

# Faith So As To.... 1

***The Righteous Live by His Faith: AMEN!***

(preached 2/13/22)

Please turn to *Habakkuk 2*.

Can I get an “AMEN”?!

“NEED TO HAVE FAITH” As Christians both the Scriptures and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ tell us that 1) we need to have faith and 2) we need more of it. Over the years I’ve heard the following questions and asked them myself:

- What is faith...how is it defined?
- Is it something we must produce within ourselves?
- If yes, how? Fasting, speaking in a private tongue, reading the Bible, etc.?
- If no, then how do we get it?
- Is it measurable: greater and lesser amounts of it?
- If yes, then how do we increase it?
- Is there a difference between faith and belief? If yes, what is it?
- Can we “lose” faith?

HEBREW WORDS. There are fascinating variations for the Hebrew word for faith. H529 translates to “established truth worthy of trust” and is pronounced “A-moon” phonetically. Examples of this would be:

- A law/commandment from God (as being truth that supersedes all else). Ex: if God makes a moral statement declaring x to be good and y to be evil, His judgment is true and righteous forever, regardless of how other things change.
- A prophetic promise from God where He says He will do \_\_\_\_\_. Ex: the Second Coming of Christ, Last Days outpouring of the Spirit, etc.

**The only Being who creates an established eternal truth worthy of trusting in is God.**

**The only written source on earth containing said truth worthy of trusting in is the Bible.**

WHAT DO WE DO? Now that these truths exist, what is our relationship to them? What are we supposed to do with them?

ENTER THE “WIFE”. Now enter in the wife of H529 which is H539 and the reason I labelled it as the wife is because it’s more ... complex. The translation of H539 means “believe TO faithfulness” and is pronounced “aw-man.” Yet the word is even deeper than this and goes on to mean “verified, brought up, to be nursed, to stand fast, to nurture.”

TRANSITIONAL. Whereas the first translation is like a solid rock that’s steady, secure, and immovable the second is transitional—it links itself to the first one and draws strength and stability from it. What’s more is that by doing so, it increases itself so that it becomes bigger, stronger, and looks more like the first one the longer they’re married. Let those who have ears hear.

## **Can I get an “AMEN!”**

ONE FLESH. When man and woman come together to be husband and wife they are no longer two, but one flesh and thus when these two Hebrew words were put together by the Lord Himself they form a powerful word that we all know well: AMEN.

REWORDED. In order to truly have faith, both of these things must be present and let me reword them a bit differently:

1. We have a truth and/or a prophetic promise that God has made (husband).
2. We must believe it (wife).

## **Jesus is the only One who can provide the first one and, like a magnificent Husband, He has.**

JUDGED ALL THINGS. He’s already judged things and shared them with us in the form of His commandments so that we don’t have to wander around down here in confusion or ambiguity about what He wants, what’s right and wrong, and what His plans are.

PROMISES. He’s made plenty of wonderful promises in the Bible, some of which He’s already kept and others still in our future.

PERSONAL. He will also make PERSONAL promises when we have a relationship with Him, both talking to and listening to Him.

*Christ has done and still does His part. He is our divine Husband.*

**WE ARE HIS WIFE, HIS BRIDE. OUR PART IS TO BELIEVE.**

NO CONFUSION/STAND FAST. If we believe the commandments and declarations He's made, we will be rock solid. We will "stand fast" which denotes battle: to remain standing even after an enemy physically charges us. We will not waiver. We won't be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. We won't dwell in moral ambiguity. We'll know right from wrong despite circumstances or society pressure. We won't mix the leaven of the world in with the true Word of God.

MIXING LEAVEN. If we don't believe God's commands, we'll embrace those of the world. We'll go our way, live according to our own rules and therefore be in rebellion. We'll be molded by the fallen world into its image and not that of Christ calling good, evil and evil, good. We'll be insecure, anxious, and fearful.

BIBLICAL PROMISES. The Lord makes a lot of promises in the Bible some of which He fulfilled through Jesus in the New Covenant. You and I received all those promises when we were born again: the forgiveness of our sins, God as our Father, the Holy Spirit within, and the righteousness of Christ.

YET TO COME. There are many more yet to come: the Rapture, the Second Coming, the Millennial Kingdom, and the eternal defeat of Satan.

ONGOING. There are ongoing promises we can believe that are present and ongoing right now, such as the Lord will never leave or forsake us. That He's still giving His 9 Gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12, and that His 9 Fruits of Galatians 5 are ours for eating every day.

