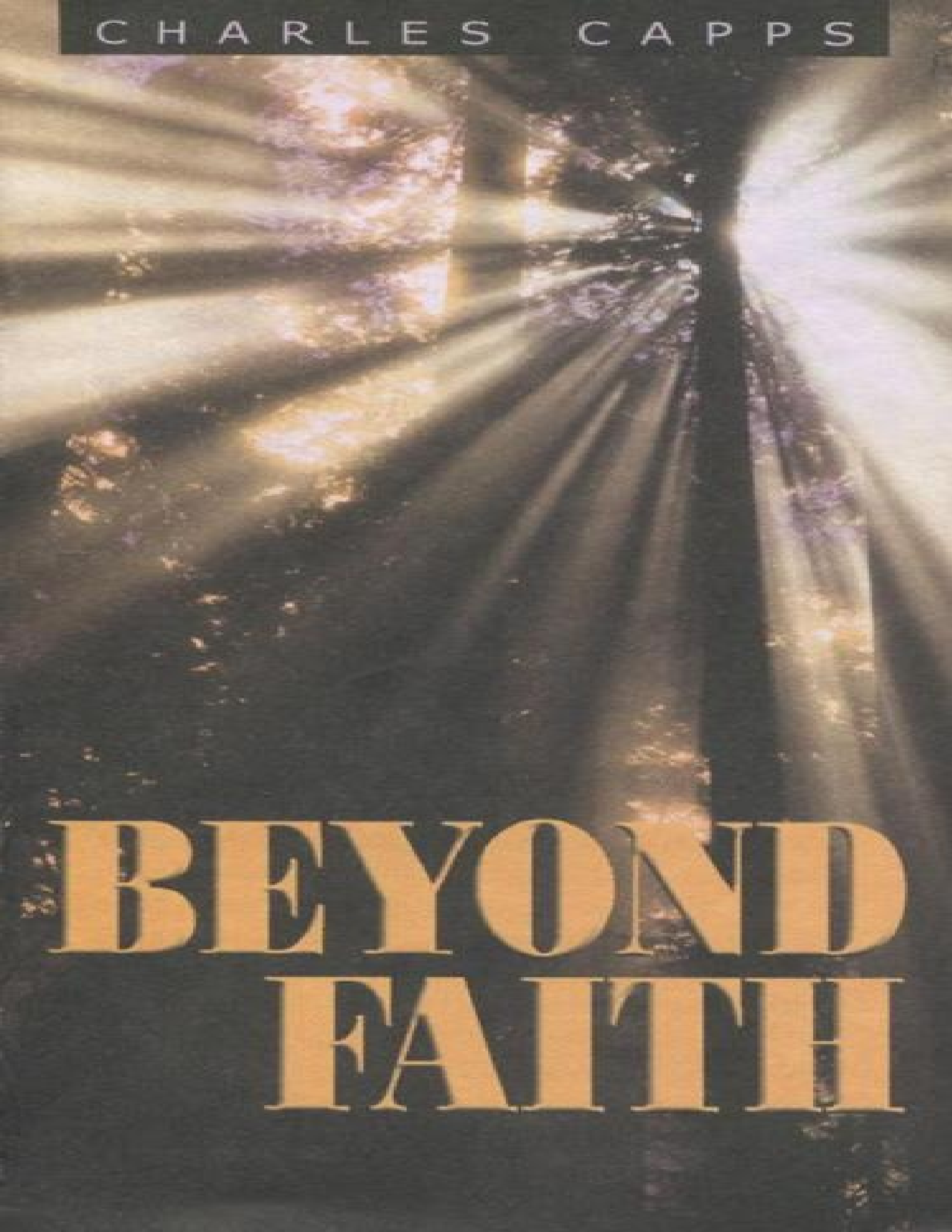
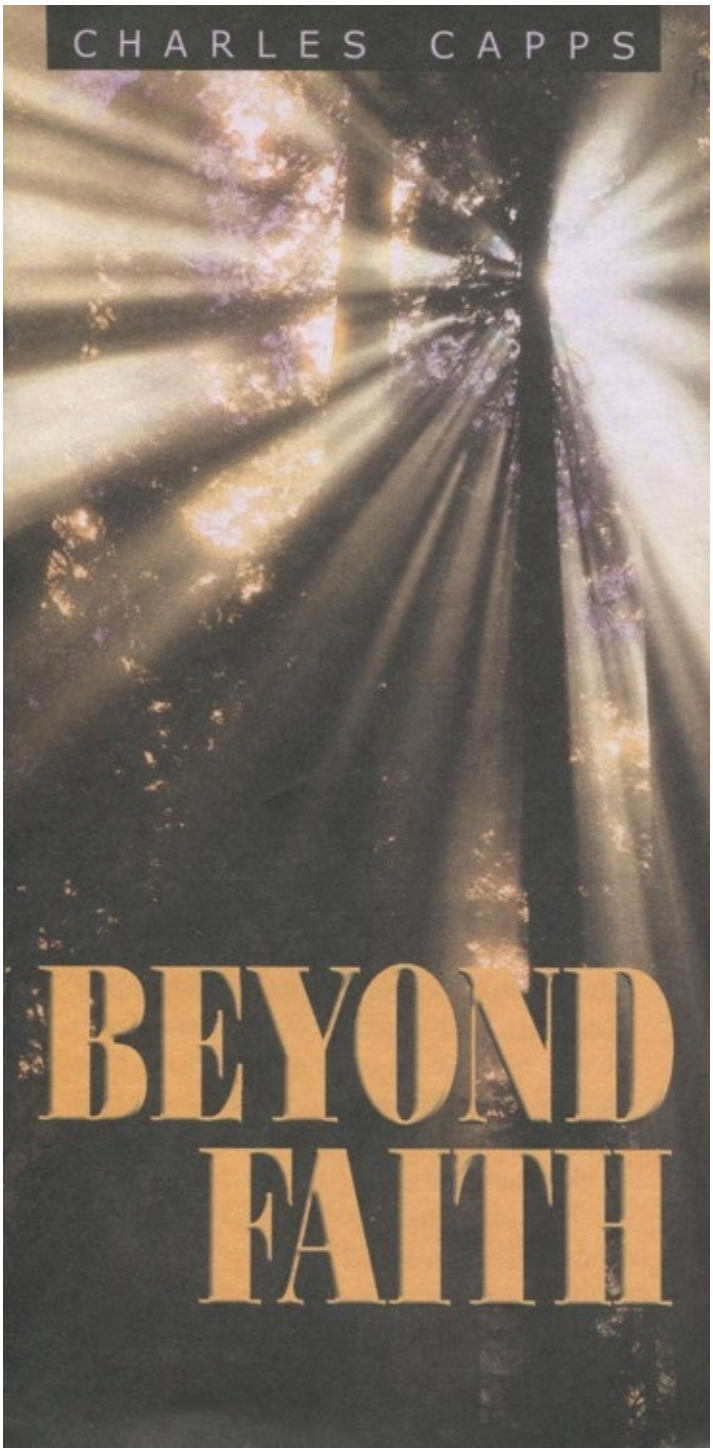
CHARLES CAPPS



