

THE LIFE OF FAITH. Mr K Gerner B.A.
PRACTICAL LESSONS BELIEVING GOD (Revised

1990)

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LIFE OF FAITH. Lesson No.1. K.Gerner BA

No.1.THE PURPOSE OF FAITH. Hebrews Chap.11. v. 1 to 6

"Faith is the assurance (Title Deed) of the things we hope for, being the proof of things we do not see and the conviction of their reality -- faith perceiving as real fact, what is not revealed to the senses." (Amplified Version)

A man who came to one of our healing meetings amazed me, by bringing a newspaper wrapped round some fish and chips ! When I declared that we were not running a restaurant, he cheerfully replied: " I know that ! Once you have prayed however, the Lord will heal me of my stomach ulcer, and so I have brought along this fry to have my first decent fish and chips for the last eleven years !" Did he get healed ? Of course he did, for God had previously spoken to him as he read his Bible that morning and he came PREPARED FOR A MIRACLE !

Another person who came to a meeting in USA was NOT healed and took up a case against the Evangelist, on the ground that he had come expecting something to happen, and it did not. Gordon Lindsay, testifying for the accused, pointed out that the sick man may have had faith, but did not have BIBLE FAITH, which comes from a personal WORD FROM THE LORD.

ROM 10:17 NIV Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard **through the word of Christ.**

When you have heard from the Lord, faith is able to perceive as " real in fact, what is NOT revealed to the natural senses." (Hebrews 11 v 1.AMPLIFIED) It is clear therefore, that we must carefully DEFINE WHAT IS BIBLE FAITH.

1.DESCRPTION OF FAITH.

Many people think they have faith, when they do NOT believe in fact, in the way that the Bible says they should. Bible faith is definitely NOT :

(a) A matter of what you know in your head, but what YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART

ROM 10:9 That if you confess with your mouth , "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

A wee man clapped Blondini as he wheeled a wheelbarrow over a tightrope across the Niagra Falls. When Blondini asked him to go in the barrow however, he took off running ! He knew in his mind that it could be done, but his HEART was not in doing it himself ! FAITH works by the commitment of LOVE not just the knowledge of reason !

(b) The same as HOPE

ACT 27:20 NIV the storm continued raging, we gave up all hope of being saved. ACT 27:25 NIV (Paul however, said).. I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me.

You can be SURE GOD WILL DO IT, when you have heard from Heaven !

(c) Presuming it will happen without going the way of God.

Even the Devil can use Scripture when he wants you to disobey God. He tried it with the Lord Jesus to make Him use Divine power outside God's chosen way.

MAT 4:6 NIV "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you That is why so many so-called "faith ventures" fail !!

(d) Depending on what you feel, see or hear with natural senses.

Jesus said to Thomas "JOH 20:29 "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Abraham did not look at his own body, or that of his wife, when he Believed God for a baby in their old age. (Romans chap 4 v 19 ff)

(e) Merely an ACT, but a continuous ATTITUDE

HEB 10:35 NIV So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded.36 You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God,

you will receive what he has promised. This may well require real PATIENCE over a period of time in some cases, and unless you stop TRYING and continued to deeply TRUST God, you will fail.

(f) Merely an opinion without ACTION

JAM 2:18 NIV I will show you my faith by what I do.¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that--and shudder. YOU MUST OBEY GOD AS LORD to differ from the Devil !

(g) Merely a STATEMENT believed without commitment to God's Word by POINT OF CONTACT.

Do not WAVER when dealing with God as it is AN INSULT TO HIS CHARACTER to believe that he is an untrustworthy as others. He LOVES you and is committed to His Word

EPH 6:23 NIV love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(h) Merely a halfhearted effort instead of a total dependence

You must avoid a mixture of faith and fear, which gives changing opinions.

JAM 1:6 NIV But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

(i) Not trust in men but in the Lord

PSA 118:8 NIV It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man.

If we can trust our body to a fallible doctor, why not to the Lord, who never makes a mistake ? HE IS ABLE TO KEEP EVERYTHING THAT IS GIVEN TO HIM.

2TI 1:12 NIV I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. HE CANNOT KEEP WHAT YOU DO NOT GIVE TO HIM !! Why not give EVERYTHING ?

2.DIVINE MEANS OF FAITH

How is this faith going to reach us ? The main means are :-

(a) TRUTH COMMUNICATED BY THE WORD OF GOD. This may come through :

(i) THE WRITTEN WORD of the Bible.

Daniel for instance, wrote of 70 weeks determined in Scripture and believed God.
DAN 9:24 NIV "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

NOT UNTIL ALL SCRIPTURE IS FULFILLED, will all prophecy be done away and "sealed up.."

(ii) THE SPOKEN WORD OF GOD through Gifts of the Spirit outlined in 1 Corinthians 12.

Through the Holy Spirit, God can even place desires in our heart as we pray.

PHI 2:13 NIV for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Although prophecy must be tested (1 Thessalonians 5 v 20 to 21) we must believe God when He speaks through His prophets, as is shown in
2CH 20:20 NIV Jehoshaphat stood and said "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."

(iii) PREACHING of word of God in a service. cf Romans chap 10 . v 8 to 15

(iv) CIRCUMSTANCES divinely controlled after prayer.

The Bible story of how Abraham's servant prayed and found a bride for Isaac, are a good illustration of this process. (Genesis chapter 24)

IF GOD HARMONISES all these directions into one leading, then do NOT BE AFRAID TO TEST HIM on that leading. TITHING is an obviously example of acting this way by faith.

MAL 3:10 NIV Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.

(b) AIMING AT THE GLORY OF GOD rather than merely selfish needs

LUK 11:34 NIV Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness.

If a person is not WHOLLY COMMITTED TO GOD, then he may allow that one to be even deceived by what they think that they are hearing from Him.

This is certainly true in Ezekiel chap 14 verses 1 to 5 where people had idols in their hearts when they came to enquire of God what He wanted. Until those blockages were removed, they would not clearly hear His voice.

3.THE DIRECTION OF FAITH

The way you use your faith is VITAL

(a) GLORIFY GOD by believing His promises. Unbelief calls Him a liar !

1JO 5:10 NIV Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart. Anyone who does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because he has not believed the testimony God has given about his Son.

(b) GOD MUST BE THE OBJECT OF OUR TRUST and NOT OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING

PRO 3:5 NIV Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;

DO NOT LIMIT GOD BY YOUR OWN IDEAS

(c) GAZE ON HEAVENLY TREASURES rather than be taken up with things of earth

COL 3:1 NIV Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.

THE LIFE OF FAITH is INTENDED TO WEAN YOU AWAY FROM THE THINGS OF TIME AND SENSE, to the world of UNSEEN TREASURES AWAITING YOU IN HEAVEN, ONCE YOU HAVE COMMITTED YOURSELF TO THE Lord Jesus Christ. *JOH 5:24 NIV "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.*

THE BEST SECURITY LIES IN GOD, not only for time but for eternity

MAT 24:35 NIV Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

C.T.Studd gave away millions of pounds left to him, because he felt that they would bless people and do good. Thereby he would lay up treasure in Heaven, which he would enjoy hereafter. Jim Elliott gave away his life to reach the Auca Indians in South America and wrote in his diary beforehand: "He is no fool who gives what he CANNOT KEEP, to GAIN WHAT HE CANNOT LOSE !"