

# Faith Defined & Refined 1 John 5

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov 10, 2014

Over the past few months we've been discussing the "devices of the Devil" (2 Cor 2:11) and his basic plan for our lives and world. (Jn 10:10a) While Satan's power and plans are formidable, God invites us to partner with Him, promising us His Presence, Principles, and Power to guard, guide, and grow us into becoming: *"more than conquerors through him that loved us"*. (Ro.8:37) See also 2 Peter 1:4; 1 Jn 2:14-17; 4:4)

1 Jn 5:4 tells us the vehicle of our victory: *"This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith"* Since faith is so essential to a victorious life: What is Faith? Where (in Who) should my Faith be placed? How do I do this and grow my Faith?

## 1. The What of victorious Faith.

A. The Reality of Victorious Faith. Heb 11:1 *"faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report."*

- 1) **"Faith"** (pistis) involves Conviction, reliance, trust. *From peitho: convinced, persuaded*
- 2) **"Substance"** (hypost'asis) substructure, footing. *hypo: under, with & histēmi: to stand, set.*
- 3) **"Hoped for"** (elpiz'ō) to expect, trust; *from elpis': to anticipate*
- 4) **"The evidence"** (elegchos') Proof, conviction.
- 5) **"Not seen"** (ou blepō) Not (physically) visible

It's not just wishful thinking based on selfish desire, but assurance/anticipation/  
Conviction based on the character and promises of God!

*"By it (Faith) the elders received a good report"* (martyreo: witness, record)

## B. The Relationships of Victorious Faith

- 1) Faith is synonymous with, and essential to, Trust! (Jn 3:16; Eph. 2:8,9; Heb. 11:1,6)
  - a) "Believe" in the Bible is "Pisteuō", meaning to trust or commit to something or someone.
    - It comes from Pistis (translated "Faith" 239x) and literally means "conviction".
    - b) The depth of relationships are directly related to the faith we place in those involved.
    - This makes Faith/Trust the indispensable ingredient to every healthy relationship! (Jn 3:16; Eph 2:8; Ro. 5:1)

## 2. The Where of Victorious Faith While many have a misunderstanding of faith,

### A. Most have a Misplaced Faith!

1) Faith in themselves! Ro. 10:1-3 *"my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves (hupotasso: literally lined up under, trusted) unto the righteousness of God."*

2) Faith in Others. Mt 7:15 *"Beware of false prophets, ... 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits."*

a) Misplaced faith → false hope! Mt 7:22-27 *"Many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not... 23 Then will I profess unto them, depart from me, I never knew you..."*

Notice how he closes his message! Vs 24-27

Mt 15:14 *"they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch."*

See also Mt 23:15,16

b) Misplaced Faith results in division. Ro 16:17-18

c) Misplaced faith brings destruction! (2 Pt 2:1,2)

Satan, Self, and Others deceive us into settling for a misplaced faith:

**B. God offers us a Miraculous Faith. Eph 2:8**

*"For by grace are ye saved (sozo: delivered, protected, preserved) through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift (Dōron: offering, sacrifice) of God:"*

Gal. 5:22 *"The fruit of the Spirit is ...faith..."*

## Conclusion:

1 Jn 5:4 *"This is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith!"*

1) The Definition: What is "victorious" Faith?

It's a reality (conviction, confidence) that produces a Relationship.

➤ Have you recognized God's gift of Grace? (2 Cor 4:4,-6)

➤ Have you responded to it by faith? Eph. 2:8,9; Romans 5:1;

Heb. 10:37 *"Now the just shall live by faith..."* Heb. 11:1-2

2) The Destination: Where should my Faith be placed for Victorious living?

In the only truly reliable source based on the Character and Nature of God.

Titus 1:1,2 *"...according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began"*

Mustard Seed Faith must be rightly planted in order to produce! Mt 17:19,20

3) The Demonstration/ Application: How are you developing your faith?

Heb. 10:37 *"Now the just shall live by faith..."* James 1:22; 2:20; Pr. 3:1-12

In Luke 17:10 the disciples asked Jesus: *"Lord, increase our faith."*

His answered focused on

➤ The Power of Faith: vs 6: *"if ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."*

➤ The Process of Faith (which involved):

(1) Obedient actions: vs 7-10 *"But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow (think) not!"*

(2) Humble attitudes. Vs 10: *"So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We ... have done that which was our duty to do."*

## Application:

1) What do your actions and attitudes say about your faith?

2) Where is your Faith being Placed/Planted?

3) What are you doing to nurture its growth?

John 15:1-16; 2 Peter 1; Pr. 3:1-10