BEYOND FAITH



BEYOND FAITH

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The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is

considered to be the Hall of Faith of the Bible. It reminds us of the great victories that have been won through faith. The first three verses reveal vital information concerning faith.

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

(Hebrews 11:1-3)

Have you ever stopped and asked yourself, what is it I hope for? I don't know about you, but I hope for what God has given me. In II Peter, Chapter 1, Peter gives us a wealth of information

concerning things God has given to us.

He also reveals how he gave it.

Grace and peace be

multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue. (II Peter 1:2-3)

It is obvious that knowledge of what God has done is vitally important to our faith. You can't believe any further than you have knowledge. If you didn't have knowledge of God's promises, you couldn't possibly have faith for them to be manifest in your life. Faith is the substance, and it is also the evidence of

those things that are not yet seen in the natural.

Sometimes I think we have been guilty of putting so much emphasis on faith that people get hung up on faith alone. Certainly faith is important and is a must if we are to possess the promises of God, but Peter admonished us to add virtue and knowledge to our faith. I believe this is one of the keys that will cause us to be fully persuaded.

In John 8:31-32, Jesus says: **"... If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my**

disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." It is the knowledge of truth connected with faith that causes us to act on the word to be free.

If faith is the substance of things

hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, the question arises: Why is it not seen? It is not seen because we don't have enough light on the subject to project the correct image. If you can't see some things the scriptures teach, it is usually because you don't have enough light on the subject.

HIS WORD GIVES LIGHT

David said, **"The entrance of thy words giveth light..."** (Psalm 119:130) The more Word you have on any one subject, the more light you will have. One translation says faith is the "title-deed." It's the substance of what is hoped for when the things hoped for are based on the authority of God's Word. It is also the evidence of what you can't see with the natural eye.

If you had never heard of I Peter 2:24 which states: **"(Jesus) Who his**

own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

You might say, "To believe that, I'll have to have faith in your Word, because I haven't read it or experienced it." Even though you don't know whether that's right or not as far as experiencing it, but you could release your faith in that Word.

What you're doing is laying hold by faith on the promise until the manifestation comes. In the mean time, you should be confessing it by faith, because you have no outward evidence or experiential knowledge of the matter.

When you study the principles of the law of faith which Jesus taught in

Mark 11:23-25, you will find that believing is a result of what you are saying:

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass;

he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*. And when ye stand praying, forgive... (that) your Father... may forgive you your trespasses. (Mark 11:23-25)

It seems that verse 25 must be obeyed to qualify to be forgiven so that your faith will work. Then it is the saying (confessing) of the Word, that creates the image of the Word inside you. Eventually, it becomes obvious to you that what God promises has already been provided. God has already given it and as far as God is concerned, it's already yours and you possess it by faith.

GOD HAS ALREADY GIVEN

Here is how Peter said it in II Peter 1:3-4:

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to

glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

ADD TO FAITH

All things that pertain unto life and godliness are given through this accurate knowledge, which reveals that He has already done it. This is the knowledge that taps God's provisions. In II Peter 1:5, Peter tells us not to stop with faith. **"And beside this, giving with all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge."**

Years ago, when I gave a hundred dollars in an offering, it took all the faith I had to believe that God would

multiply what I had planted. But it is not that way today, because I have too much knowledge to doubt what God promised. That knowledge came through confessing (saying) God's promises and experiencing the fulfillment of those promises in my life.

