

**THE LIFE OF FAITH. Mr K Gerner BA.**  
**Lesson 9. HISTORICAL EXAMPLES OF LIVING FAITH.**

*Heb 11:13-16 LIVING BIBLE*

13 *These men of faith I have mentioned died without ever receiving all that God had promised them; but they saw it all awaiting them on ahead and were glad, for they agreed that this earth was not their real home but that they were just strangers visiting down here.*

14 *And quite obviously when they talked like that, they were looking forward to their real home in heaven.*

15 *If they had wanted to, they could have gone back to the good things of this world.*

16 *But they didn't want to. They were living for heaven. And now God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has made a heavenly city for them.*

*(TLB)*

**(iii) HUDSON TAYLOR & CHINA INLAND MISSION.**

**(a) HISTORY**

Hudson Taylor was contemporary with George Mueller, and his vision and call to CHINA came at the time of the GREAT AWAKENING in the mid 1900s. His life (1832-1905) was marked by an early conversion (1846) and a definite call to CHINA (1849) after a COMPLETE CONSECRATION. Studying medicine, he experimented[..... in the life of faith to "move men to God by prayer alone"

*Matt 6:6 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. (NIV)*

and after arriving in China (1857), he resigned from his London Missionary Society over its unsatisfactory attitude to debt.

*Rom 13:8 Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. (NIV)*

After marriage (1858) he took over a hospital there and ran it on faith lines, and in 1865 started the CHINA INLAND MISSION with a deposit of £10 in the Bank to evangelise 197 million souls with no missionaries.

*Isa 60:22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time. (KJV)*

*Zech 4:10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth. (KJV)*

*John 6:9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? (KJV)*

## (B) BASIS OF FAITH

His success in praying in £2,000, led to an ever-increasing number of workers joining and by 1887, he was believing God for one hundred new workers in the field.

(I) He refused to move men by direct appeal for money and emphasised that the life of faith depends on GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, NOT MAN'S ABILITY TO BELIEVE.

Heb 12:2 *looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of (our) faith, (ASV)*

Heb 12:2 *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NIV)*

He lived a life of self-denial, feeding on THREE PENCE PER DAY while training as a doctor. Every important forward step was preceded by seeking God's guidance and he emphasised the need to rely on an invisible God

*"We need a faith that rests in a great God, which expects HIM to keep HIS OWN WORD, and to do JUST WHAT HE HAS PROMISED"*

*PAUL TESTIFIED THEY WERE FULILLED IN JESUS*

2 Cor 1:20 *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. (NIV)*

## (I) PROMISES OF GOD ARE RELIABLE:

Num 23:19 *God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? (NIV)*

### JOSHUA testified

Josh 14:10 *"Now then, just as the LORD promised, he has kept me alive for forty-five years since the time he said this to Moses, while Israel moved about in the desert. So here I am today, eighty-five years old!*

Josh 21:45 *Not one of all the LORD's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled. (NIV)*

Josh 23:14 *"Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed. (NIV)*

### SOLOMON testified

1 King 8:20 *"The LORD has kept the promise he made: I have succeeded David my father and now I sit on the throne of Israel, just as the LORD promised, and I have built the temple for the Name of the LORD, the God of Israel.*

1 King 8:56 *"Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. (NIV)*

1 Chr 17:23 *"And now, LORD, let the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house be established forever. Do as you promised, (NIV)*

2 Chr 6:4 *Then he said: "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hands has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to my father David. (NIV)*

*Ps 77:8 Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? (NIV)*

*Ps 106:12 Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. (NIV)*

*Ps 119:50 My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life. (NIV)*

*Ps 119:140 Your promises have been thoroughly tested, and your servant loves them. (NIV)*

*Ps 145:13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.*

4HUDSON TALYOR BELIEVED GOD'S WORK DONE IN GOD'S WAY, WILL NEVER LACK GOD'S SUPPLIES

"THE LIVING GOD STILL LIVES and HE HAS SPOKEN IN HIS LIVING WORD AND WE MAY DEPEND UPON IT"

GOD IS A RELIABLE FATHER

Luke 11:11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?

