

## FAITH IS IMPORTANT

THE FAITH OF JESUS RESIDING ON THE INSIDE OF US! That is a powerful thought, isn't it? God knew we would need help in trusting and having confidence in Him. So God gave us His Word to help us develop our faith in Him.

A few years ago God said this to me: ***“FAITH IS IMPORTANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INNER MAN JUST AS FOOD IS IMPORTANT FOR THE DEVELOPEMNT OF THE PHYSICAL MAN.”*** It is God's desire for our inner man to gain the ascendancy over the outward man (our flesh) and that we should walk in victory in every area of our lives.

How do we attain strong faith in our lives? Is it possible to trust that God will come through for us every time? By all means! Nothing will bring Him more pleasure, but first there is one issue that must be settled! **WE MUST BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD.** It is important that you understand what it means to believe because Satan has an arena of counterfeit believing. Many people have been lured into this arena and think they believe when in reality they do not. It is these same people who are disappointed when the promises of God are not fulfilled in their lives.

Have you ever witnessed a situation like this? The pastor calls for a prayer line for those who need healing. The minister quotes Isaiah 53:5 or 1Peter 2:24 and then asks the first person in the line: “Do you believe by His stripes we were healed?” The person then responds: “I know the Bible says that.” Knowing what the Bible says is not the same as believing the Word of God. The sad thing is they probably think they are believing for their healing. The truth of the matter is they are in the realm of counterfeit believing called **MENTAL ASSENT.**

I recall after entering the ministry I would memorize most all the scriptures that I would use in my sermons. During one particular revival meeting the pastor counted over 70 scriptures that I had quoted during the one service. I was well on my way to knowing what the Bible said. Please do not misunderstand me, we need to know what the Word of God says; but more importantly we must believe what the Word says. By knowing what the Bible

said I thought I believed the Word. Do you see how subtle that can be? Mental assent is mentally agreeing with God's Word. Let's say it another way. It is acknowledging what the Word says without accepting and receiving the Word as truth and final authority in our lives. When I believe God and His Word I accept and receive what He says as truth and nothing but the truth because He cannot lie. For me to exercise my faith I must have something to believe. That "something" is the Word of God. Did you ever notice in Ephesians 6 what the first piece of armor was that Paul told us to put on? He said that our loins should be girt about with TRUTH. For Jesus said, "THY WORD IS TRUTH." We must believe the Word over the traditions and doctrines of men. The Holy Spirit revealed to me that when I doubt God I am believing what my five senses and what circumstances are saying instead of what His Word says. And His word should always be final authority!

Do you recall what Jesus said to Thomas in John 20: 29 –

*"Jesus said unto him, Thomas, because thou has seen me,  
thou hast believed: Blessed are they that have not seen,  
and yet have believed."*

Jesus pronounced a blessing on those who are not moved by what they see or feel but only by what they believe and that is the Word of the Almighty God. When we believe we pull things that are impossible into the realm of possibility. As we make the choice to believe, our faith then has an opportunity to be strengthened. The words of the old hymn are so fitting:

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,  
Just to take Him at his Word;  
Just to rest upon His promise;  
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord."*

*Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!  
How I've proved Him o're and o'er!  
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!  
O for grace to trust Him more.*

Believe God's Word for the victory that you need in your life. The Word of God will always work when we work the Word. Know His Word and put Him in remembrance of His Word because he watches over His word to perform it. Jeremiah 1:12 (Amplified)

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