

THE PRINCIPLES OF FAITH

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God bless you,

Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi

Coordinator

Topic:

THE PRINCIPLES OF FAITH

Bible Text: Mark 11:22 - 24

Teacher: Moses O. Adewuyi

Prayer

Father in Jesus name, we thank you for this moment in time that you have granted us to converge together on this platform. Kindly Father, as we start our study, take the preeminence and we shall be careful enough to take glory back to you at the end of this session. In Jesus's name we pray, Amen!!!

We trust the Holy Spirit to teach us tonight because this topic is a very delicate and powerful topic. God grants us grace in Jesus' name. Amen.

Text: Mark 11:22-24:

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, **Have faith in God.** 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."

Looking at our text, you will see that Jesus made a statement: "Have faith in God" and He later spoke more on faith. Why would Jesus have said we should have faith? This is because faith is something very important in the life of every believer. The role of faith cannot be overemphasized, that even the bible makes us understand that it is impossible to please God without faith.

Hebrews 11:6:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

In fact, before you can be a friend of God, you must be a man or woman of faith. Have you not read in John 16:27:

"For the Father himself **loveth** you, because ye have **loved** me, and have **believed** that I came out from God."

Faith is strong belief in God. It means believing or having this strong conviction in God. Before you can become a Christian, you must **believe** that Jesus died for your sins and rose on the third day. None can be a friend of God without believing in Him.

Romans 10:9-10:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Let's continue properly by looking at what Faith means biblically. Kindly connect in the Spirit as we move together.

The Biblical definition of Faith:

Hebrews 11:1:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Faith is a substance which makes things that are not visible look as though they are visible. Our senses work mostly with respect to how entities in the surroundings act on it. This is why the body of a man would feel cold due to the air conditioner inside, even though there is hot sun outside. It's mainly because the skin is feeling the cold within the space it is. But, when such a person goes out into the sun, he begins to feel heat because the skin is now exposed to the sun which emits heat. Same goes with the eyes. We tend to believe whatsoever we can see with our eyes. You would notice that those who are into marketing often make their product look attractive even if they are selling sand. They package it so well that it looks as though what is inside the package is more than sand. This they do so that people would patronize them, to catch the attention of buyers. This is because our eyes are a very powerful tool in building and changing our belief system. It's hard to believe what you have not seen, and that is exactly what faith does. It makes you believe what you have not seen. This is why Jesus said in:

John 6:36:

"But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not."

Because He expected them to believe since they saw Him. Assuming they didn't see Him, He would have said they didn't believe because they didn't see. But they saw Him. This is why Jesus told Thomas that

John 20:29:

"Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Jesus was literally saying blessed are those who have faith. Why? Because faith is believing what has not been seen. Faith aligns and positions the heart in such a way that it goes beyond the physical senses and is able to have a spiritual sensation that a particular thing would happen even when the physical sense organs are saying such wouldn't happen.

Let's continue our biblical definition of Faith.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." One of things faith does is to become that substance which stands in gap for the things which are believed but not yet seen.

It's just like a man who wants to build a house but does not have money to do that. What faith does is to project the house in the reasoning and thinking of such a person, and the person begins to see and behave like someone who truly owns a physical house. It's the **evidence** of things not seen.

Faith can be categorized or broken down into 3:

1. The saving faith
2. Faith as a fruit of the Spirit
3. Faith as a gift of the Spirit

The Saving Faith:

I have briefly explained this before. This is the faith that comes at salvation. As we have known, before a person can be born again, He must believe in God and in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:9-10:

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

When an unbeliever is ready to accept Jesus, he believes Him (Jesus Christ) as the only savior and also believes in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Then, he confesses Jesus as his personal Lord and savior and also confesses his sins. And, he gets saved. He becomes justified.

This is what is also written in Romans 5:1:

"Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"

It's through faith that we are justified. No man can ever come to Christ without faith! It's by grace we are saved through faith.

Eph 2:8:

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"

The grace was made available through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, while we access this grace through faith in what has already been done on the cross. This is why the saving **grace** is not by our works. We access it through faith!