*Do we have faith for healing or prophecy?*

**DO WE HAVE FAITH TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S FRUIT OF JOY? LOVE? PATIENCE?**

CUP RUNS OVER. Husband Jesus has made all available to the point of "our cup runneth over" so are we being good wives? In other words, are we believing in Him? Are we "AMEN"?

**If these things are consistently lacking in our lives then our hearts don't believe they are for us.**

HEART BELIEVES. Our minds may very well know the right Scriptures for healing and joy and give assent to the doctrine...but it's with the heart that one believes (Romans 10).

TERMINATOR. In the first Terminator movie, a murderous cyborg is sent back in time to kill Sarah Conner who will someday birth the savior of mankind: John Conner. A human named Kyle Reese is also sent back to protect and save her. When they first meet (after the cyborg has attacked and he protected her) he famously sticks his hand out to her and says "come with me if you want to live."

JESUS DOES THE SAME. She must believe in him...trust him to save her. Jesus once approached every one of us, stuck out His hand, and told us to follow Him and have everlasting life.

LIEFLONG. Following Him, trusting Him, and believing Him was never a one and done—it's a lifelong process.

WE BELIEVED....

- We all believed in Him to forgive our sins when we first asked Him to, so now do we believe that we can have the fruit of Joy?
- We all believed in Him to send the Holy Spirit to come live within us, so can we now believe He will Baptize us in the same Spirit?
- We all believe He made us into Father's sons and daughters when we were Saved, so do we believe He plans for us to go and make other sons & daughters—disciples—with the preaching of the Gospel and evidence of the miraculous?

He provides the truth, the plan & the promises.

## **Our part is to believe.**

OUR DISCERNMENT. Our discernment as to whether we truly believe in something with our HEARTS is whether it consistently exists in our lives or not.

MIND AGREEMENT. I repeat: our minds can and readily agree with doctrine. We can say we believe in the modern day operation of God's 9 gifts, but a secret doubt crouches in our hearts and prevents the same.

PATIENCE. We know that patience is a fruit of the Holy Spirit but don't have any: we don't believe it's for us.

NEVER LEAVES. We've heard Hebrews 2 quoted that God never leaves or forsakes us, but our hearts don't buy it and secretly believe that God is angry, disappointed, and has drawn back from us.

AMEN IS NAME. Did you know that "Amen" is one of the names of Jesus our Husband?

7 CHURCHES. In His famous letters to the 7 churches of Asia Minor, Jesus calls Himself by different names to each one. Here is how He refers to Himself to Laodicea:

### **Revelation 3:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

HE IS TRUTH. We already defined “Amen” as being truth that we can trust. Did not Jesus declare Himself to BE the Truth in John 14:6? Truth is a Person and not data.

## **Amen is a Person and not just something we add to the end of a prayer.**

IT MEANS JESUS/FAITH. Amen does NOT mean “all men” as some claim...it’s a Name of Jesus showing He will always keep faith with us. When you and I say “Amen!” not only are we declaring His Name but we’re saying we believe in Him. We can’t believe in His commands, plans, or promises unless we believe in Him.

IS HE TRUE? If we claim to believe in Him, then do we truly believe what He says as true? Do we believe healing is for us? Love is for us? Prophecy? Victory? Joy? Self-control?

DOUBTS YOU? How do you feel when someone doubts you, especially when you know you’ll come through and are dependable? Ex: the last 9 times you promised the kids something you kept your promise but every time they doubted you. Despite your track record, does it sound like they believe in you?

APPLIES TO US? Do we declare we believe in Christ yet we don’t trust that His promise of grace, mercy, love, and gifts are for us? That these things apply to other Christians but not us?

**IF THESE THINGS AREN’T CONSISTENT IN OUR LIVES THEN PERHAPS WE DON’T BELIEVE IN THEM FOR US.**

*We may agree, in our minds, with the doctrine...but our hearts have yet to repent of unbelief.*

## **God always keeps faith—His end of the covenant:**

### **Psalm 146:1-9 (ESV)**

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!
- <sup>2</sup> I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
- <sup>3</sup> Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.
- <sup>4</sup> When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.
- <sup>5</sup> Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- <sup>6</sup> who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;
- <sup>7</sup> who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;
- <sup>8</sup> the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

<sup>9</sup> The LORD watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**Verse 3:** princes are politicians who try and act like God: making both commandments and promises to win our trust...and we give it to them over and over, only to feel let down again and again.

**Verse 6:** the only Being whose command stand forever is the Lord. The only Being Who deserves and has earned our faith is God. Look at the last line in this verse: He keeps faith forever.

**Verses 7-9** are examples of promises God makes and He always keeps His promises...always.

### **Isaiah 26:1-4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: "We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks.

<sup>2</sup> Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.

