

# **LIVING by Yeshua's (Jesus') faith**

## **Romans 1:17**

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by Philip Shields

[www.LightontheRock.org](http://www.LightontheRock.org)

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We all know that faith is important and I know we all try to live by faith. But don't we often feel something is missing? Don't you sometimes feel your faith is not as powerful as you think it should be? This sermon covers what faith is, WHY we must have the right faith, whose faith we must have and why, and how to grow in this powerful faith. Our focus here is also on the fact that LIVING by faith is not just for the tough times of our lives – but 24/7, all the time. We also cover how to deal with those times when we don't get the answers we were praying and hoping for. May you be blessed by this message.

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**Greetings, welcome and shalom** to all of you who are of the Father's House – all true believers in Messiah, and to all who are being called to become true believers. This is Philip Shields in Orlando, Florida praying this message will be a blessing to many of you. Remember I would love to hear from some of you. I know we have listeners from all over the world. I'd be honored to hear from you.

In my last sermon we talked about deeply and personally experiencing the Great Almighty God - personally. I really don't believe the age of powerful healings, seeing and visiting with angels, and knowing Abba our dear heavenly father still talks to us – via powerful personal urges and thoughts he sends us, through his people, through sermons – and yes – even through visions. The end of Joel 2 makes it clear that the age of visions and dreams from God will continue to happen in the last days. Yahweh has not gone to a nursing home. Yahweh has not gone mute. He still speaks – but do we have ears to hear? Are we tuned in?

**Today, I want to take off on something related to that last message – a very important topic: LIVING by faith.** But not just any faith – but by Yeshua's (Jesus') faith. Liberals will attack faith as being mere superstition or fantasy. Ignore them. Don't let them intimidate you. We will live by Yeshua's faith.

We've all heard sermons – probably quite a few – about faith. I gave a 3-part series given in 2004 on my website. But like so many things that have to do with relationships, I want to visit this again. And this time I want to focus on especially one aspect of faith.

**We need to talk about this topic from time to time because real faith is based on our relationship with God. All relationships waver from strong to very weak.**

You remember Elijah, right? Very strong faith in 1 Kings 18 when he calls down fire from heaven to consume the wet sacrifice. But then the very next day he's running in fear for his life from Jezebel. So we need faith tune-ups from time to time. We all do. Me too.

I'm reminded of the man who asked Yeshua to cast a demon from his son. Yeshua asked, "Do you believe?" and He said in tears, "Yes Lord, I believe, ... uh, **help my unbelief**"

(Mark 9:20-24). He was honest that his faith was not so strong at that moment. I have repeated those words at various times too. I'm still learning to get better at faith too.

**Romans 1:16-17**

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone **who believes**, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of GOD is revealed **from faith to faith**; as it is written, "**The just shall LIVE by faith.**"

**So we're supposed to LIVE by faith. This is where the title for the sermon comes from.** Faith is not just for **SERIOUS** times: those times when we need an answer, healing, need intervention, need a miracle – but I hope we'll see that is not the case. *TRUE faith that we will talk about today is a WAY of LIFE. It's 24/7, constant....in tough times and really truly joyous times. ALL the time. I'm still trying to learn this too.*

*TRUE FAITH doesn't demand we get to see great miracles or else we lose heart and give up! True faith is at work all the time, 24/7 as they say – in good times and hard times.*

Interestingly enough, the father of the faithful – ABRAHAM – is not recorded as having personally performed any great miracle (like Elisha or Elijah did, for example). But he was still the father of the faithful. The greatest of all prophets according to Yeshua was John the Baptist. But neither did John do any great miracle that we know of.

So I hope you hear the balance I'm trying to put on this. ***The age of miracles is not over, but neither should our faith rely on seeing miracles.*** *So true faith has to be our way of life 24/7 whether God intervenes, heals us, answers us the way we want – or not. Look at the example of Daniel's 3 friends – the whole story is in Daniel 3:10-18, and Nebuchadnezzar was infuriated that they would not bow down to his golden image and threatened to burn them alive if they did not.*

**Daniel 3:13-18**

"Then Nebuchadnezzar, in rage and fury, gave the command to bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying to them, "Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up? 15 Now if you are ready at the time you hear the sound of the horn, flute, harp, lyre, and psaltery, in symphony with all kinds of music, and you fall down and worship the image which I have made, good! *But if you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?"*

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 **If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king.** 18 **BUT IF NOT**, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up."