Faith as a fruit of the Spirit:

Faith as a fruit of the spirit is similar to that of the gift of the Spirit. That of the gift of the spirit is just an increased faith.

Galatians 5:22-23:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

This faith is the belief in the superiority and capability of God. Neglecting the effects of senses on decision making and allowing one's decisions based on what the Spirit is saying. It means believing in God for a turnaround even when things do not seem to go well. However, it's very important that we have this kind of faith where we believe in God despite unpleasant situations around us. Without this faith, it's impossible to do the will of God.

Hebrews 11:6:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

There are times the Spirit of God would lead one to do some certain things, but lack of faith would make a person flow with normal reasoning instead of relying on the promises of God. Faith in God was what made Abraham different. Even when it didn't look like it, Abraham kept on believing in God.

Faith as a gift of the Spirit:

1 Corinthians 12:4,9:

"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ... To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;"

This type of faith is the one mentioned as the fruit of the Spirit but at an increased rate. Those with the gift of faith tend to strongly keep believing in God when all hope is lost. When everybody on Earth would have counted it a failure, they keep believing God for a success out of it. That is how strong it is. It's a gift and is not given to everyone. It's only those who covet this gift that receives it. Those who have this gift are very courageous and bold as lions. They are not scared of unpleasant situations. They strongly believe God is up to the task and will deliver them from their distresses. The only difference between the faith which comes as a gift of the Spirit and that which comes as a fruit is the increased level of the faith that comes as a gift. Those are the three categories of faith.

However, our topic is "The principles of Faith". Therefore, it means we are going to deeply look at the "The principles of strong belief in God".

We are also going to look at biblical examples of those who walked in faith and how we can apply faith to our daily living. I want us to know that faith is essential in our christian living and without it, the bible makes us know that it is impossible to please God. Pleasing God should be our main priority, therefore, walking in faith should be what we seek to do everyday. Faith is a key that unlocks any door. The reason we sometimes find it hard to receive from God is because of our lack of faith.

Biblical examples of those who walked in faith:

1. Abel:

Hebrews 11:4:

"By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

The bible makes us know that Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, his brother unto God. How did he go about this?

Genesis 4:3-4:

"And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:"

Looking back into the story of Cain and Abel, we would see what transpired when they were offering their sacrifices. Cain just brought out of the fruits he got, the bible does not make us know the kind of fruit he brought, whether rotten or good. Many humans would keep good ones to themselves and offer the less good as a sacrifice since they would burn it. That would have been the thought of some. They would literally think that, it's better to pick the best fruits and eat into the stomach to make the skin fresh and offer the spoiled or partially good ones to

God, since they would be burnt and it's only their smell that would go up to God. Who knows if that was what Cain did or he just picked randomly from his fruits to offer to God. But something made Abel distinct amongst the two of them. He didn't only bring the firstling of his flock, he also brought the fat thereof. We all know how the first child who opens the womb seems to be cherished greatly a times just because such is a first born. When any thing or any human gives birth to a child the first time, the naming ceremony or the way that baby is cared for is different because he/she is the one who opens the womb and makes such a family become parents. Abel did not only bring the firstlings, he brought the fat thereof. Meaning that he brought the ones that looked very much better and nourished. How could he have done this? He would have trusted that God could provide more for him and allow his flock to give birth to better ones. He had faith in God and this made God have more respect for his sacrifice than that of Cain's. Although, it's not written that Cain spoke anything relating to that but his actions depicted what his heart was saying. He had a good heart posture towards God and his offering towards Him. We should always maintain a good heart posture as strong belief in God begins from the heart which will show in our actions and deeds.

2. Enoch:

What a great man Enoch was! A lover of God and someone whom God so loved.

Genesis 5:21-24:

"And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begot Methuselah: And Enoch walked with God after he begot Methuselah three hundred years, and begot sons and daughters: And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."

