

Faith – Part 9

Susan, go ahead with the first poster. We'll not dwell on any posters today, but just to reorient everyone and bring us all back into the right mentality. We came into the Kingdom of God through the doorway of salvation. We began the process of working out our salvation by exploring the realm of faith, the fuel of the spirit realm. We've gone through the subcategories of what is it, using the Hebrews 11:1 definition and expanding from that, to then come to the discussion of walking by faith, meaning in accordance with so as to be empowered by, to the point of contending for it beginning to upgrade our output of energy and aggression in regard to the faith rather than just sitting in our easy chair about faith, we began to aggressively contend for it. And then we're moving into the subject called the end of our faith; because our faith, I believe, has an end to it. Contending for the faith, we looked at the three categories. We contend to have more of it, increase our faith. We contend to walk in accordance with it; that is in a manner consistent with the faith that we have rather than seeing everything through the eyes of, I need more faith. And we contend for the faith by being its representative. We're ambassadors of Christ; we're to reflect the glory of God onto planet Earth. We began to look as part of that discussion at the subcategories under the heading of availing; that is to say God is available. Do you not know the Spirit of Christ is within you? Do you not know that you're the temple of the Holy Spirit? But then Scripture tells us though the Spirit of Christ is within in us, that we're to put on the Lord Jesus Christ; that we have a role. God has provided; but we have a role. So we are avail-able because He wouldn't tell us to engage in something that He didn't really mean that we're to play a role in this process. So our choice then is to avail of that which is available or not to avail. And it all comes down as we began to see last time to the same two choices that Adam and Eve made; and that all of the human race has made ever since including every choice that we face through every day of our lives, it's nothing more than the same choice. Are we going to choose God or are we going to choose ungod? Going to be God determined, going to be self determined? Truth is how God views reality; truth is how I view reality including how I view what God said and whether it pertains to me and so on. It is truly that simple.

So let's pick it up from that point and go forward today. So we have, as Christians, been given, through the grace of God, the gift of faith. That faith is in Jesus Christ. Now recall that by faith in Jesus Christ, we have Jesus Christ in us; so we have all of Jesus Christ. That is to say, all that we see described in Scripture about Jesus Christ is available to us; because we wouldn't be told to put on that which we did not have. Since we have Jesus Christ, we have the faith of Jesus Christ. And remember, Jesus, not for one moment ever walked in faith in anything other than the Father God. Everything He did was of faith; because what is not of faith is sin. He had no sin, so everything He did had to be of faith. And that's the faith that we have in us. So our task then is to access that faith of Jesus by walking in a manner consistent with the faith that we've been given, our faith in Jesus Christ. So the key to walking by faith, meaning empowered by, is to walk by faith meaning in a manner consistent with, in accordance with the faith that we've been given. So we don't commonly need more faith; we commonly need to see what the choices are and then walk by faith that we have already been given.

So at its core, not walking by faith in Christ is simply a continuation of the origin of sin. That is the origin of the original sin and the origin of all sin—that is to say for mankind to position himself to look at the choices and then choose self determination. I can do this thing. You've seen me commonly talk about the fear of death as an example to make points about the spiritual truth that I'm trying to talk about. So when we have the fear of death, as Christians, here is our conversation with God. God would say, followed by what I would say, if I'm walking in the fear of death or any other fear, remember? I'm just choosing the fear of death as a dramatic example, but it would be true of any other fear.

- God says I am omnipotent; we say, not over death.
- I have the final say; no, death does.
- To die is gain; no, to die is great loss.
- I love you; obviously not enough to keep me from dying.
- I am faithful; You have deserted me.
- The flesh profits you nothing; the flesh profits me more than You are at this moment.
- I have complete faith in myself as God; if so, You keep it for yourself.
- I am in you; well if so, You hide it well.
- I am good; if You were good, You would save me.
- This will work together for good; it is not working at all except for bad.
- You're getting better than you deserve, even at this moment; no one deserves what I'm getting.
- You're an eternal spirit; I am flesh and soon to be nothing.
- You have plenty of faith; give me more faith.
- I am the judge; I can judge this better than you can judge.
- You are not here to become comfortable, you are here to become holy; when I am comfortable, it's then that I feel holy.