<sup>3</sup> You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

<sup>4</sup> Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

**Verse 2:** it's our turn to keep faith. To believe in Jesus which includes what he declares, commands, and promises.

- We can't just say we believe in Jesus yet don't believe His commands and promises apply to us.
- We can't say that we love Him but that we don't trust what He says.

"...ARE NORMAL." I often hear other ministers with good intentions say things like "having doubts and fears are normal/OK" when attempting to console someone struggling with the same.

ADD ON STATEMENT. So now let's add the follow up statement: ***"but we can't stay there too long. Now that we've identified our unbelief, lets repent of it."*** It gets hot in Egypt but the risk of swimming in denial are the crocodiles of fear, anxiety, hopelessness, and depression. Jesus didn't die on the Cross, go to Hell, then rise from the dead for His Bride to constantly dwell in doubt and have others always telling them all is well. It's not OK because it's killing us.

SECURE BELIEF. Jesus told us we would believe and be secure in said belief. Doesn't mean 24/7, doesn't mean there won't be bad times. It does mean that we are linked to the Rock, Jesus, drawing strength, security, and growth from Him no matter what is happening.

**We were born again to believe in Jesus and what He promises!**

### **Habakkuk 2:2-4 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And the LORD answered me: “Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it.

<sup>3</sup> For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup> “Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith.

**Verse 2:** God wrote down His vision so we could all read it—life DOES come with a manual and thank God it’s written in English, both King James and modern.

**Verse 3:** God’s promises—both Biblical and personal—have an appointed time. Some stop believing because they want it now and God is saying “later.” If the Lord has made a promise, we must wait for it will come!

**Verse 4:** a puffed up soul is someone who doesn’t believe. We have been made righteous by Jesus and the righteous live by His faith.

Can I get an “AMEN”?!

### **Matthew 9:18-26 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> While he was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.”

<sup>19</sup> And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples.

<sup>20</sup> And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment,

<sup>21</sup> for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.”

<sup>22</sup> Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well.

<sup>23</sup> And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,

<sup>24</sup> he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him.

<sup>25</sup> But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose.

<sup>26</sup> And the report of this went through all that district.

**Please note verses 18 & 21:** both the ruler and the woman with the blood issue believed BEFORE anything happened. They didn’t just believe in anything nor were they merely following personal desires—they believed in specific promises made in Isaiah about the Messiah and Kingdom. Particular miracles that would take place when Messiah would appear to confirm His identity. More on that in a future sermon!

BOTH BELIEVED. Because they believed and both made verbal declarations of the same, the woman was healed of her blood issue and the rulers daughter was raised from the dead.

**Look at verses 24-25:** unbelievers don't get to see. The vicious circle of unbelief—they have to see it first to believe it which is the opposite of faith. Because of this, they rarely if ever see anything! Even those who do continue to doubt afterward.

You and I were born again to believe!

### **Matthew 9:27-31 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup> And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David."

<sup>28</sup> When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord."

<sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."

<sup>30</sup> And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly warned them, "See that no one knows about it."

<sup>31</sup> But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

NEED TO ASK? Did Jesus need to ask these men if they believed because He didn't already know? I believe He did know. So why ask? Because both God and man, Husband and wife, have a role to play. Jesus is the Amen, the faith provider of truth, commandments, and promises. He offers ALL to His wife who does her part to believe in Him and therefore all He says, does, commands, and promises.

"AMEN!" When He offers, she responds by calling out His name: AMEN! She replies with a verbal statement of faith: AMEN! Christ asks the 2 blind men if they believe because He wants His righteous to live by His faith.

CANAANITE WOMAN. I end with this famous example, specifically for those of you who believe God's promises apply to others and not you:

### **Matthew 15:21-28 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup> And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

<sup>22</sup> And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon."

<sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying out after us."

<sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

<sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

<sup>26</sup> And he answered, "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."

<sup>27</sup> She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."



<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

ONLY ISRAEL. Up until Jesus, it was believed that only Israel would inherit Messiah and the Kingdom. The only role for Gentiles, after Messiah & Kingdom finally arrived, would be to come and bow down in submission, bringing expensive gifts to boot, and living a lifetime of servitude.

NO CHANCE. If that were true, the Canaanite woman never stood a chance. She had no part or inheritance in Messiah or the Kingdom. None. The Kingdom promises of healing and freedom from Satan made in Isaiah were only for Israel and not her...and Jesus seems to “confirm” that. So why did Jesus deliver her daughter?

FAITH. She believed in Him even though everyone else was telling her it didn’t apply to her.

Jesus formed covenant with Her right there in that moment and became her Husband...because she believed in Him.