I want us to pay attention to the story of this wonderful man. We are all aware that Enoch didn't taste death, right? He was taken to heaven by God. Good! If you read his life story which I pasted up there, you would see that Enoch began walking with God **AFTER** he begat Methuselah. And, he begat Methuselah at the age of 65. The question is, what was he doing for 65 years that he didn't walk with God. How come he now started working with God after he begat Methuselah? We

see that he began walking with God at age 65 and walked with God 300 years after he begat Methuselah. This tells us that the years you have wasted do not matter. What matters is your willingness to put your effort into serving God in the remaining years you have to live on Earth. If Enoch could still serve God and moved so close to God even starting from the age of 65, then you can still start your journey with Christ at the age you just got informed about Jesus. So, we are made to understand that Enoch walked with God and he was no more. The book of Genesis did not really make us know how he did it but the book of Hebrews shows us how he did it.

Hebrews 11:5:

"By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he PLEASED God."

One thing Enoch did was pleasing God. No wonder the bible says in

Hebrews 11:6:

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

It was through faith that Enoch pleased God. This is why he was regarded as one of the men of faith in the bible. Pleasing God is doing what God wants you to do and this can only happen through faith because there are times instructions would come that only your strong belief in God would make you adhere to it. There are instructions that would come by the Spirit at times that it takes one's solid trust in God for one to believe adhering to such instruction is for one's betterment. Like I usually say, God will never give you an instruction that is easy to carry out. He will never give you an instruction you can carry out without His help. But as long as you stay with Him, such instruction becomes easy to carry out through His strength. Many times, we think what Enoch did cannot be done, I mean how he walked so well with God. But that is untrue. You can also walk that way with God but the level of your faith truly matters. You need to strongly have faith in God to get to that level Enoch got to that God took Him.

3. Noah:

Another great man of faith to study in the bible. We are all aware of the ark Noah was told to build to save his family, right? Before we proceed, let's look briefly into the story.

Genesis 6:9,13-14,22:

"These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God. ... And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. ... Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he."

It is very easy to read the story of Noah and conclude that you would have obeyed God as he did, but I tell you, it's not. Why? Nothing of such has ever happened on Earth before; that water is used to destroy everything on Earth. Also, the size of the ark was so big that it would discourage a normal average human being to build. But, one of the ways which showed that Noah had great faith in God was that he doubted nothing but did ALL that God commanded him. In this generation, many times, we do part of what God commands us and not all. This is partial disobedience and partial obedience and it's not a way to prove our faith in God.

Hebrews 11:7:

"By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith."

See what Hebrews says, that Noah was moved with fear even though such had never happened before. He was greatly moved with fear because he believed God's words. His faith in God triggered the fear of the Lord in him which was the beginning of his wisdom. The people lacked discernment and were too nonchalant about others, if not, they would have noticed the big ark Noah was taking his time to build for a very long time and they would have engaged him in

a discussion as to what he wanted to use something large as that for. But pleasures and wickedness covered their eyes. The faith that Noah had in God was that God's word would come to pass and he also walked with God as recorded in the bible, which means that he pleased God too. Whenever faith is talked about in the bible, who amongst the bible characters comes to your imagination first?

That's right, Abraham!

4. Abraham and Sarah:

As it is mostly known, Abraham is the father of faith. I want us to carefully examine the lives of this great man and woman, the father and mother of many nations.

Hebrews 11:8-10:

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."

Kai, what a powerful man! How many humans would be told to leave their fatherland and obey without even knowing the destination? Abraham acted based on the faith he had in God and the promise God had told him. However, it still sounds or looks absurd to move all your great possessions and belongings out of a land when you don't know where you are going to. God only said, "to a land I will show you". Which means God had not shown him or told him the land but he trusted Him and believed strongly in God and moved. Powerful! Through the faith he had in God, he was able to stay and live in a strange land where he knew nobody, dwelling in tents with his family. If some of his people could ask him where they were going to and why they were leaving their fatherland, his reply would have thrown them in a state of awe. Because, they would have wondered what was wrong with their father.

Also,

Hebrews 11:17-19:

"By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure."

