

# Abundant Life: The ABCs of Faith

Faith gives us the ability to believe and co-create on earth for the glory of God!

## God the Creator

### **Hebrews 11:3 New Living Translation**

3 By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

- God, the creator, created everything from nothing!

### **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.

- Starts with God believing who He is and says He is
- He's a rewarder

### **James 1:17 New Living Translation**

17 Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens.[a] He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.[b]

- Shadow pictures/ story of creation

### **Genesis 1:1-4 New Living Translation**

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.[a] 2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. Then he separated the light from the darkness.

- The only thing that can be created by faith is what God said, because his words are the building blocks of creation

## God's Co-creators

*How do we know that God wants us to be co-creators?*

### **Genesis 1:27-28 New Living Translation**

27 So God created human beings[a] in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. 28 Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it. Reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, and all the animals that scurry along the ground."

- God desires that through faith we also exercise the ability to create something from nothing, for His glory!
- Our faith is supposed to make Him look good, not just us!

### **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.

- Faith the size of a mustard seed vs. Little Faith

### **Matthew 17:19-20 New Living Translation**

19 Afterward the disciples asked Jesus privately, "Why couldn't we cast out that demon?" 20 "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.[a]"

- Faith is only inadequate when it's inactive.

*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.

## The ABCs of Faith

***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, and to trust that it will come into being, because we believe the One who promised it is faithful!

### **Step One: Accept**

*Now faith is the substance of what we're hoping for. What are we hoping for? What is the raw material of faith that leads to the manifestation of our hope? The key to faith is to only be hoping for that which He's spoken, leading to His glory.*

### **Romans 10:13-17 New Living Translation**

13 For "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." [a] 14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? 15 And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!" [b] 16 But not everyone welcomes the Good News, for Isaiah the prophet said, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [c] 17 So faith comes from hearing, that is, hearing the Good News about Christ.

- The process of faith begins by accepting what God has spoken.

- OK, I've got nothing here. I need some materials to create. Let me look into God's words and see/hear what He said. Then I'll believe it and create.
- Faith enters through our hearing of God's good news/promises.
- It begins with acceptance (a willingness to listen/receive).
- **Luke 6:38 New Living Translation**  
38 Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back.[a]"

## **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!*

### **Romans 8:24-25 New Living Translation**

24 We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope[a] for it. 25 But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)

- It's not faith if I can see it, but without faith, I'll never see it!
- It's not believing without hope, which is the positive expectation to see God do what He promised.

### **Hebrews 4:1-3 New King James Version**

4 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. 2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, [a]not being mixed with faith in those who heard it. 3 For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' " although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

### **Luke 1:8-20 New Living Translation**

8 One day Zechariah was serving God in the Temple, for his order was on duty that week. 9 As was the custom of the priests, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and burn incense. 10 While the incense was being burned,

a great crowd stood outside, praying. 11 While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. 12 Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him. 13 But the angel said, "Don't be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. 14 You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, 15 for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth.[a] 16 And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. 17 He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children,[b] and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly." 18 Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I be sure this will happen? I'm an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years." 19 Then the angel said, "I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! 20 But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time."

### **Luke 1:26-38 New Living Translation**

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. 28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings,[a] favored woman! The Lord is with you![b]" 29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. 30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 And he will reign over Israel[c] forever; his Kingdom will never end!" 34 Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." 35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. 36 What's more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she has conceived a son and is now in her sixth month. 37 For the word of God will never fail.[d]" 38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

## **Step Three: Create**

*The final phase of faith is when what we have accepted and believed leads us to obey, resulting in the manifestation of our hope and glory for God.*

James 2:14-26 New Living Translation

14 What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? 15 Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, 16 and you say, "Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well"—but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? 17 So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless. 18 Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds." 19 You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God.[a] Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. 20 How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless? 21 Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? 22 You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. 23 And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith." [b] He was even called the friend of God.[c] 24 So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. 25 Rahab the prostitute is another example. She was shown to be right with God by her actions when she hid those messengers and sent them safely away by a different road. 26 Just as the body is dead without breath,[d] so also faith is dead without good works.

- What is the evidence of faith? Obedience!
- What does obedience prove? Love.
- What does faith work by? Love!

## **Galatians 5:6 Amplified Bible**

6 For [if we are] in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but only faith activated and expressed and working through love.

- The question, “Are you still in faith?” can also be asked, “Are you still in love?”
- Is your faith still activated, expressed, and working through love?
- His love never fails. When we walk in faith/love, we cannot fail!
- Faith brings Him close because it pleases Him.
- What if it doesn't work?

*When nothing is created, He may be creating something else. Paul asked for the removal of something, God said believe for grace.*

## **2 Corinthians 12:8-10**

8 Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. 9 Each time he said, “My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. 10 That’s why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

## **Matthew 5:16 New King James Version**

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

- What if nobody participated with Jesus? They accepted it but wouldn't believe. There would be no glory for the father. He's after glory. The works create glory.

## **Matthew 8:5-10 New Living Translation**

5 When Jesus returned to Capernaum, a Roman officer[a] came and pleaded with him, 6 “Lord, my young servant[b] lies in bed, paralyzed and in terrible pain.” 7 Jesus said, “I will come and heal him.” 8 But the officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. 9 I know this because I am under the authority of my superior officers, and I have authority over my soldiers. I only need to say, ‘Go,’ and they go, or ‘Come,’ and they come. And if I say to my slaves, ‘Do this,’ they do it.” 10 When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. Turning to those who

were following him, he said, “I tell you the truth, I haven’t seen faith like this in all Israel!

- We can skip my part in co-creating, just do yours!