So you can see our running conversation with God at all these different levels anytime we're operating by anything other than faith in Jesus Christ. It's to continue to judge God. We then maintain rebellion against God while blaming God and all the while praying to God for more faith. We pray for more faith while refusing to walk in accordance with the faith that we already have and then unspokenly blame God that we don't have more faith to measure up to what we think we need. And that goes right back to Adam, remember? When Adam said the woman that You gave me caused me to eat the forbidden fruit. And remember another common example that I used. It seems blunt, but it's to make a blunt point. If I give someone in need a \$100 and then they set a match to it, what do you think I should do when they ask for more? Should I give them another \$100? Or should I say I love you and I forgive you, yet you treated what I gave you as having no value. Why then should I give you more of that which you do not value? If I did give their unchanged self another \$100, that would not be grace, since the purpose of grace is to bring us into oneness with God. But if he insists on remaining unchanged, while not valuing that which I've given them, giving them more of that which they do not value would never solve the problem. That would not cause them to value what they should value, but choose not to value. They need to learn to value it and so grace is

whatever leads them to value what they should value. They will have to learn to value it by some method other than being given more of it.

Now it's sometimes like that with our faith. If we don't value the faith that God has already given us by His grace, then why should God ever give us more faith? We'll commonly have to learn to value it by some other method. Well, what is that method? Well commonly, living under oppression until we come to the end of ourselves; to the end of our judging God, to the end of our rebellion against God, to the end of our self determination. And that's what happened to me, remember? That's the testimonial part; I had to come to the end of that to come to God; because I didn't value anything of God. So what we continue to see as a faith failure is really, more commonly, a rebellion success. Thus, God resists us because we are resisting God. We're walking in pride anytime that we ask for more faith while refusing to put into play to walk in a manner in accordance with the faith that we already have. Crushing isn't the only option; humility is a better option. But humility is not always used. If you humble yourself before God, He will give you grace and part of His grace is to increase your faith. But remember part of humility is to be God determined, not self determined.

So how does that work? Continue to pray for more faith. That's good, that's Biblical, that's legitimate; but don't stop there. Each time that you find yourself praying for more faith, reexamine your position in regard to every thought that's building that imagination that you're functioning in at that particular time. What knowledge of God am I refusing to live by? What vain imagination that's exalting itself against the knowledge of God am I choosing? What part of the essences of God am I not walking by? What part of the three essences am I not keeping in focus and perfect harmony? What part of the Word of God am I refusing to live by; and thus, rejecting? Who am I pronouncing as judge right now including my present thought and house of thoughts that's constructing this present situation? Am I choosing God or am I choosing ungod? Am I sowing the Word of God or am I sowing something else? Can I expect to sow what I am sowing and yet reap something else? Can I expect to sow this while claiming to desire that? Who am I agreeing with? What thoughts am I not capturing in obedience to Christ? What part of God am I binding? What part of God am I loosing? Who am I giving glory to, my God, myself, my circumstances? Then in light of all the answers to all of those questions, humble yourself and repent of anything that deviates from the mind of Christ, the heart of Christ, the love of Christ, the faith of Christ, and so on; because whatever you know that you're not walking in the light of at that moment, you are refusing to walk in accordance with that which you do know. Then begin to walk in faith, walk by faith at a higher level by beginning to truly walk in accordance with the faith that you've already been given, namely faith in Jesus Christ. Because if you don't have faith in Jesus Christ, you're not a Christian and that's another problem. When you walk by faith in Jesus Christ, in a manner consistent with that, you then access and loose the faith of Christ that's within you because you have the Spirit of Christ within you.

So let's take a stepwise approach to that. Romans 12:2 – Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Remember, when we started this series, we went to the beginning; because God put Genesis 1:1 in the Bible for a purpose, not just because it was a place to start. So

let's renew our minds consistent with all that we've covered on this journey so far. In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth. Thus truth is how that God views whatever He created. Jesus, as the Son of God, is the truth; He is God and He came to model for us and to tell us how that God views everything else. The Holy Spirit that's indwelling us is the Spirit of truth. That's why it tells us in Scripture the Holy Spirit bears witness of Jesus; because if the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth and Jesus is the truth, what can the Holy Spirit bear witness of other than Jesus Who is the truth? So I have God within me, access to God within me. God has total faith in Himself; thus, I have God's total faith in Himself, in me. Thus I will never be tempted beyond what I am able. That's my provision. God's provisions are not short, remember? We stop short of God's provision. So that's the divine nature that's within me; but we are said to be partakers of the divine nature. So the power of God is in me. But He gives me only one command—light the fuse. I do that by looking at the options, setting the mind on the things of the spirit, calling to mind the truth of God (how He views reality), meditating on the truth of God, and swallowing the truth of God; because that is how the process is activated. If you just meditate, but don't choose, you're in a sense chewing and spitting out, refusing to eat and thus, digest. Capture every thought that is opposed to the truth of God. Tear down any stronghold of thought, any vain imagination that is exalting itself against the truth of God. That's to loose God. And you loose all the Godness of God, including loosing the faith of God. When you do that, what you're doing is walking in a manner consistent with and in accordance with your faith in Jesus Christ. That then allows you to walk by faith meaning empowered by as the faith of Jesus Christ becomes the finisher of your faith.