12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?

13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

LIVING GOD SEEN IN FIRE AND VOICE AT TEN COMMANDMENTS

Deut 5:26 For what mortal man has ever heard the voice of the living God speaking out of fire, as we have, and survived? (NIV)

JOSHUA GAVE PROOF OF LIVING GOD WHEN CROSSED JORDAN

Josh 3:10 This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. (NIV)

DAVID BELIEVED IN A LIVING GOD AGAINST GOLIATH (SOOTHSAYER)

1 Sam 17:26 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?" (NIV)

HEZEKIAH APPEALED TO LIVING GOD WHEN ASSYRIANS MOCKED

II Ki 19:4 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." (NIV)

DAVID SOUGHT LIVING GOD AND ISAIAH RIDICULES DEAD IDOLS

Isa 46:6 Some pour out gold from their bags and weigh out silver on the scales; they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god, and they bow down and worship it. 7 They lift it to their shoulders and carry it; they set it up in its place, and there it stands. From that spot it cannot move. Though one cries out to it, it does not answer; it cannot save him from his troubles. 8 "Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels.

9 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. (NIV)

Ps 42:2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? (NIV)

KING REOGNIZED DANIEL WORSHIPPED LIVING GOD WHEN RESUCED FROM DEN

Dan 6:26 "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

CHRIST ARGUES FROM PRESENT TENSE OF A GOD ALIVE WITH ABRHAM NOW

Matt 22:32 "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." (NIV)

GOD DOES NOT WANT WORSHIP OF MEN OF FAITH & MIRACLES. PAUL HAD TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN LIVING GOD AND IDOLS LIKE ZEUS AT MIRACLES

Acts 14:15 "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them. (NIV)

CHRISTIANS ARE SONS OF A LIVING GOD

Rom 9:26 and, "It will happen that in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called 'sons of the living God.'" (NIV)

GOD IS ALIVE IN HIS PEOPLE

2 Cor 6:16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people." (NIV)

REAL SALVATION FOR THOSE TRUSTING A LIVING GOD

1 Tim 4:10 (and for this we labor and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, and especially of those who believe. (NIV)

PROMISE OF HOLY GHOST FOR LAST DAYS

Acts 2:39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off-- for all whom the Lord our God will call." (NIV)

PROMISE OF CHRIST FROM ABRAHAM AND DAVID

Acts 13:23 "From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised. (NIV)

Rom 4:21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. (NIV)

As a father himself, Hudson Taylor maintained that his Heavenly Father would never let him go short "How then is our faith increased ? Only by thinking of ALL THAT JESUS IS AND ALL THAT HE IS FOR US....not a striving to have faith or increase our faith, but A LOOKING OFF TO THE FAITHFUL ONE." Christ "dwelling in our hearts by faith, is POWER INDEED."

CHRIST IS THE AUTHOR AND GIVER OF FAITH. look at Him rather than how much faith we have got:-

Gal 2:20 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. (NIV)

Eph 2:8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- (NIV)

Eph 3:17... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, (NIV)

1 Tim 1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (NIV)

Heb 12:2 Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NIV)

Hudson Taylor argued that FAITH SHOULD ALWAYS INCREASE. God's work was never intended to be stationery, but ALWAYS ADVANCING. He himself refused all money given to the China Inland Mission funds or any interested parties offering him legacies on property.

He advocated: "Begin with God. Ask HIS plans. Then offer ourselves to carry out His purposes."

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

His watchword " There is a LIVING GOD. He has spoken in the BIBLE. HE MEANS WHAT HE SAYS and WILL DO ALL HE HAS PROMISED."

## (iv) C.T. STUDD and the WORLD EVANGELIZATION CRUSADE.

### (a) HISTORY

He was one of the CAMBRIDGE SEVEN who went out by faith to China with the C.I.M. (1885) and his father was a Moody convert. His life (1862-1931) was noted for his cricketering achievements, but the illness of his brother G.B. Grace, led him to dedicate himself wholly to Christ in 1884.