In fact here's another point from what we've just read:

**TRUE faith does not believe our prayers have been "answered" only when the "answer" is what WE had hoped for and asked for.**

*Bonus: In fact, we'll learn to embrace the hard times and "accidents" of our lives, knowing Abba is at work, though often mysteriously. Even Joseph had to come to accept that GOD was ultimately behind his brothers' actions that sent him to Egypt – albeit as a slave! See Genesis 50:18-21*

TRUE faith – like Christ in Gethsemane – makes our requests and petitions known, but rests in Father's will being done. And sometimes His will is far different from ours. Sometimes His will is tough, even painful for a time – but it always bears better fruit in the end if we believe and submit to it. Like Christ did. God's will was clearly to go through with the crucifixion – tough, tough, tough – but look at how many *billions* will be ultimately blessed by that. And of course, Yeshua himself realized he had to freely offer himself as the sacrifice for us all.

### The Early Disciples and faith

*Other words for faith are "belief" and "trust". So if you have faith, you are one who trusts, one who believes. Like the early followers, we should also be known as "believers", people who trust and believe Yeshua is the Son of God, came and died for our sins and was resurrected to live anew in us and is now interceding for us before our Father.*

**The early church was called various names, sometimes derisively – Nazarenes, disciples, Christians – and yes, Believers (Acts 5:14; 1 Tim. 4:12; 1 Tim. 6:12).**

**John 17:20-21**

**"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."**

Would WE today be described by those outside and inside the Body as "Believers"? I sure hope so.

Christ promised that those who believe in him would go throughout the world preaching the good news and great signs and wonders would follow them. Now get the balance: we don't SEEK signs, but if God provides great signs and wonders, that's a bonus. We SING it in one of our hymns: "...these signs shall surely follow." Read this for yourself:

**Mark 16:14-18** "Afterward He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. [we believe this, right?] 16 **He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.** [we also believe this statement, right? So why not believe the rest of what He says?] 17 **And these signs WILL follow those who believe:** [Stop for a second: signs will follow, but first there has to be belief. Belief by God's people precedes signs which subsequently follow. So the signs do not cause the faith, but are there because of already existing faith. "These signs shall surely follow." –and apparently as a sign that

*He is behind, backing up, this group of people, as a sign for unbelievers to see] In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and *they will recover.*"*

So *did* those signs happen? Let's keep reading:

**Mark 16:19-20** "So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the LORD working with them and **confirming the word through the accompanying signs**. Amen."

Acts 3 – Do you remember when Peter and John healed the lame man – who leapt for joy after? Here's how Peter described how that healing came about:

**Acts 3:16**

"And HIS (Jesus') name, through faith in his name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. **Yes, the faith which comes through HIM** has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

We don't just muster up this kind of faith. It comes through Yeshua and by having faith in HIM. Everyone has some human faith. And God even honors *that* kind of faith at times. So many of those healed by Christ heard him say "Your faith has healed you" ... or "be it according to your faith..."

But there's a GREATER faith we must have to get to the next level. OUR faith won't save us, by the way. We need the faith of Christ himself to save us. And Peter in Acts 3 is saying that the healing happened by "the faith that comes through HIM..."

But for now I'm just making the point that AFTER the Resurrection of Christ, AFTER He ascended to heaven, the early faithful continued to have dramatic and amazing miracles and signs from God. In **Acts 4:29-31** – as the group was praying for signs and wonders and courage to preach in Yeshua's name, the "Place where they were assembled together was shaken and they were filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness."

**The promises were unto the end of the age (Matthew 28:20)**, and so these promises have not ended for people who live by His faith. (Hear my sermon "Experiencing the Almighty"). We can read of many more powerful signs and miracles done among the early believers by apostles and local brethren alike:

**Acts 5:12-16**—multitudes were healed just by Peter's shadow falling on them and MANY signs and wonder were done.

**Acts 6:8** – Stephen, not an apostle, "full of faith and power did great wonders and signs..."

**Acts 8:4-8** – Philip – probably not the apostle – went to Samaria, preached Christ it says – and many saw the miracles he did and many were healed.

**Acts 9** – Ananias in Damascus, just an ordinary disciple, was used by Christ to welcome Paul, heal his blindness and lead him to the believers.

Plus there could be many more examples how those who believed, whether ordained or not, did wonderful miracles and had gifts of prophecy and so on.

