

- I. Our God is a speaking God—Heb. 1:1-2
  - A. Without His speaking, God is a mystery. His speaking reveals His will, desire, and His eternal purpose. The Scripture is God’s speaking (2 Tim 3:16) to reveal Himself!
  - B. The whole universe came into being by God’s speaking—Rom. 4:17; Heb. 11:3; Psa. 33:9, Gen 1.
  - C. Previously He spoke through different people (2 Pet 1:21, Heb 1:1), but today, God speaks through the Son.
    1. God speaks in the Son, the Son speaks as the Spirit to the churches, and ultimately the Spirit speaks with the church—Rev. 2:7a; 22:17.
    2. It is by this speaking story that God is brought into man and man is brought into God—John 1:14; 6:63.
    3. God’s speaking to us proves that we are under His blessing—cf. 1 Sam. 3:1, 10, 21.
    4. The life of the believers hinges totally upon the Lord’s speaking—Heb. 1:3; Matt. 17:5; Rev. 2:7a; S.S. 8:13; Heb. 5:13-14.
    5. The living God imparts and infuses Himself into us by speaking—2 Tim. 3:16-17; Ezek. 37:4-6:
      - I. When God speaks, the light shines, bringing us understanding, vision, knowledge, wisdom, and utterance—Psa. 119:105, 130.
      - II. When God speaks, life is imparted, and this life includes all the divine attributes and human virtues of Christ—John 6:63; 1:1, 4.
      - III. When God speaks, power is transmitted, and this is the growing and reproducing power of life—Mark 4:14, 26.
- II. Faith comes from hearing, and hearing comes from the preaching of the word—Rom. 10:14:
  1. The source of faith is the word; this is why we must get into the Word—v. 17.
  2. The more we get into the Word, the more we will have faith, and this faith is the spirit—2 Cor. 4:13.
  3. By the spirit of faith we may speak the Word that is the source of our faith. “Bear witness”/“testify” = martyr (3140).
  4. Here is a cycle: the Word produces faith, faith is the spirit, and by this spirit we can speak the Word—Rom. 10:14, 17; 2 Cor. 4:13.
- III. In order to be men full of faith (Heb. 13:7; Acts 6:5), we need to see that “faith comes out of hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” (Rom. 10:17):
  - A. The source of faith is the word, but we have to realize the crystallization of this point; there are three aspects of the word:
    1. The written word of God—the Scripture—John 10:35, Matt 4:4. Graphe
    2. The living (constant) word of God—Christ—1:1. Logos
    3. The applied (instant) word of God—the Spirit—Eph. 6:17; John 6:63. Rhema
  - B. The written word, the living word, and the applied word refer to God Himself; God’s written word in the Bible becomes Christ as the living word, who is applied to us as the Spirit, the word of the Spirit; the more that God is gained by us in this way, the more He becomes our faith.
    1. Jn 2:22 – They “remembered” the graphe and logos, after He was raised.
    2. Jn 12:16 – They “remembered” the graphe after He was glorified.
    3. Jn 14:26 – The Spirit “teaches” from what was written, and “causes to remember” from what was spoken.

- C. The crystallization of the source of faith is God in His written word contacted as the living word and applied as the word of the Spirit so that we can gain the Triune God, who is able to call the things not being as being and give life to the dead—Rom. 4:17.

Compare the way that we read the Scripture; do we read it as a book of information and history? Or do we read it as a letter written from a loved One?

- IV. The way to receive such a linking faith is to contact its source, the processed and consummated God; this faith links us with God and imparts, transfuses, God into us; then we will become men of faith—Heb. 4:16; Rom. 10:12-13; 2 Tim. 2:22; Eph. 6:17-18; Psa. 119:15 and footnote 1:
  - A. This faith links us with God and imparts, transfuses, God into us to become our living faith; this is the faith of the believers in its progressing stage.
  - B. The initial stage of faith is the faith that comes from the hearing of the word (Eph 1:13); the Spirit was installed into us through the hearing of the word (Gal 3:2); now this Spirit, or this faith, which has been installed into us, stays within us and grows (Col 3:16)—Rom. 10:17; 12:3.
  - C. Romans 1:17 says that “the righteous shall have life and live by faith”—this verse reveals that the structure of the gospel of God is the righteousness of God, the life of Christ, and the faith of the believers; this verse can also be considered as the banner of God’s eternal economy.
  - D. To have life by faith is the initiation; to live by faith is the going on, the progressing stage of faith; faith in the second stage, the progressing stage, is the linking faith that comes to us through our contacting the Triune God.
  - E. If you contact God, faith grows in you, which means that God increases in you; we all have the same faith in quality, but the quantity of faith we have depends upon how much we contact the living God so that we may have Him increased in us; when God increases in us, the linking faith in the second stage grows in us—cf. Col. 2:19, Mark 4:24.
- V. By this linking faith we are linked to God in Christ to participate in all that the all-inclusive Christ is, has, and has attained to, for the producing of the organic members of Christ to constitute and build up His organic Body, which will consummate in the New Jerusalem as the enlargement and expression of the eternal Triune God in His unlimited glory in the mysterious mingling of divinity with humanity for eternity (Rev. 21:2—22:5); this is the eternal fulfillment of Romans 1:17—“the righteous shall have life and live by faith”!

Faith is not for us to accomplish great things; faith is for us to live God, to express God, and to minister God to people; faith is not for us to perform something great; faith is to live God and annul ourselves—1 Tim. 1:5; 2 Tim. 1:5.

Faith works (operates, 1754) through love – Gal 5:6. Because the religious leaders did not have the love of God, they were not able to receive Jesus Christ – Jn 5:42. Love is the “catalyst” through which faith is able to “operate/function” in order to fulfill God’s purpose which is the sonship for His corporate expression – the Body of Christ!

Crystallization: The process of transforming a substance from a liquid/gaseous state to a solid state to form an organic, organized arrangement of atoms/molecules in a definite pattern. This process is used for the purification of impure solids. It is recognized by the surface regularity of the material reflects the internal symmetry. Water is the universal solvent, the most commonly used in nature and science.