Example: I Corinthians 2:16 tells us that we have the mind of Christ. Can you imagine that? We have the mind of Christ and we do. But the mind of Christ that we have is in our spirit where the Holy Spirit dwells. But that mind of Christ has yet to be accessed into our natural minds. It is accessed, loosed into our natural minds as we begin to walk in accordance with the faith that we have in Jesus Christ. But if you make most of your decisions during the day to be self determined, not God determined, how you view things, not how Jesus, for instance, views things; then the mind of Christ is never going to be loosed into your natural mind. And it's loosed, remember don't worry who you're called before when you're speaking the Gospel in My name, the Holy Spirit will tell you what to say. But He does that to the person who's before the king; because the person has been faithful to be God determined to preach the Gospel no matter what the threat. That's the person that the Spirit will tell you what to say, you see. But if you constantly engage in self determination, constantly reject how God views reality, the Holy Spirit is not going to loose the mind of Christ into your natural mind to tell you what to say.

Now when it is released into our minds, our thoughts are now the thoughts of Jesus Christ that are being expressed. Those thoughts are then projected by language into the natural realm.

We all know certain Scriptures that are building blocks for what I'm saying. Romans 10:17 – Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. So faith can come by hearing including even hearing yourself speak the Word of God into a circumstance. II Corinthians 4:13 – I believed; therefore, I spoke. So whatever you believe, speak

including speak to yourself and in a mysterious way, that faith comes by hearing the Word of God and it will grow in ways you don't know how. That's what the Word of God tells us. You speak it to yourself; you speak it to others. It will grow into faith, though you know not how. We walk by faith, not by sight. We trust in the Lord, not in our own understanding, you see. But as that mind of Christ is released by having us simply choose to be God determined, rather than be self determined, thoughts then of a different sort begin to flow. Those thoughts then precede language, and language precedes action. And consistency in doing that is simply what we call integrity; because what is integrity other than consistency in thought, word, and deed? But if our expressions are, I'm a Christian, my faith is in Jesus Christ, but 99% of the things we're thinking and doing that day have nothing to do with Jesus Christ or are hostile to Jesus Christ because the flesh is hostile, the flesh is anti-God, then why can we complain to the Lord and say, take us out of my circumstances, increase my faith when 99% of the time, we're trampling on how God views reality, insisting on walking in self determination. Proverbs 23:7 – As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.

So here, to me, is a key point. We tend to have a pacifist approach. So I ask the question, are we victimized by our thought life? I think not; I think we need to get rid of our victimization complex and explanation. We are really the aggressor to do harm to ourselves in our spiritual walk; because we are victimized by our own wills, our own choices. So if there's death occurring, it's death to the abundant life, done by suicide not by homicide. See, our wills murder us by two mechanisms. Remember, our will more appropriately should be called our worshipper; because the only purpose of having a will is to choose God or ungod, to worship God or worship something else. And by their fruits, you know them. So, since the spiritual life has its origin in God, anything that keeps us from coming into oneness of God in a way is killing us. Now as a Christian, remember, we're still saved, yet so as by fire. Death occurs, but remember in the Christian when you live a self determined life, the death that occurs is you produce dead works, dead testimony, and death to the abundant life. You don't actually lose your salvation, you are still saved, but you're not bringing glory to God, not bringing pleasure to God, not living the abundant life for yourself, giving dead testimony to others because they say, oh I can live like you do without Jesus Christ.

So our will is what looks at God versus ungod, even as Christians and then consistently chooses ungod. So we've talked about that at length and that is the rebellion, including the rebellion in the hearts of Christians that precludes accessing the abundant life. So I'll not linger on that; we've talked about that at length. But our wills also do harm to our spiritual walk by another sinister mechanism; and that sinister mechanism can simply be called laziness. Because the primary act of the will is to simply focus attention. Hebrews 2:1 tells us to pay attention lest we drift. And remember, if our wills are not calling to mind the truth of God, we will default to the flesh. So if we're too lazy in our spiritual walks to pay fullness of attention, we will drift into the flesh. But don't rush to embrace that as an excuse. Romans 1:20 tells us that every man is without excuse. It tells us Ephesians 5:14 – Awake sleeper and arise from the dead. In other words, your will is responsible for being awake or maintaining wakefulness. So when someone isn't wakeful to spiritual matters, it doesn't mean they need more faith; it means they need to

