

# Fulfilling Ministry: The Ministry of Faith

The foundation of our faith is the loving nature and faithfulness of our God!

## God Speaks

### **Hebrews 11:1-3 New Living Translation**

**11 Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. 2 Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation.**

- Faith requires that you believe before you see!
- Faith is a spiritual reality where what we're hoping God for is both literal, et invisible at the present time.

**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.**

- Spiritual words come before natural things appear.

### **2 Corinthians 5:7 New King James Version**

**7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

- Sight is only to navigate through what was already created.
- Faith is for revelation, so that the invisible things we are hoping for will be revealed.

### **2 Corinthians 5:7 New Living Translation**

**7 For we live by believing and not by seeing.**

- We walk by faith because the word came before the world.

How do you walk by faith when everything around you is crumbling?

- We walk on His word.
- God's word creates matter.

## Why We Believe

- Greater than our hope for natural things, is our trust in the nature of God.
- The great foundation, or the beginning of our faith is God's love for us.

### **Romans 8:35-39 New Living Translation**

**35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") [a] 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.**

**38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, [b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

- The starting point of faith is the love of God, the goodness of God.
- That's where we draw our trust from.

### **Hebrews 10:23 New King James Version**

**23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.**

- Faith is based off of our belief of His faithfulness.

### **Isaiah 26:3 New King James Version**

**3 You will keep him in perfect peace,  
Whose mind is stayed on You,  
Because he trusts in You.**

- The only way to be in faith, is to be in trust, which is to be in peace.
- Greater than our hope for natural things, is our trust in the nature of God.
- Can God be trusted to care about our day to day lives?
  - He that keeps you will not slumber.
  - He is close to all who call upon Him.
  - I will never leave of forsake you.

### **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.**

### **Believing & Moving By Faith**

#### **Matthew 14:24-33 New Living Translation**

**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.**

- The Elements of Faith:
  1. God Speaks
  2. We Believe and Move by Faith
  3. We See the Evidence of our Hope

#### 4. God is Glorified

- How do we move in faith? By believing what He said.

Natural movement- the brain sends a signal to the legs and feet through the central nervous system, they move, then we move.

Spiritual movement- God sends His word as a signal to our faith, then our belief in His word, causes us to move by faith.

- There is great evidence that our true nature is spiritual because of God's requirement that we walk by faith and not sight.

#### **James 2:26 New King James Version**

**26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

- There must be motion to prove that faith is alive and unwavering.

#### **James 1:5-7 New Living Translation**

**5 If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. 6 But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. 7 Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.**

#### **We See The Evidence of Our Hope**

#### **Hebrews 11:29-40 New Living Translation**

**29 It was by faith that the people of Israel went right through the Red Sea as though they were on dry ground. But when the Egyptians tried to follow, they were all drowned. 30 It was by faith that the people of Israel marched around Jericho for seven days, and the walls came crashing down. 31 It was by faith that Rahab the prostitute was not destroyed with the people in her city who refused to obey God. For she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. 32 How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to**

recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. 33 By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight. 35 Women received their loved ones back again from death. But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. 36 Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. 37 Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half,[a] and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. 38 They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. 39 All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. 40 For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us.

### God is Pleased/Glorified

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.

1 Peter 1:6-9 New Living Translation

6 So be truly glad.[a] There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. 7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world. 8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls.