One of the greatest tests of faith I have seen is what God did with Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his only son which God had early said would be the son of promise. An average human being, after hearing God telling him to sacrifice his son, Isaac whom he birthed at old age would have said it was the voice of the devil speaking and would have tried rebuking the voice of God in God's name, thinking it was the devil's. When we look at the circumstances surrounding Isaac's birth, we would know it was only by God's grace and through Abraham's hospitality to God when He appeared in the form of man. Now, that only son was what God used in testing him. Abraham had possessions, large possessions and wealth with servants, God didn't use all that to test him but his only son whom Sarah gave birth to, for him. For God to have used Isaac to test him, it showed the level of love God had seen him show upon Isaac and God would have thought that he would never want anything to hurt his own son, talk more about killing his most cherished son with his own bare hands. However, Abraham's faith was so strong and solid that he never informed Sarah about what he was taking Isaac to do, which means he was determined to obey God even if it would bring him pain and loss. Wow! No wonder he is the father of faith. I wonder how he would have explained to Sarah at home if he eventually used Isaac as a sacrifice and I try to imagine how Sarah would have behaved to him having heard that her only child which stopped her former maid from mocking her had been slaughtered by her own husband. That scenario would have been hilarious.

For God to have told him to stop and not sacrifice Isaac, it means God had seen his heart that he was willing to sacrifice Isaac. Let's quickly look at what God said.

Genesis 22:11-12:

"And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad,

neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me."

Even God acknowledged how Isaac was the only son Abraham really cherished and could have withheld from God. God saw that Abraham feared Him for wanting to sacrifice his most cherished son to Him. Abraham was able to get this honor from God through faith! He believed for God to have provided a child for him at an old age, He could also provide more even when Isaac is gone. How many of us can look at what God can do (His possibilities) above the task or His demands from us? Looking at Sarah, she also displayed a high level of faith together with her husband in some cases. Sarah also stood by her husband all through the time they moved from his fatherland and she didn't stand against him. Many wives would fight their husbands because of decisions they think look foolish. But, instead, Sarah also had faith in God through what was shown and told to her husband.

Genesis 16:1-2:

"Now Sarai Abram's wife bore him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai."

Even though Sarah was old, she still believed that God could answer her through her maid. Though, the process through which she followed, by giving her maid to Abraham was not appropriate but nonetheless, it was part of her little faith that God could still answer her even at old age but through the conception of her maid. Her faith would have been made perfect in that aspect if she had not tried to work it out herself but depended wholly on God rather than giving her maid out.

What a couple from whom to learn how to live in faith!

5. Isaac and Jacob

Hebrews 11:20:

"By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come."

Hebrews 11:21:

"By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshiped, leaning upon the top of his staff."

By faith, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau and Jacob also blessed the sons of Joseph. In those days, the blessing of the father figure was very important and the blessings the children always desired. More often than not, the prayers prayed by the fathers on children in those days always came to pass even years after the death of such fathers.

Genesis 48:21:

"And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers."

After Jacob blesses Joseph's sons, he spoke the words above to Joseph. He spoke with faith of what would happen even after his death. This is one of the things faith does; *a substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

It took the faith of Isaac and Jacob to bless their children and know it would definitely come to pass upon them. They spoke words of blessings as though they had already seen what would happen after their death. Most of them only spoke with faith.

6. Amram and Jochebed

Amram was the father of Moses while Jochebed was the mother of Moses.

Exodus 6:20:

"And Amram took him Jochebed his father's sister to wife; and she bore him Aaron and Moses: and the years of the life of Amram were a hundred and thirty and seven years."

Moses was born into the period when Pharaoh gave a commandment that every male child born to the Israelites should be cast into the river, while the females should be kept alive. But after he was born and his parents saw how beautiful he was, they hid him for a good three months.

Hebrews 11:23:

"By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment."

One would wonder how possible it was for his parents to have hidden him for 3 months without being caught by the Egyptians. They had this strong belief that they could preserve him and they tried all they could to do so till he clocked 3 months and they could not any longer.