realize at that moment that because of spiritual laziness, are drifting into the flesh. Look at a simple natural example. If you're driving down the highway and you begin to nod, what do you do? You do everything in your power to bring about a full state of wakefulness. You roll down the window and let the air come in, you start singing to yourself or beating the dashboard, turning up the radio, getting some colas, some caffeine or whatever. You do every single thing you can do to bring about a state of wakefulness appropriate to the circumstance. Do we do that same thing to spiritual matters or do we just keep nodding off? You see, that's the point I'm making. Remember in our earlier discussion, love is a passion for oneness; laziness is love. Laziness is love of the status quo; because someone who's lazy has no desire to change. So if you have no desire to change, it means you have a passion to remain one with your present circumstance. So laziness is a form of love; but it is a love that is anti-God. So we cannot expect to access the abundant life while living in spiritual laziness. So if laziness is the desire of your heart, remember Psalms 37:4 – God will give you the desire of your heart, even your desire to remain one with the status quo. He won't give you up as a child of God; but He will allow you to have the desire of your heart.

So we know that Jesus paid it all. You've heard me say before; we know that it is finished in Jesus. But we know there's one thing we're told in Scripture to pay; and that's attention. Hebrews 2:1 – Pay attention lest you drift. So what I'm doing by coming at this from these different angles, is trying to heighten the awareness so that we pay attention to how we're living our lives as Christians, to what the two choices are, to upgrade the intensity and aggression with which we approach our spiritual walk. We're to pay attention to the One in Whom we have faith. When we do not do that, we revert back to the earlier pattern of living as a faith failure and praying increase our faith. When we do that, what we're doing (if that's all we do) is to pay attention to everything except Jesus Christ, we pay attention to our circumstances, pay attention to our fears, pay attention to our anxieties, pay attention to our perceived needs, all of which have nothing to do with faith in Jesus Christ. We'd be better served to pay attention to the one thing that has value, to the one Mediator between God and man and that's the man, Jesus Christ. Pay attention to what He is, pay attention to Who He is, pay attention to what He has done, pay attention to what He is doing, pay attention to what He will do, and then when you begin to engage in that, you're now beginning to walk in accordance with the faith that you have. Because your faith is not in your circumstances, your faith is not in you; your faith is in Jesus Christ. That's the simplicity of what I'm saying. But when we refuse to walk by faith in Jesus Christ, meaning in a manner consistent with who Jesus is and so on, then how can we possibly turn to that Holy God and say, increase our faith? Because if we're doing that we're saying You did not give me enough faith by which to address my present circumstances. That's nothing more than to judge God. So it's wonderful to pray increase our faith; but it's more wonderful to walk in a manner consistent with the faith that you've already been given to bring you in Jesus Christ. When you do that, then you begin to tap into the spiritual resources of Almighty God to operate on your behalf.

So one final point. We are to pay attention. And with what attitude are we to pay attention? With an attitude of violence. Matthew 11:12 (in the Amplified Version) –

And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time, the kingdom of Heaven has endured violent assault and violent men seize it by force. Well, remember, that doesn't mean the forces of Hell are seizing the Kingdom of God; because the Kingdom of God can never be restrained and taken down by the kingdom of Satan. But here's what it means to go on in the Amplified Version. Violent men seize it by force. It means as a precious prize which means a share in the Heavenly Kingdom is sought with most ardent zeal and intense exertion, you see. That attitude of Paul, I press forward toward the mark, forgetting what is behind. In other words, we're on a journey, but it's not a journey of pacifism, it's a journey of aggression. So all the spiritual walk comes down to is who has the most aggression towards that which they prize. Is it the Christian or is it Satan trying to enhance his kingdom? Who is exhibiting the greater zeal for their kingdom, you see? Because those are the competing forces. Everything in life comes down to Christ or anti-Christ. That was true in the origin of decision when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit. It will be true in the end times when everybody will have either the mark of God or the mark of the antichrist, you see. Always the two choices. So it's a matter of knowing knowledge. To our faith, add knowledge. So to our faith in Christ, add knowledge and that's what I'm hoping to do. As we add the knowledge that it's always one of two choices: Christ...antichrist, Kingdom of God...kingdom of Satan. And doing it with aggression, not passivity. So we rest in God, but we rest in the God that we are passionately pursuing, you see. Because if you aren't passionately pursuing oneness with that God, you will never access the Sabbath rest (it's called in Scripture) where you have peace within even as you passionately pursue. We like the rest part and tend to neglect the passionate pursuit part, you see. And none of this is earned. None of this that you've accomplished by merit before a Holy God; it's simply how God views reality. There are always the two sides: what He provides and what we're to do in light of that provision, you see.

So that'll do it for today, I think, and then we'll probably have one more session to wrap up faith and then after that we'll take on another subtopic. So as always, thank you for listening.