So these days are not over. So our goal is to learn to practice a more constant way of faith.

### WHAT IS FAITH?

The Greek word used in the New Testament is "**pistis**" and it's translated "faith, faithful" (Titus 2:10), "*the faith*" (the set of beliefs and doctrines – Acts 6:7, 14:22, etc.) – depending on context. But it's all the same Greek word. It is **Strong's word # 4102**, and Strong's says it means a "firm persuasion".

We'll focus on the mainly used meaning of "faith" and "faithful".

#### **Hebrews 11:1 NKJV:**

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

#### **New Living Translation Heb 11:1**

"What is faith? *It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen.* It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see."

This confidence is not based on what we see – so there's no time limit. The focus is on God, on what HE is doing because we have come to trust him because we love him, and vice versa. We know He is love so we rest in that trust in his love for us, no matter what's going on. That's hard when the pain – physical or emotional – is so real, so apparent. But trust and believe we must and in the end, so many see miracles as they trust and obey.

***Without faith, we worry. God wants us to be like our little children, sound asleep in the back of our car as we drive through the night, through the rain, the snow – anything – but they trust you and rest in that trust – and they sleep in the storm you are shepherding them through. How much more can God our Father do that for us?***

**Great faith is not faith in the answer we want – but faith in God and His love -- and knowing our *loving* God *will* do what God needs to do. Great faith is when we TRUST his purpose for us. Regardless of what we have to go through in the meantime.**

Esther's story is a case study in this. She had to petition for her people whom Haman the Agagite wished to destroy. You could not just appear before your husband (the emperor) uninvited though!

#### **Esther 4:15-16**

"Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai: 16 "Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; ***and if I perish, I perish!***"

*So in faith, God can choose to show forth his glory in miracles – or show forth his glory in the **Faithfulness of his people** even if it means they don't receive the answer they might have chosen – but instead have to continue on in the trial, or be tortured, crucified or killed for their trust. Esther, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are case-study examples.*

## **WHY do we have to talk about Faith? Why is it so important?**

**Don't be a smug Laodicean thinking we don't need another sermon on faith! Rev. 3:17 Remember, Christ actually wondered if when he returned would he find FAITH – Luke 18:8**

**So why talk about faith again? Here are some quick but important answers:**

**\*\* 1. LACKING FAITH will result in WORRY, FRETTING, sleepless nights, being scared, worried, upset... and all of that is saying we don't TRUST God is at work in our lives.**

When we worry and fret, it means we're focused on ourselves, on our kids, on our pain, on our needs, on our "what ifs" ... instead of focusing solely on God. If you ever worry – and yes we all do at times—that's a clear sign our faith is not strong.

By the way – worry is NEGATIVE FAITH. It is still faith/belief ... but belief that everything is going to end up badly. Guess what? Faith works. Your negative belief/faith WILL end up badly.

**Worry is really just saying we don't want to give up control of our lives.** We don't want God controlling our lives, we say by fretting. WE want to remain in control. True faith is handing our lives over to our Maker, to the One who bought you and me with the highest price possible. So we belong to him. True faith realizes that.

I've often fretted, stewed and worried too... but with God's help and grace, learning to rest in Him more.

**\*\* 2. Conversely, we could be displaying so much more of God's glory if we LIVED by His faith,** as I've just read about the early church. Wouldn't it be wonderful if you and I could be walking, living demonstrations of Christ himself, 24/7? Or, we can be BLOCKING the flow of power, limiting the God of Israel, by our unbelief (**Psalms 78:40-42**)—or like the people of Nazareth who saw just a few miracles due to their unbelief (**Mark 6:4-6**). How many MORE people could have been healed?

***What witnessing are we foregoing by being so lacking in His faith?***

**\*\* 3. It's impossible to please God without faith. But WE PLEASE God by living by faith (trusting him)**

**Hebrews 11:5-6**

**By faith** Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, **that he**

pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

**So note that we CAN please God by faith, but we can't without faith. Why?** Because the whole Christian life is based on faith.

- Does it tell God we don't really trust him?
- How can we come to God in prayer through Christ by faith – without faith?
- How can we be saved without faith? Next point.
- And Romans 14:23 says whatever is not of faith is sin.

**\*\* 4. We're SAVED by grace through faith. Without Faith, we won't be SAVED!**

**Ephesians 2:8-10.** We're justified by faith. We're sanctified by faith (set apart for holy use). Faith gives us access to God the father through Christ. But always by FAITH.