Their faith was solid for good three months till they saw that they could not hide him any longer. It would have been very easy for the Egyptians to take note of a newly born baby because such would always cry because of anything. Babies can wake up at night and just start weeping unnecessarily (mothers can relate to this mostly through smiles), yet they were able to overcome all these for three months. Their faith was stronger in them than the king's commands. If we proceed, we would see that after they could not hide him again, his mother did something.

Exodus 2:3-4:

"And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein; and she laid it in the flags by the river's brink. And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him."

His mother must have been in a tight position not knowing what to do than to just place him floating on a river. There is a high possibility that she could not stay either close or afar off to watch him in order not to be emotionally down if anything bad happens to him in her presence. At least, she was the one who placed Moses by the river brinks but it was never recorded that she watched him, but rather his sister. So, his sister stood far off and watched what would become of him. We could see the faith of Moses' parents for them to be able to keep and hide him successfully for three months.

7. Moses

Moses' parents were full of faith and they also gave birth to a man of faith. Moses is one of the great people in the bible who had close contact with God. He was one of those prophets God spoke to face to face.

Numbers 12:7-8:

"But not with my servant Moses. Of all my house, he is the one I trust. I speak to him face to face, clearly, and not in riddles! He sees the LORD as he is. So why were you not afraid to criticize my servant Moses?"

He was also regarded as the most humble man on the face of the Earth during his existence. One of the strong reasons he was very close to God was because of his faith in God.

Hebrews 11:24, 25,26 & 29:

"By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians attempting to do were drowned."

Right from when Moses was young, he started having strong faith in God. He refused to enjoy the delicacies at the king's table by being called the king's son. Instead, he counted himself as one of the Israelites and preferred to suffer with them because of the great reward that God would give at last.

NLT version

Hebrews 11:26:

"He thought it was better to suffer for the sake of Christ than to own the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking ahead to his great reward."

Hardly would you see someone refusing to partake in enjoyment only to stay glued to a people who are servants and laborers in a land. But, Moses' faith was developed in God and the faith strengthened to have compassion on the Israelites as he saw them as his own people. Even when Moses was leading the children of

Israel out of Egypt, his faith was strong in God that he would bring them to that land He promised their fathers, even when the people spoke against him at some point in time. When they got to the red sea, the children of Israel complained because there was no road but the man of faith consulted God because he knew there would always be a way even when there is no way, as long as it's God. An average human being would fear and doubt in his heart of the possibilities of passing in between the river, but Moses kept his gaze on God and kept on hearing and following instructions from Him.

Lastly, by faith, the walls of Jericho were pulled down and the city destroyed.

Hebrews 11:30:

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days."

The story of the wall of Jericho is something we all know, but how many of us have ever thought that it really took great faith in God for the children of Israel to have believed that they would have overcome without the instrument of war. Yet, they all did as commanded.

Joshua 6:16,20-21:

"And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. ... So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, and ox, and sheep, and ass, with the edge of the sword."

And, because of the great faith they had in God and total obedience to Him, they came out victorious. These are numerous examples of those who walked in faith in the bible, and I believe we have been able to learn one or two things from the stories and the lives of these great people.

How to apply faith effectively in our daily living:

1. Believe in the power of God in you and do not doubt:

The most efficient way of **killing** faith is doubt. In fact, I will say, anyone in whom doubt has a hedge over will find it difficult to walk in faith. Let's look at these verses.

James 1:5-8:

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

Please ensure you go through these verses, especially the bolded parts. These verses tell us how important it is to ask in faith and anybody who doubts is unstable in all his ways. One of the ways the devil cheats believers is by projecting fear of limitations into their hearts, even when they pray. Sometimes, a believer would believe in God for a particular thing and would be close to getting it but will just suddenly begin to doubt if having such is possible. What that does is that, it paints God as a God that cannot do some things. And, the bible makes us know in Luke 1:37 that, "for with God, nothing shall be impossible."

If you believe some of what is being said today and you put them in practice, you will see great changes.