When he inherited £29,000 in 1887, he gave £25,000 away to God's work. He experienced the healing power of God with his wife on their first baby (1889). From 1900 to 1906, he proved God in INDIA and the Lord educated his family through friends.

Though nearly 50, he set out in 1910 for the heathen in Africa, where the Lord promised him that the trip would be for the whole unevangelized world, although the immediate objective was Congo. His blessing in Belgian Congo by faith in this new area, led to the foundation of the heart of Africa Mission, which received over £146,700 by faith and led the way for the later world development of the WORLD EVANGELIZATION CRUSADE, Studd's life may be summarised by the words often quoted "If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for him." His vision was ALWAYS INCREASING. "Christ wants NOT nibblers of the possible but GRABBERS OF THE IMPOSSIBLE"

### (b) HIS TEACHING emphasised that faith was shown by

#### (I) Action and not merely words.

*James 2:14-18*

14 *What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?*

15 *Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food.*

16 *If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?*

17 *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

18 *But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do.*

*(NIV)*

#### (ii) Total commitment

He was moved by an atheistic tract whose author said that if he really believed, he would cast aside all earthly ties to forward the Gospel.

#### (iii) Believing God for protection and healing

*Mark 16:17-18*

17 *And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;*

18 *they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." (NIV)*

Studd met opposition both at home and abroad, with real faith in God's power to deliver him, and several times he proved the healing power of God in his body.

(Diary 1885) *"I asked brother Hogg to anoint and pray for my foot..Next day in faith, I took it as being well (though it looked anything but so) and walked a good deal on it. I have continued to do almost 20 miles a day on it since without any illness."*

(iv) Faith comes from personal communion with God

*Mark 1:35-37*

35 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.

36 Simon and his companions went to look for him,

37 and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!"

*Mark 1:38-39*

38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else-- to the nearby villages-- so I can preach there also. That is why I have come."

39 So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. (NIV)

He rose about 3.30 am daily for prayer

and emphasised obedience to his Divine Saviour's commands.

*John 15:4-10*

4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6

If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. 8 This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. 9 "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. 10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. (NIV)

"The W.E.C. missionary carries his cheque book with him always (THE BIBLE!) and he has no fear of his cheques being dishonoured..."

## (v) BURTON & SALTER and CONGO EVANGELISTIC MISSION

W.F.P.Burton was converted and baptized in the Holy Ghost in Northern England and then went up with a party, including William Salter from South Africa to evangelise CONGO, AFTER STUDD HAD MADE THE OPENING THERE. He brought the new revelation of the Full Gospel message of Healing and all the Gifts of the Spirit and founded over one thousand Pentecostal Churches, which were local and indigenous.

Rom 15:18-20

18 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done-- 19 by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. (NIV)

Burton was always in a hurry and very hard working, and on more than one occasion, his life was saved through praying people being shown visions of his need on the field.

Woman at home told to stop ironing and prayer saved life on ant hill.

Christ in us, can show needs in meeting or at distance

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are-- yet was without sin. (NIV) (KJV "touched with feelings of our infirmities..

His contribution to the LIFE OF FAITH was to show the emergence of the GIFT OF THE SPIRIT and the whole Book of Acts was repeated in some of his miraculous experiences of the power of God in Congo.

ILLUSTRATION: Len Betts raised dead when witch doctor poisoned Congo patient

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EXERCISE;

Write out the meaning to these verses in your own words:

(a) 2FAITH RESTS IN GOD'S FAITHFULNESS." What does the Bible tell us about God's faithfulness in :

(1) 1 Kings 8:56 (2) Ezekiel 12:25 (3) Matthew 5:10 (4) Hebrews 10:23 (5) Titus 1:2-3

(b) "GIVE AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU" Examine the Scriptural story and promises that accompany these instances of sacrificial giving:

(1) Exodus 36:6 (2) 1 Kings 17:13 (3) Matthew 26:7 (4) Luke 21:4 (5) John 12:23-24.

Send your answers with s.a.e. to A.V.M.POST OFFICE Box 1, NEWCASTLE, Co Down BT33 0EP NORTHERN IRELAND