**Romans 5:1-2**

**"Therefore, having been justified BY FAITH** we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have access BY FAITH into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."

**Acts 26:18** – recounting the Acts 9 Damascus story, Paul says Christ said he would use Paul to call "people who will be *sanctified by faith in Me*."

**1 Peter 1:3-5** says we "are kept by the power GOD himself through FAITH for salvation..."

This faith also means we believe his statement that he (Christ) did not come into the world to condemn the world – or you and me – but to save us all (John 3:17).

SO – WITH faith, we can receive salvation. Without faith, we're condemned. Big reason to learn as much about it as possible, right?

***Even the righteousness required for the kingdom is set at a very high bar: the perfect, flawless righteousness of God Himself!*** That's why we are to seek HIS righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Our own attempts at perfection will never get there. Never. I said our own efforts will never get there. ***But Father has offered us HIS righteousness – again, by FAITH.*** We have to actively receive it. HIS goodness, not mine, not yours. Don't deny this great gracious truth as so many who would rather earn their own righteousness do. It doesn't get much clearer than Phil 3:8-9 and Romans 3:21-22.

**Philippians 3:8-9**

Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, NOT having MY OWN righteousness, which is from the law, but **that which is through faith in/of Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;**

The KJV, CJB version and a few others make it clear it's not just faith IN Christ but the faith OF Christ. If we died to the self and the life we now live is Christ (Gal. 2:20), then HIS life, HIS faith is the one at work! This is a deeper and more profound truth than is usually first recognized.

**Philippians 3:9 KJV**

**9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith OF Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:**

**Romans 3:21-22**

**"But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, *being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets*, 22 even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference..."**

*(You can look up a few more scriptures about the righteousness that is by faith, if you wish: Hebrews 11:7 Noah became an heir of the righteousness which is by faith; Romans 9:30-34; Romans 10:1-4; 2 Peter 1:1; Acts 15:9 (actually read Acts 15:6-11) - what Peter said; Paul -- **Romans 3:21-22**; 4:11-12; Galatians 5:5. God GIFTS us with HIS righteousness Romans 5:15-19; 2 Corinthians 5:21 - he became righteousness FOR us, etc. etc.)*

**So – continuing on WHY we need this great faith of our Master...**

**\*\* 5. We'll need Christ's strong faith to get through the time of the world's greatest trouble – ever!** We will want to know GOD IS THERE... watching over us... thousand fall at right hand, and 10,000 over here – but we won't fear the plagues or pestilence or arrow that flies by night or the terror that lays waste a city. **Ps 91:5-11**

I just heard today some horrible atrocities today being perpetrated against the women and children of South Sudan. And it's supposed to get only worse? I need faith to get through that. The barbarians of ISIS are just a foretaste. May we grow the spiritual muscle NOW while we can to get through some unbelievably dark times coming.

**\*\*6. GOD NEEDS TO BREAK US OFF OF SELF-RELIANCE and more reliance on HIM.**

- True faith against the American ethic of doing everything ourselves, and not to rely on Someone else.

**\*\* 7. FAITH one of the BIG THREE – faith, hope and love, but the greatest of these is LOVE – but faith is one of the big 3. (1 Corinthians 13:13)**

**But caution – even if you could move mountains ... without love... let's read it....**

**1 Cor. 13:2**

And though I have the gift of **prophecy**, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all **FAITH**, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, **I am nothing**.

Faith is a **Gift of the Spirit –Gal. 5:22: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, FAITH -- then meekness and self-control/temperance.**



**Godly faith is actually a FRUIT of the Holy Spirit, so** everyone with God's spirit should have some degree of faith. THIS faith is not YOUR faith—but a result of having God in you by HIS spirit.

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**“But the fruit OF THE SPIRIT is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness (faith), gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”**

Then beyond that, some are given a greater degree of faith as a GIFT of the spirit... it's additional, great faith.

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

**“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another FAITH by the same Spirit, to another gifts of HEALINGS by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of MIRACLES, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”**

### **WHOSE FAITH do we want and need?**

**THERE IS human faith. It did some good. “Be it according to YOUR faith” – Yeshua said several times (Matthew 8:13; Matthew 9:29 and more).** That's human faith. We all have it to some degree. So of the thousands Yeshua healed – NONE of them had godly faith, as the spirit of God had not been given yet. They were recognized for their own human faith, much the same way a person might have faith in a certain doctor. NONE of the people in Yeshua's day – save John the Baptist – had God's spirit yet!