The state of the heart really matters when it comes to one acting faith out and bringing unseen things into reality. Faith begins from the right positioning of the heart while doubt begins from the heart too.

Mark 11:22-23:

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. 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."

What doubt does is this:

Faith builds a house and is about to roof it but doubt comes and says, "is it possible for the house to be completed, how sure are you that you will even live in it, why don't you give up on it?". Then when doubt is given the chance, it destroys the whole house that faith has built.

This is exactly what happens in the heart of a man, when a man builds with faith and later destroys it through doubt. To overcome doubt, a person must believe strongly in the power of God and what God is capable of doing. The moment you see yourself as a god because He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world, doubt will hardly find its place in you. So, if you don't know the power you carry, you may be tossed to and fro by the things you think you cannot do than the things you can actually do.

2. If you prayed about it, believe you have gotten it:

I have been reading this particular place for a long time, but the moment I caught the light in these verses, I began having testimonies of answered prayers. This is one of the scriptures that when a believer dwells so much on, nothing will be impossible for such a believer as long as he/she can pray.

Mark 11:24:

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

I believe we all know Jesus Christ cannot be lying to us. He said WHATSOEVER we desire. Whatsoever means ANYTHING, just name it, anything ye desire, when ye PRAY, BELIEVE that ye RECEIVE them and ye shall have them. I want you to take note of the word in Capital letters. What that verse is saying is that, as long as you desire it and you can pray about it AND you can believe that you receive it, you will DEFINITELY have it. One of the most powerful ways to apply faith is by praying and believing. As long as you have prayed, just believe that you have received it and you will have it.

A long time ago, I was in school and I fell into the hands of some lecturers just because I was trying to be a good leader to my departmental mates. They told me they would punish me because of what I did. I prostrated and begged them but

they never yielded. They told me to come see them the following day after taking down my matric number. I was afraid and scared of what they would do but with faith, I went to my secret place and prayed that God should change what they plan doing and that they should be at peace with me. As I left the place of prayer, I felt peace within me and I believed my prayers were answered, I didn't allow it to bother me again since I have prayed. I believed it was answered and that they wouldn't be angry with me any longer. The next day came and I went to see their coordinator who said he was going to punish me the previous day. As I saw him, I greeted him and told him not to be angry. He just told me not to do that again, and that was the end. Since then, I knew the power in praying and believing. The reason many times we pray and do not receive, is not only because we ask amiss as the bible says, it is also because the moment we leave the place of prayer, we begin limiting God of what He can actually do. We allow doubt to freely encompass our hearts and we easily destroy the faith we had while praying through unbelief.

3. Call things which are not as though they were:

This is one of the things God did when He was creating the world. He called things that did not exist as though they existed and by faith, the worlds were framed.

Romans 4:17:

"(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."

Sometimes, we need to engage our mouth in order to solidify our faith. We need to speak them out to control and gain dominion over our senses that we actually mean the existence of the things we speak even if we can't see or feel them yet. Working far above our senses will help in our daily application of faith. Anybody who chooses to walk by senses will find it hard to walk by faith. This is why the bible says that:

2 Corinthians 5:7:

"(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)"

When you want to walk in faith and you judge and determine the things around you by your senses, it will be impossible for you to believe things that your senses can't feel, touch or see.

4. Apply faith through what is written:

One of the ways to increase our faith in God is through the study of the word. When your faith increases in God, you find it so easy to walk in faith and apply it to your daily living. Believing strongly in anything that is written for God is not a liar that He should lie. His words are yes and amen. If you are a deep studier of the word, the application of faith becomes easy for you because you will know where things that can increase your faith are written in the word of God. May the Lord of host help us to grow more in faith and have more understanding in Jesus name, Amen.

QUESTION

The last portion of the study you were tackling "application of faith effectively"
The 1st point you talked on **doubt** can we say this is a combination of 'barriers to faith?'

Answer

I didn't only talk on doubt. I spoke about believing in the power of God and not doubting. Believing in the power of God can help in the application of faith while doubt could paralyze it. So, doubt can be known as a barrier to faith.

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