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Beyond Faith

Today I'm just acting on what I know—I don't have to be actively concerned about faith, although faith is there. I have added knowledge to my faith and am fully persuaded. I'm operating on what I know, not just on what I believe. The faith image is perfected in us, when accurate knowledge is fused together with faith and we act on what we know.

You have too much knowledge to doubt that you can get in your car and

drive it. (Unless you're four payments behind!) You don't have to actively use your faith to drive your car because you know you can.

In Galatians 3:23-26, Paul said:

... before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

Under the New Covenant, faith is your schoolmaster to bring the image of

the promise into focus. Then when the image is perfected in you (in your spirit), you've moved to a higher plane. Then, you know beyond any doubt and you're no longer struggling in the area of faith. The struggle is over because you are fully persuaded.

Please don't misunderstand what I'm saying. I'm not saying that you don't need faith. Faith is there alright, but you have moved up to a level where faith and knowledge have been fused together in your spirit. The matter is then a settled issue and you just act on what you know to be true. Remember, Jesus says in John 8:31-32: **"... If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

Sometimes you hear people say,

“You never know what God will do.”

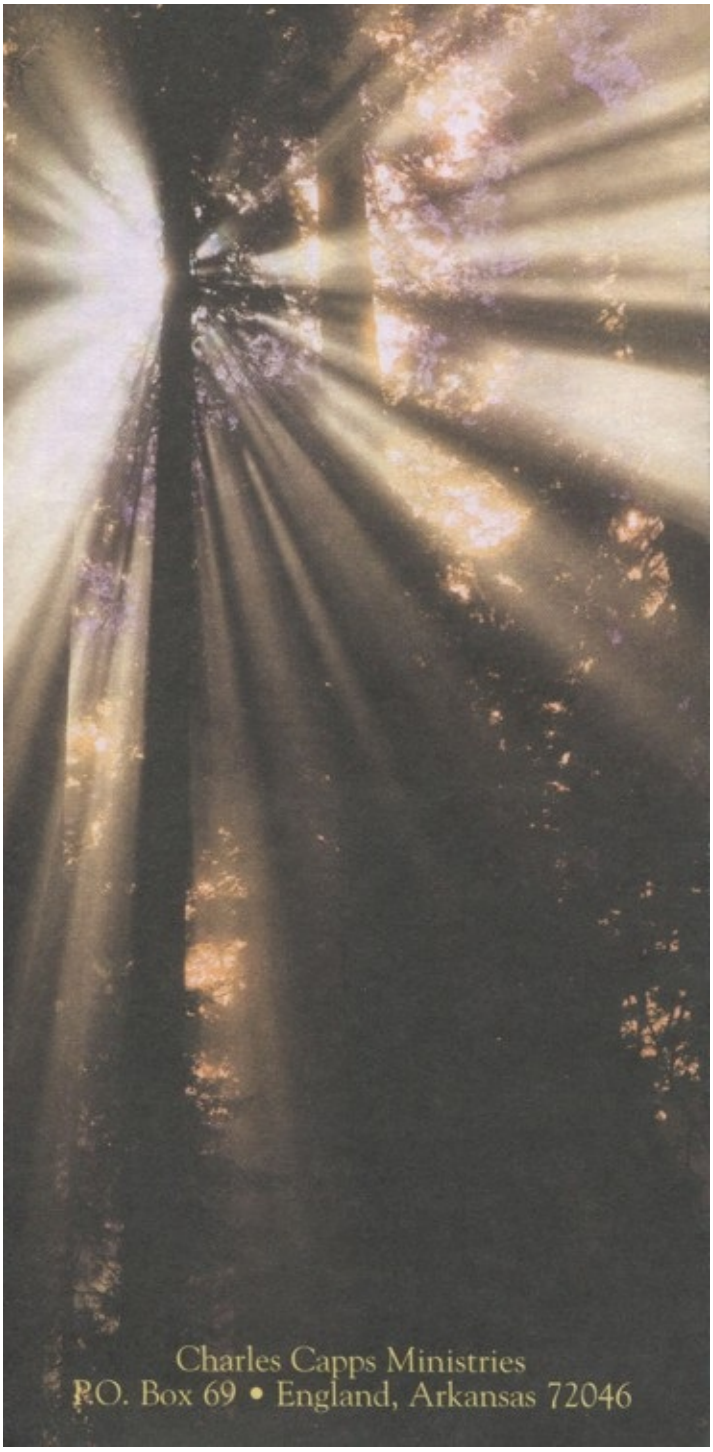
But you will if you read His Word. Let me say it this way: If you know what God will do. He’ll do it. But if you don’t know what God will do. He’s under no obligation.

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Beyond Faith

Faith makes a demand on the promises of God through the knowledge of what God has already done. When you have faith based on that knowledge, there’s no struggle with faith, for you **know** you have the title-deed.

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Document Outline

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