**But HUMAN FAITH WILL NOT SAVE US. HUMAN faith is not the GIFT of God's Spirit. This section is vitally important to grasp.**

**Hebrews 12:1-2 KJV**

**“Therefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus, THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

**Remember what we read in Romans 1:16-17—that this whole spiritual life is “from faith to faith”—like stepping stones as you step over a river. This walk with God starts with Yeshua and ENDS with Yeshua. It's HIS faith that will see us thru all the way to salvation.**

**Remember what Peter said about the lame man –**

**Acts 3:16**

**“And His name, through faith in his name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through HIM\* has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”**

Are we getting it? Saving faith, end-time faith is not our own faith. We must have the perfect faith of Yeshua – given to us, covering us. NOT our faith.

**Revelation 14:12**

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the **FAITH of JESUS.**" (Whose faith?) Is it clear?)

So believers in the last days who get thru the last days will be obedient and have the FAITH of Jesus.

***This is humbling to us and unites us – when we realize no matter how we are each used, it's not our faith doing it anyway, but Christ's faith.*** Whether a healing, a miracle, experiencing God in powerful ways ... it's not us, but Christ IN US doing it. That prevents us from boasting or feeling it was us!

**Yeshua himself promised us even greater works than he did, if we believe IN HIM.**

**John 14:12-13**

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

**Just faith as tiny as a mustard seed – very tiny – would be enough to move a mountain, he said.**

**REMEMBER GAL 2:20 – I DIED.** Let's be sure we understand the POWER, THE gravity, WHOSE life, AND therefore WHOSE faith we have ACCESS to – if we believe and receive. I also believe when combined with Acts 3:16 and other verses, that we must have faith "in" Jesus Christ but we also must have HIS faith, the faith "***of***" Yeshua our Messiah.

**Galatians 2:20 KJV**

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, BUT Christ LIVETH IN ME: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith OF the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

**Galatians 2:20-21 CJB**

"...and the life I now live in my body I live by the same trusting faithfulness that the Son of God had, who loved me and gave himself up for me."

**And Ephesians 3:17 says "...that Christ might dwell in your hearts through FAITH..."**

***I want Christ's FAITH, HIS trusting of his father, HIS faithfulness.***

**1 John 4:13-18**

**By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14** And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. **15** **Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, GOD ABIDES IN HIM AND HE IN GOD.** **16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. **God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.** **17** Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **BECAUSE AS HE IS, SO ARE WE IN THIS WORLD**".

**HOLMAN – "...FOR WE are AS HE IS, in this world."**

(NOTE: I should have spent more time on this verse 17, but had a lot more to cover. But it's a KEY verse in understanding Christ's faith. I'll perhaps give an entire short sermon on this one verse: "...**because as HE is, SO ARE WE in this world.**" That's such a power-packed verse that requires more preaching.)

"Abiding (living/staying) with God – and he in us" – means God now sees Christ...his covering, his righteousness, his faith, his life, his person – when he sees you and me, as we are parts of his body.

**Perhaps review the sermon "Yeshua our High Priest".** So much of that bears on this topic. On his crown on his forehead, as he presented himself for the people of Israel, was inscribed– HOLINESS TO YAHWEH.

What blessings we could bestow on others, what glories we can reveal of our great Savior and our Father – if we would just believe we can have Yeshua's own faith! Wow. Believe it. Accept it.

**HOW TO GROW IN HIS FAITH**

- 1. BIGGEST POINT OF ALL – FOCUS ON HIM, not on any problem, not on you, not on your thoughts... but on HIM. LOVE him. TRUST HIM. Seek him. ABIDE in him. That means you STAY there with him, don't just pass through.**

All examples of great faith ultimately are because of this point. All sub-points I use today all point back to this point. THIS IS EXACTLY what Yeshua did: he focused on HIS head – God the Father. OUR head is Christ, and so we focus on him (1 Cor 11:1-3). You want perfect peace?

