

CHIEF MINISTRIES

October 2021

Greetings in the name of the Lord,

Last month, we spoke about fear and you were provided with multiple scriptures to help you overcome fear. I'd like to expound a little bit more on that. Since the opposite of fear is faith it only makes sense that if we are high in fear we are low in faith, conversely, if we are low in fear we are high in faith. It is like a continuum with faith on one end and fear on the other, where you fit on that continuum determines whether you're high in fear equaling low in faith or low in fear equaling high in faith. Additionally, fear is an emotion and faith is an action. So let's think about this, fear, by definition is; an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain or a threat. Faith by definition is; complete trust or confidence in someone or something. It is actually an action word. In order to have faith you must trust. There are many Scriptures and illustrations in the Word related to faith but here are a few we all know well.

Let's look first at a familiar account in the Bible:

Luke 8:22-25 says; *But as they sailed He fell asleep. And a windstorm came down on the lake, and they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Master, Master, we are perishing!" Then He arose and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water. And they ceased, and there was a calm. But He said to them, "Where is your faith?"*

In this situation Jesus was demonstrating to His disciples that He had power and authority over every situation in life. If we are to put our faith and trust in Jesus, He will be there for us no matter how difficult or distressing the situations we face seem to be. This is a question to ask yourself today, "Where is my faith in relationship to all that I'm going through?. Have I reached the point where I am ready to do something about it?"

Now we know the enemy is out to kill steal and destroy and that he is very proficient in that tactic. So how do we apply the shield of faith against him?

1 John 5:4 says, *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world; our faith.*

First we need to understand where the source of our faith is:

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2).

The source of our faith is in Jesus Christ and what He has done for us. He IS the Author and Finisher of our faith and will always be on our side no matter what. Many times in the midst of life's trials the enemy (the accuser of the brethren) comes to us and tries to convince us that we are unworthy of God's help (or love) in our lives. This is a lie of the enemy to prevent us from receiving what we need. You've got to know that if God be for you, who can be against you (read *Romans 8:31*). This must be deep in your heart. Know who you are in Him and He in you.

Isaiah 43:1-2 says; *But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.*

Isaiah 40:31 says; *But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.*

There were many Bible characters, who for one reason or another became weary and discouraged over their situations in life, but in the end became overcomers, because they knew where their faith was.

Moses pleaded for God to kill him on one occasion, when the people of Israel began to complain about eating manna all the time. Moses basically said, "If this is the way it's going to be, please kill me here and now, for the burden is too heavy to carry - *Numbers 11:11-15*. Moses' preservation was in the fact that he was taking his burden to the source of his faith.

Joshua the great conqueror was so discouraged and depressed at one point that he was ready to quit and give up and wished he was back in the wilderness where there weren't so many enemies. But he too took his burden to the source of his faith and was told what to do and how to overcome - *Joshua 7:7*. We must do the same. This was the same Joshua that was full of faith when he went out with the other scouts in Numbers chapter 13 and he and Caleb said they could possess the promised land.

Second, we need to apply the Word of Truth to our situation:

We not only have the shield of faith to protect us from Satan's fiery darts, but we also have the belt of truth and the sword of the Spirit to apply to our spiritual arsenal.

Psalms 119:24-25, Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors. My soul clings to the dust; Revive me according to Your word.

Everyone is susceptible to the various situations that try our faith. None of us is exempt. But we can extend the misery of the situation in our lives when we don't apply the word of God to the situation. On the other hand, when the Word of God is applied it will not only revive our spirits, but it will begin to make the crooked paths straight once again. We must take the word of God and apply it to the situation that is bringing distress in our lives no matter how weak or weary we feel.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Job understood the importance of being revived according to the word. He probably experienced as much hardship and disappointment as anyone, and his testimony was that he esteemed God's word more valuable than food itself.

My foot has held fast to His steps; I have kept His way and not turned aside. {12} I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food (Job 23:11-12).

Third we need to find God's purpose and build Kingdom character:

Romans 8:28 says; *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

All of the areas mentioned represent opportunities for God's purpose to come forth in our lives in a greater degree. They represent opportunities to build godly character in our lives. When we approach these situations with a kingdom mentality and a heart of faith, God is able to be released to bring forth joy in the midst of the difficulty. The joy of the Lord is our strength, which counteracts Satan's tactic of wearing us down.

Look what *Romans 5:3-4* says; *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

What are some virtues that God wants to develop in your life in the midst of these trying situations? Broken relationships - forgiveness, busy lifestyle - priorities, financial problems - principle of giving and putting the kingdom first, etc.

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:2-4)

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me. The LORD will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your Hands. (Psalm 138:7-8)

Finally, and very important we need to find contentment in the adversity:

Philippians 4:11-13 says; *Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

When we are able to find contentment, the shield of faith not only causes the enemy to leave us alone, but it further releases God's hand of provision in the midst of the trial. Where are you in this?

Philippians 4:19 says; *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

These are some basic steps to overcoming life's disappointments and difficulties of which you will surely experience from time to time. If you allow God to work His purpose in your life by going to Him and His word during the time of difficulty you will find yourself in a place of contentment and as a result you will be the kind of overcomer God has destined you to be and you will have defeated Satan's attempt to wear you down. So, let me ask you once again, "Where is your faith in relationship to all of life's difficulties?"

I'm going to leave you with a few scriptures to ponder:

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart (Galatians 6:9).

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." ' (Revelation 2:7).

May your faith be strong and fear weak! You are an overcomer!!

Ms. Chief (aka Ms. G)

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Christ's Heart In Every Felon