

Theme: The Operation of Faith

Text: Hebrews 11:1-3

Introduction:

The principle of faith is so key to our Christian understanding of ourselves, our callings, and what we could possibly do and become in relations to God and the world around us. It seems to me, from the facts of Scriptures that with out faith Christian life and living is impossible, for it appears nothing can possibly be achieved except by faith!

And if that's a fact, then we must try to understand the working or the operations of faith for an over-coming and victorious Christian living.

TN: What then is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1

NIV: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. **2.** this is what the ancients were commended for. **3.** by faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

From the definition, we see that the operation of faith is four-fold:

1. Faith is what (the things) we have when we don't have them. (Jer. 32:24,25)
2. Faith is what (the things) we see when we don't see them (Abraham)
3. Faith is what (the things) we do when we can't do them (Paul.& Phil.4:13)
4. Faith is what/who we are when we have not become (Joseph)

TN: Faith is so powerful that

- a. **Habakkuk 2:4** says the **Just** (*those who trust in God*) shall live by faith!
 - in other words it has life giving and live sustain elements.
 - Why? It is based on the Word of God, and Jesus said, the Word is life (John 6:63). And David loves the Word, he says, more than his necessary food ()
- b. By Faith, **Hebrews 11:3**, says God commanded the world and the entire universe into existence
- c. **Mtt. 17:20** says, that you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain be thou removed from here to there, and it will move; and nothing shall be impossible for you.

TN: It is therefore not only sin not to have faith, but it is suicidal

Why?

1. You need faith to please God (**Heb.11:6**) (*You can't function like Him, you can't persuade Him that you belong to Him, and He can't entrust you with anything – because He only rewards Faith*) Mtt. 9:2 – saw their faith then healed the paralytic. Vr. 7, the crowd praise God who has given such authority/power to man.

- That is why through out the Scriptures Jesus is utterly shocked by lack of faith and unbelief: (**Mk: 4:40** – He questions His disciples, do you still have no faith?)
 - That’s why He could do no mighty works in Nazareth, except for laying hands on few sick people. He marvelled at their lack of faith (**Mark 6:6**)
 - **Mtt. 17:20** - the disciples could not exorcise an epileptic demon from a boy because of their lack of faith!
2. We need faith to be made **whole or complete**. That includes you, your family, this Church etc.
- *in essence, you are never whole or complete until you have faith and act on faith.*

TN: Turn to Mark 5:21-34 (NIV)

The Greek word *sōzō* used for *wholeness* and *healing* in this passage is the same word being saved (both spiritually and physically (eg. Mtt. 8:25 – disciples about to get drown said, Lord save us), delivered, freed; to be made complete, to be preserved from danger, loss, or destruction.

- We must understand that when Jesus declared this woman saved, she was not only saying your are healed from your sickness, but also
 - a. the social stigma and shame of your situations
 - b. the physical deterioration of her body for 12years
 - c. her finances (she went from Doctors to Doctors
 - d. (She suffered many things at the hands of physicians – could be ...)
 - e. Barrenness caused by her blood flow
 - f. her peace was disturbed (vr. 34)
 - g. She suffered pains of boy friend jilting, family rejection, loneliness for having to stay on her own (blood flow like leprosy was likened to curse)

TN: the most important statement in the passage is the fact that she says, Vrs. 28 , “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made whole”. This was where faith became operational – She said this to herself in her spirit and she believe it so, seeing herself being made whole only if she touches the hem of the master’s garment!

- Then she weaved her way into the crowd to touch Christ. Faith will drive you to where you can find solution.
 - Remember, without faith it is impossible to please God, and can’t get His provision

TN: when we faith in, we are saying, we have what and who we are, we have what we see and could do and become, even though that reality of our belief is not yet, but the belief itself is powerful enough to produce the tangible manifestation of what we hold true of our beliefs.

- **Jeremiah 1:6 –7**, God rebukes Jeremaiah, “Don’t say you can’t speak” – Don’t say you are unable”
 - **Vrs. 11,12** He commends Him that he sees well, therefore God says, I will perform My word (what you see)

In a sense, faith operates by plugging us into and bringing forth the physical manifestation of things we desire and expect, but which already exist as the provision of God for His Children (1 Corin. 2:9 – 10 “eyes have not seen...But are revealed by the Spirit)

- **Ezekiel 37: 1-9** –Ezekiel prophesying to the Dry Bones in his vision is a good illustration of the operations of faith. In the Physical you see dry bones but the reality of faith says, these are live bones with breath in them.

TN: So, to know that I will be healed, my spirit must first agreed. To know that I will get this or that it must be settled in my spirit!! **(In a sense, there’s a telling or convincing of yourself, “if I but touch the hem of His garment”!)**

Conclusion: