on the Almighty to enjoy the rest of faith. For Pharaoh, hardened by pride and disobedience, mustered his host and went in pursuit of the Israelites, and overtook them. This made the matter worse for the Isrealites, and created the most frustrating & seemingly helpless circumstances any one can think of. Before them, stood the Red Sea, on either sides stretches the vast wilderness of Migdol while closely on their heel was Pharaoh and all his proven men of war with their host [horses & chariots]. No wonder then, the people were sore afraid: and cried unto the LORD.

Then came the Word of faith from Moses to the people "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will show to you TODAY: The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace ."-[Ex.14.13-14]. And the LORD

responded immediately: "Speak unto the children of Isreal, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea."- vs 15&16. FAITH bids faith move. "Speak unto the children of Isreal that they go forward."

Moses did not stop at the promise of God, or give it a mental assent. He ACTED on the WORD. "And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea."-vs21a. He honoured God. He proved God, and God made good His promise: "...and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land and the waters were divided. And the children of Isreal went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left."-vs21&22. "But the host of the Egyptians were overthrown in the red sea.

Each time we act on the Word in faith, God is honoured, and when God is honoured, there will be a performance. God and His Word are one. God is in His Word. For it is the Word which reveals God. "...and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.-Jnl.1. And the Word was made flesh and dwelleth among us...-Jn.1.1,14,18. So we see, that God and His Word are inseparable. And acting on the Word brings deliverance. It makes the promises real and produces faith in us: "And Isreal saw that great work...and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and His servant Moses."-vs31. "Then sang Moses and the children of Isreal...unto the LORD."-Ex.15.1.

So beloved, just when you think that your problems defy all solutions as doth that of the children of Isreal, do not despair. But remember, God is on hand to help you. Take a cue from Paul and Silas in prison: pray a prayer of faith and sing praises to God. And deliverance will follow in Jesus Name.

Therefore, "Have the Faith of God." Mk. 11.22.

God had faith in His Words. "...for as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my WORD be that goeth forth out of my mouth: It shall not return unto me void, but it shall ACCOMPLISH that which I please, and it shall PROSPER in the thing whereto I sent it."-Isa. 55.10-11.

You can have faith in your own Words.i.e., the Word of God formed in your spirit and spoken with your mouth in faith. Christ said,"The Words I speak unto you, they are not mine. ...what I hear my father speak, I speak." And again " my father sent me and I lived by Him; whosoever believeth in me shall live by me." Therefore live a life of Faith.

Christ lived by the Word of God and we must do likewise if we are truly His disciples.

"For verily I SAY unto YOU,that WHOSOEVER shall SAY unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea [definite command]; 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."

This brings us to confession of faith. Faith speaks. When faith speaks, it speaks faith-filled words. It does not confess fear and unbelief. It lets no corrupt communication of doubt proceed out from its mouth; but holds forth the Word of life: And this produces tremendous result.

"God calleth those things which be not as though they were.-Rom.4.17. And we must do likewise. It is written: Be IMITATORS of God, as beloved children."

So if we are to walk worthy of our callings, we must take our positions here [on earth] as [God's] Christ's representatives and speak the Word to our circumstances, to our mountains and darknesses. We must be creative. And the only thing that can create is the WORD. Therefore let us speak the Word in faith and create better conditions for ourselves, our neighbours and the suffering humanity .-Isa.44. Let us take **the** Word and bring God's desired ends into manifestations by speaking them into being.

We have the assurance of God that He will confirm our Words.[Isa.44.26].

We must speak the WORD to counter the errors of ungodly men [Jer.23.28-29].

We must speak IT to create healthy conditions for the advancement of the gospel.

Also, since the WORD is a living thing, we speak it to create life. We use it in quickening the dead humans around us.

Therefore, faith cometh by hearing [the Word of faith], and hearing by the [written] Word of God: conceived in the human spirit [heart], formed by the tongue and spoken out of the mouth."-Rom.10.17.(litt trans).

INNO - PRAISE

20-22ND SEPTEMBER 1988