

The Power of Faith: Moving Forward, Not Looking Back

Faith is the foundation of everything in God's kingdom. It's through faith that healing, deliverance, forgiveness, and miracles happen. Hebrews 11:15 tells us, "If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return." This powerful verse reminds us that dwelling on our past can prevent us from moving forward into God's promises.

What Does It Mean to Be Aliens and Strangers?

As Christians, we are "aliens and strangers on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13). This world is not our permanent home—it's temporary. Our true destiny is heaven. While we should certainly be involved in this world—loving people and making a difference—we must remember that we're ultimately citizens of heaven.

The danger comes when we keep looking back at what we've left behind. When we focus on past hurts, old struggles, or previous arguments, we miss what God has ahead for us. The Lord is saying, "I have so much coming for you that's ahead. Don't allow what's past to hinder you going forward."

How Does Faith Work in Our Lives?

The Bible describes faith as "being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). While our five physical senses (taste, smell, sight, hearing, touch) help us interact with the natural world, faith helps us interact with the spiritual realm.

Faith is our spiritual sense that reaches beyond what our natural senses can perceive. That's why Scripture encourages us to "walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Corinthians 5:7). Everything we need has been provided for us in the heavenly realms (Ephesians 1:3), and faith is what makes those unseen realities manifest in our lives.

Where Does Faith Come From?

Romans 10:17 gives us the answer: "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ." This process happens in three stages:

1. God's Word comes to us
2. We hear it with an attitude of interest and attention
3. Faith begins to arise within us

The Word of God is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12). It carries heaven's DNA and the power of God. When God speaks to us, we face a choice: Will we believe what He says, or will we trust our own understanding? Will we let past hurts determine our future, or will we embrace God's promises?

How Should We Receive God's Word?

James 1:19-21 teaches us to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." We're instructed to "humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."

The Amplified Bible puts it this way: "Receive and welcome the word which, implanted and rooted in your hearts, contains the power to save your souls." Though our spirits are already saved when we accept Christ, our souls (mind, will, and emotions) are in the process of being saved—this is sanctification.

To properly receive God's Word, we must:

- Receive it with meekness and humility
- Lay aside moral filth (delight in impurity)
- Lay aside wickedness and resistance to correction
- Open our hearts to what the Lord is saying

What's the Difference Between Logos and Rhema?

The Bible (Logos) is God's eternal, unchanging Word that will never pass away. But God wants to take portions of this eternal Word and make them alive to us personally—this is Rhema.

Rhema is when a scripture you've read many times suddenly comes alive with new meaning. Jesus said, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word (rhema) that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). This is our spiritual nourishment.

Rhema:

- Takes the eternal Word and injects it into time
- Brings the heavenly Word down to earth
- Makes the potential Word actual
- Makes the general Word specific
- Takes a portion of the total and makes it real to you

How Does Our Confession Activate Faith?

Hebrews 3:1 tells us to "fix our thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess." As our high priest, Jesus represents us before God, but His ability to fulfill His promises is linked to our confession.

When we declare the truth of who Jesus is and what He's promised, we have the full authority of Christ behind us. But when we speak words of doubt, we undermine that authority. That's why Hebrews 10:35 warns, "Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded."

Life Application

What has God revealed to you? What word has He spoken that you know for certain came from Him? Perhaps it was a promise He gave you years ago. Don't let time water down what God said. In the spirit realm, there is no time—God is not impatient, and He will fulfill His word.

When God places His word in you, He watches over that word to bring it to fruition. But for that to happen, you must guard your thinking and your speech. Don't let unforgiveness or offense hook you into the past and prevent you from moving forward by faith.

This week, take time to reflect on these questions:

1. What promises has God given me that I've allowed to fade because of time or circumstances?
2. Am I dwelling on past hurts or failures instead of focusing on God's future for me?
3. What negative confessions am I making that contradict God's word to me?
4. How can I realign my thinking and speaking with the faith God has placed in my heart?

Remember, God has so much ahead for you. Don't allow your past to determine your future. Move forward by faith, keeping your eyes fixed on Jesus and the promises He's given you.