**Isaiah 26:3-4 NKJV**

*You will keep him in perfect peace, **whose mind is stayed on You,  
Because he trusts in You.** 4 Trust in YAHWEH forever,  
For in Yah, YAHWEH, is everlasting strength.*

*Don't focus on your pain. (I know, I know – it's so hard not to.) Don't focus on the bills. Don't focus on illness. Don't focus on the problem. Focus on HIM, IN him, FOR him – regardless of what's happening. Why? Because what we focus on will grow in our lives.*

**Several examples of this perfect peace in what could have been a storm of worries:**

- Christ asleep in the boat during a severe storm.(Mark 4:38)
- Acts 12 – Peter SOUND ASLEEP with date with executioner!
- Paul AND SILAS in prison with bleeding stripes --Acts 16 – at midnight began to praise and sing, and their chains were loosed!

Would you and I be able to be sound asleep like Peter, chained to smelly Roman soldiers and doomed to be beheaded the next day.

**Philippians 4:6-7**

***"Be anxious for NOTHING, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."***

***Psalm 16:8 – "I have set Yahweh always before me, because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved."***

***I'm trying to learn and live this way too! No matter what happens, keep focused on HIM. READ Hebrews 11:13 – THESE ALL DIED not having received the promises yet! But they kept their focus on their God.***

***Hebrews 11:13***

***"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."***

***Psalm 62:8 – TRUST IN HIM at all times...***

***John 14:1 – "...you believe in God, believe also in me..."***

***Hebrews 12:2—Yeshua is the author and FINISHER of our faith..." starts and end in faith***

***The Evidence you're finally doing this:***

- You're at peace, no matter what "storms" are raging around you...just like Christ.
- You stay focused on him...
- You're praising and thanking Him even long before you see the answers (I have a whole sermon on "Praising Him Before we have the answer" a few months ago.)

**2. ASK YAHWEH FOR MORE of HIS FAITH**

**a. Luke 17:5 – disciples: "Lord, increase our faith"**

**b. Mark 9:23-24—Lord, help my UNBELIEF.**

Ask and you shall receive. You have not, for you ask not.

**3. FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD –ongoing, not "having heard"**

**Romans 10:17**

**"So then FAITH comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

**The word is ongoing – 'hearing' – not 'having heard'. We have to KEEP hearing God's word.** We need daily Bible study (I mean right in the Bible – not just booklets and magazines). We read of the success stories in the Bible – and the failures of those who did not believe and obey. But we learn by these stories.

**SHARE stories** of faith, and Strength and miracles ...

Guy in NB – click, back healed

Lady in Edmonton – touching toes afterwards....

When you hear an inspiring sermon, hear it several times. You'll get even more the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

**4. STEP OUT AND OBEY. Obedience exercises and strengthens our faith.**  
**James 2 – faith without works.... Is dead.**

It's hardest to obey when we don't understand (like rolling the stone away from Lazarus' tomb), but that's when faith is strengthened most for the next time. Obedience is in our daily minute-by-minute existence. OBEY. Faith. They go together.

**OBEDIENCE IS PROOF we BELIEVE and trust.** (Examples – when we were first called, we had to step out and obey the sabbath and give up pagan holidays.)

**Sometime be sure to study Hebrews 3 and 4. There you'll find the tie-in between lack of faith/unbelief and disobedience.**

**Hebrews 3:18-19**

"And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who **did not obey**? So we see that they could not enter in because of **unbelief**."

**Discuss -- ALL of Hebrews 11** – these great men and women of faith proved their faith by obeying. Noah received grace it says in Gen 6, and had the righteousness that is by faith and IN that faith built the ark. He proved his faith by obeying God's command.

**The 10 lepers in Samaria (Luke 17:11-19) who came to Christ, were not instantly healed – but they were healed AS they obeyed and started walking to present themselves to the priests.**

**Luke 17:14**

So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that AS THEY WENT, they were cleansed."

The same thing for Naaman – AS he dipped 7x in the Jordan, HE too was healed. (2 Kings 5:14). As did the Israelites as they obeyed and walked through the Red Sea ... and on and on.

**Revelation 14:12**

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are **those who keep the commandments of God AND the FAITH OF JESUS**".

They go hand in hand.

**5. Believe – and thank and praise Him BEFORE you experience His answer**

**I have an entire sermon on this very point. It is one of my favorite messages. Practicing this principle will help strengthen your faith and you'll see more amazing answers too.**

After the disciples saw the cursed fig tree dried up from the roots the next day, Yeshua said to ask, believing you've already been given the answer – before you see it even (**Mark 11:20-24**). Same thing at Lazarus' resurrection. Jesus thanked God for "having heard" his prayer while Lazarus still lay in the tomb, dead (**John 11:38-43**). **My full sermon goes into detail on this.**

**Hebrews 11:17-19** – discussed Abraham. He knew God couldn't lie and God had promised everything would come through Isaac, so he knew even if Isaac was burnt to ashes somehow, some way, God would have to resurrect him! To my knowledge, nobody had yet ever been resurrected!

