

# Abundant Life: Faith to the Finish

Faith isn't finished until God is pleased and we are rewarded!

## The ABCs of Faith Review

***Faith gives us the (A)bility to (B)elieve and (C)reate something from nothing for God's glory.***

***This is accomplished in three steps.***

***(A)ccept (B)elieve (C)reate***

*What is faith?*

### **Hebrews 11:1-3 New King James Version**

11 Now faith is the [a]substance of things hoped for, the [b]evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 3 By faith we understand that the [c]worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

- Faith is the God given supernatural ability to hope for what cannot be seen with the assurance it will come into being, because we believe the One who promised it is faithful!

## Step One: Accept

- The process of faith begins by accepting what God has spoken.
- Faith comes by hearing, hearing the word of God!

## Step Two: Believe

- For faith to continue to manifest after hearing/accepting/taking it in, it must enter the next phase of believing. What is the evidence of believing? Hope!
- It's not believing without hope, which is the positive expectation to see God do what He promised.
- It's not faith if I can see it, but without faith, I'll never see it!

## Step Three: Create

- The final phase of faith is when what we have accepted and believed leads us to obey what we've heard, resulting in the manifestation of our hope and glory for God.
- **"The faith God has given me allows me to be a co-creator on this earth for His glory!"**
- *How do we know that God wants us to be co-creators?*
- **Matthew 6:9-10 New King James Version**  
9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Faith is about bringing the things that God wants to the Earth for his glory.

### Luke 5:1-11 New Living Translation

5 One day as Jesus was preaching on the shore of the Sea of Galilee,[a] great crowds pressed in on him to listen to the word of God. 2 He noticed two empty boats at the water's edge, for the fishermen had left them and were washing their nets. 3 Stepping into one of the boats, Jesus asked Simon,[b] its owner, to push it out into the water. So he sat in the boat and taught the crowds from there. 4 When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish." 5 "Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so **(ACCEPT)**, I'll let the nets down again **(BELIEVE)**." 6 And this time their nets were so full of fish they began to tear! **(CREATE)** 7 A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking. 8 When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm such a sinful man." 9 For he was awestruck by the number of fish they had caught, as were the others with him. 10 His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed. Jesus replied to Simon, "Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!" 11 And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus.

## Faith to the Finish

### ***Deer Testimony***

- Which voice was the voice of God, the 1st or 2nd?

- We know it was the voice of the demonic for two reasons.
- The speed limit was broken, and it would have resulted in death, pleasing who?
- Who was pleased that I obeyed and lived?
- I had more faith in the second voice.
- My faith brought me the finish God intended, which was life!
- Because the faith that I had in God's word moved me to action, bringing me to the outcome God desired, He was pleased.
- **"Faith to the Finish!"**
- What is the finish or completion of faith?

### **Hebrews 11:6 New Living Translation**

6 And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.

- It's impossible to please God without what? Faith.
- So faith isn't finished until God is what? Pleased.
- What does God give those who sincerely seek Him? Rewards.
- So faith also isn't finished until you receive a reward.

### **Romans 12:3 New King James Version**

3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

- Without faith it's impossible to do what? Please God.
- Why would God give us a measure of faith that wouldn't please Him? Especially if that's what he's after.
- So why would He give us the ingredients, the instructions, and the live support to please Him, and it fails? When it's all provided for His pleasure?

### **God Cannot Lie**

### **Numbers 23:19 New Living Translation**

19 God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

### **Titus 1:1-2 New Living Translation**

1 This letter is from Paul, a slave of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. I have been sent to proclaim faith to[a] those God has chosen and to teach them to know the truth that shows them how to live godly lives. 2 This truth gives them confidence that they have eternal life, which God—who does not lie—promised them before the world began.

### **Hebrews 6:18 New Living Translation**

18 So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.

## **God's Word Powers Faith to the Finish**

How do we know that faith works? The ABC's of faith.

- Accept what His word says!
- Believe what His word says!
- Create what His word says!

### ***What is faith powered by? His word!***

### **Isaiah 55:8-11 New Living Translation**

8 “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. 9 For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. 10 “The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. 11 It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

- His word never returns to Him incomplete; it always finishes the job it was sent to do!
- Faith is powered by words that cannot fail, and your faith is dependent upon believing God!

### **Matthew 14:22-33 New Living Translation**

22 Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and cross to the other side of the lake, while he sent the people home. 23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. 24 Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, and they were fighting heavy waves. 25 About three o'clock in the morning[a] Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, "It's a ghost!" 27 But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage. I am here![b]" 28 Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water." 29 "Yes, come," Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the strong[c] wind and the waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. 31 Jesus immediately reached out and grabbed him. "You have so little faith," Jesus said. "Why did you doubt me?" 32 When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped. 33 Then the disciples worshiped him. "You really are the Son of God!" they exclaimed.

- Unbelief douses the fire that fuels faith, which is what? The word of God.
- Unbelief throws the water of doubt onto the fire of God's word, when the kindling of hope is what was needed!
- Worry is the extreme discomfort our souls experience when we doubt God's ability and put faith in ourselves.
- Worry might be the factory setting for our souls when we doubt God's ability and instead put faith in ourselves.
- When we're in unbelief we're doubting a person!! The person of Jesus Christ, God the Father, Holy Spirit. Doubting His ability!
- We must focus more on what He said than what we see!!!!

### **Overcoming Doubt**

Genesis 3:1 New Living Translation

3 The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, “Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”

- The devil’s number one desire is to get you to please Him and not God, so He can steal from you, kill you, and destroy you!
- The devil leads into sin, which pleases Him and displeases God.
- He is not only Anti-Christ, but Anti-Faith.
- **Romans 14:22-23 New King James Version**

22 [a]Do you have faith? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is [b]sin.

- The devil desires to draw us out of the realm of faith in God’s word and into sin.
- This is the foundation of all temptation. To make you abandon faith by going against God’s word.

### **Matthew 4:1-11 New Living Translation**

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted there by the devil. 2 For forty days and forty nights he fasted and became very hungry. 3 During that time the devil[a] came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4 But Jesus told him, “No! The Scriptures say, ‘People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’[b]” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, 6 and said, “If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, ‘He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won’t even hurt your foot on a stone.’[c]” 7 Jesus responded, “The Scriptures also say, ‘You must not test the Lord your God.’[d]” 8 Next the devil took him to the peak of a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 “I will give it all to you,” he said, “if you will kneel down and worship me.” 10 “Get out of here, Satan,” Jesus told him. “For the Scriptures say, ‘You must worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’[e]” 11 Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.

