

LIFE OF FAITH. Mr K Gerner BA

Lesson No.10. THE CHALLENGE TODAY

Illus: Pass on ammunition, we are going to advance = Pass on missing, we are going to a dance

HEB 11:8 NIV By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.9 By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

LIVING GOD IS ALWAYS ADVANCING

1SA 17:26 NIV David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

HEZEKIAH TO ISAIAH 2KI 19:4 NIV It may be that the Lord your God will hear all the words of the field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to ridicule the living God, and that he will rebuke him for the words the Lord your God has heard. Therefore pray for the remnant that still survives."

(A) PURPOSE OF FAITH

GLORY TO GOD after we hear and obey

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

(B) POWER OF FAITH TO MEET TOTAL NEEDS

1TH 5:23 NIV May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.25 Brothers, pray for us.

GOD'S RESOURCES UNLIMITED IN HEAVEN

PHI 4:19 NIV And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

PERFECT FAITH LIES IN TRUSTING GOD, THE FAITHFUL ONE

1JO 4:18 NIV There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

(C) PRINCIPLES OF THE LIFE OF FAITH FOLLOW FROM THIS ;

(i) FAITH BEGINS IN GOD'S CALL

This leads to total consecration to His will

ROM 12:1 NIV Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

(ii) FAITH CONTINUES in daily contact with God

MAR 1:35 NIV Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

(John 5:19) JOH 5:19 NIV Jesus gave them this answer: "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.

(iii) FAITH culminates in living the life of Christ

GAL 2:20 NIV I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

(D) PERSONALITIES OF FAITH REVEAL THIS TEACHING IN ACTION

(i) OLD TESTAMENT

ABRAHAM

Left country without knowing whither & looked for God

HEB 11:13 NIV All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

MOSES

HEB 11:24 NIV By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

HEB 11:24 NIV By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.

ELIJAH

(ii) NEW TESTAMENT;

EARLY CHURCH

ACT 2:44 NIV All the believers were together and had everything in common.⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA

*ACT 5:1 NIV Now a man named Ananias, together with his wife Sapphira, also sold a piece of property.² With his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet
^{5:3} NIV Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"*

BARNABAS AND SAUL

ACT 13:2 NIV While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."³ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

(iii) CHURCH HISTORY

FRANCIS OF ASSISSI

MAT 10:7 NIV As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. freely you have received, freely give.⁹ Do not take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts;¹⁰ take no bag for the journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.

GEORGE MUELLER

MAT 6:4 NIV so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.⁵ "And when you pray, do not be like the Hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street CORners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

HUDSON TAYLOR AND CT STUDD

PHI 4:18 NIV I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.¹⁹ And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

PROVE GOD NOW MAL 3:10 NIV Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. 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.