**Hebrews 11:17-19**

"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," **19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.**"

6. **WE tend to trust those we deeply love. Pray for God to give you more love for him – and this too, will strengthen your faith. We do almost anything for someone we love. We obey easier. We seek his glory better ... and we will step out in faith.**

7. **AFRAID? Acknowledge and then surrender that ear in faith.**

It's very normal to immediately react with fear when confronted with a monster problem. Fear – if uncontrolled – will lead to disobedience and to us seeking to control what happens, instead of surrendering it all to God.

Having some fear by itself is not the big sin. The big sin is to *remain* in that fear.

**Read JUDGES 7:9-13 – story of GIDEON.** God says, "but if you are afraid..."—and we see that Gideon indeed must have been afraid. But he kept his focus on God – and you know the rest of the story.

**Don't let fear linger.**

**Godly faith will eventually cast out fear, true, but having fear at first is understandable, and that leads us to God for the answer, in faith.**

**Psalms 56:3-4**

**"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. [notice the sequence] In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?"**

[See? He started in fear, turned to God, trusted in God – and then was able to conquer the fear]

**Cite Ps. 34:4 : “I sought YAHWEH and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears”.**

**EVEN Christ suffered anguish:**

**Mark 14:32-34**

“Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33 And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began

to **be troubled and deeply distressed**. 34 Then He said to them, “My soul is **exceedingly sorrowful, even to death**. Stay here and watch.”

Paul also felt a lot of fears. He was not super-human – but very human. He knew what beatings, stonings and crowd riots were like. But again, he turned those around.

**2 Corinthians 7:5-7** “For indeed, when we came to Macedonia, our bodies had no rest, but **we were troubled on every side. Outside were conflicts, inside were FEARS**. 6 Nevertheless **God**, who **comforts the downcast**, comforted us by the coming of Titus....”

**Eventually we get to the place Paul came to – actually getting excited to see where God is taking you next, that HE may be glorified. I love what he says in 2 Cor. 12.**

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, **“MY grace is sufficient for you, for MY strength is made perfect in weakness.”** Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

**There's so much more on faith – and we could go on and on. We are to TAKE the shield of faith - - which is a full-body sized shield. GOD is that shield for us – Genesis 15:1.**

So I hope you see how important the faith of Christ is. True faith is not just for the tough times, but ALL the time. We are to LIVE by it, moment by moment. We don't expect faith to give us the answers WE hope for – but the answers Father knows is best for us.

Godly faith is not human faith. It's a fruit of the spirit – and we all should have SOME godly faith. But pray for more faith. Some will be given prodigious amounts of Godly faith as a GIFT of the spirit.

Without godly faith we can't please God, or be saved. With faith we do please him, we stop the life of worry but start exhibiting the life of Christ to God's glory – and we're far more likely to experience miracles and healings. But this faith cannot be just our own faith. It has to be the faith of Christ himself.

So start ASKING him for his faith. Believe in HIS faith. Believe he's giving you HIS faith – after all YOU and I are supposed to no longer be living our own lives but the life of Christ, in all facets of it – including his faith.

We CAN grow in faith just as surely as the early disciples did. The contrast before and after the Holy Spirit is phenomenal. They stepped out and exercised their faith. We must do the same. The key is to keep FOCUSING on Yeshua – on Christ Jesus. **Learn what 1 John 4:17 means** – "... as he is, so are we in this world." CLAIM that as you pray and watch miracles begin to flow through your lives. Let Christ be your life now (read Colossians 3:1-3). Let HIS faith be your faith now. Let his LOVE be your love now. Let his priorities be yours now. Let his life be your life.

**When it's all said and done, WHO will be with Christ when he returns? In Revelation 17:12-13 the 10 united kings of the earth will gather their armies to fight Christ. Let's see who is with Christ:**

**Revelation 17:14**

These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; **and those who are with Him are called, chosen, AND FAITHFUL."**

**Be a BELIEVER, a child of God full of the faith of Christ. You've been called, you've been chosen – now be FAITHFUL ... and our best times will still be ahead of us!**

**Blessings to you all.**

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