



Searching Outside Yourself To Help Others

Volume 40 - 1

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Monthly Newsletter

January - 2023

This month and next month, I want to teach on the topic of “A Disciple and His or Her Faith. **2 Corinthians 5:6-7** states, *“Having courage, then, at all times, and knowing that being at home in the body, we are away from home from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.”*

This Scripture primarily speaks about two things, courage and faith. Faith will always produce courage, and courage is what causes one to be faithful. The reason why you need courage in order to walk in faith, is that faith will always cause a loss before it produces a gain, and it will cause you to bear the Lord’s cross before you receive God’s crown. Courage is what causes you to face loss and endure suffering, in order to be faithful to the purpose of God for your life.

Hebrews 10:23 states *“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith.”* In the King James Version, the word *“our”* is italicized, which means it doesn’t actually appear in the original language. Thus, we should translate this phrase, **“Let us hold fast the profession of faith.”** We are to tightly hold in our hearts and come into divine alignment with the word God has spoken to us. This word, whether it is a direct quote from



Part Seven

the written Word of God or a very specific word that He has spoken to us regarding our lives, will always be a *“word of faith.”*

You may ask, “Where do I get that kind of faith?” Such faith is the overflow of a divine relationship with God, which develops as we hear a word from Him and wholeheartedly commit ourselves to stand by that word until we see it fulfilled in our lives. As we come into this divine alignment, faith rises up from our heart and floods our soul, providing us with the supernatural ability, tenacity, stubbornness of will, and holy boldness to stand by the dream or the vision that God has imparted to us.

The Bible speaks to us most strongly about faith in **Hebrews 11:1**, which states *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* There are

two definitions of faith here, *“the substance of things hoped for”* and *“the evidence of things not seen.”* First I want to deal with the second definition, and then we will move onto the first.

“Faith is the evidence of things not seen.” This tells us that faith is able to see what our physical eyes can’t. Because of the **“Word of Faith”** that God has spoken to us, we are able to see into the invisible realm and see what is possible with God. Another way of saying it, is faith sees what can’t be seen, hears what can’t be heard, and does what can’t be done. Once we see it, by faith we start walking towards it, and somewhere in the process the invisible becomes visible, the inaudible becomes audible, and the impossible becomes possible.

Now, let us look at the first definition. I especially want you to notice the word **“substance”** in this verse. This is the Greek word **“hupostasis,”** which means to stand by or alongside something. When faith final-

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ly sees what it needs or wants, it never moves until it gets what it seeks. This kind of faith knows exactly what it wants. It is a faith that will not bend under pressure and has resolved to believe at any cost, rain or shine, sink or swim, until it sees the manifestation of what God has said or promised. This is the substance of faith as it is described in **Hebrews 11:1**. You could therefore translate the verse, *“Now faith is tirelessly and determinedly standing by and never letting go of things hoped for.”*

In **Hebrews 11:2**, the Holy Spirit continues to describe the substance of faith: *“For by it [that is, by this tenacious, committed, unrelenting faith that knows what it wants and won’t give up until it receives its answer] the elders obtained a good report.”* Particularly notice the word *“elders.”* According to this verse, **Hebrews 11** is not really a chapter about faith itself, but about examples of Old Testament elders, both patriarchs and matriarchs, who walked by faith. The verses that follow are commonly known as **“The Hall of Faith.”** This passage of Scripture describes the great exploits these men and women of God accomplished with their faith during the course of their lives.

Verse 3 goes on to say, *“Through faith [that is, through this same kind of committed, never-give-up kind of faith] we understand that*

the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” At first glance, this verse seems to be talking about how God created the earth and the universe. However, this would contradict **verse 2**, which just told us that this entire chapter is about the exploits of Old Testament elders and says nothing about God or creation. Moreover, the rest of the chapter outlines the exploits of Old Testament saints and says nothing about God’s act of creation. If this chapter is really about the actions and the behavior of men and women who walked by faith (as verse 2 so clearly states), why would the writer of Hebrews suddenly break the flow of this message and switch to a different subject altogether by talking about the work of God in creation?

I want you to notice the word *“worlds.”* The Greek word here is not *“kosmos,”* which refers to creation of our world and universe. Here the word *“worlds”* comes from the Greek word *“aionos,”* which refers to specific allotted periods of time within the past history of mankind, such as decades, generations, centuries, or millenniums. All of these could be technically described as an *“aionos,”* because each is a specific allotted period of time within the past history of mankind. **Verse 3** could thus be translated, *“Through faith we understand that different time periods, different decades, centuries, millenniums, and generations*

within the past history of mankind, have been framed by the word of God.”

Now notice the word *“framed.”* It comes from the Greek word *“katartidzo,”* which means to change or alter the outward form and shape of an already existing thing. Therefore, the Holy Spirit cannot be talking about the original creation of the world. Had He been speaking of creation, He wouldn’t have used this word *“framed,”* because this word emphatically describes not the creation of something new, but rather the re-creating, reshaping, remolding, and altering of something that is already in existence. Therefore, the word *“framed”* in **Hebrews 11:3** describes the remolding, altering, and reshaping of a world that already exists, not the original creation of the world that we read about in **Genesis chapter 1**. This dramatically changes the meaning of **Hebrews 11:3**. This verse isn’t about the act of creation; it is about the act of transformation.

Now notice the phrase *“by the word of God.”* According to the original Greek, this phrase would be better rendered, *“by a word from God.”* The term *“word”* here is not the Greek word *“logos.”* Rather, it’s taken from the Greek word *“rhema,”* which describes something that is spoken clearly and vividly, in unmistakable

terms and in undeniable language. In the New Testament, the word “*rhema*” carries the idea of a quickened word. It refers to those times when the Holy Spirit speaks to a person’s heart, giving him or her a specific word, for a specific time and a specific purpose. Thus the first part of verse 3 could be translated, “*Through faith we understand that different time periods, different decades, centuries, millenniums, and generations within the past history of mankind, have been completely and radically altered, remolded, and reshaped by those who received a clear and undeniable word from God for a specific purpose.*”

Because of their faith, these men and women changed history. Their faith and obedience to the “*rhema*” word they had received, caused the time periods in which they lived, their decade, their generation, their century, perhaps even their millennium, to be completely and radically changed into something brand new.

For example, Noah received a word from God about a flood that was going to destroy the world of his day. Noah’s word from God wasn’t a lengthy word. It was short, concise, and to the point. God didn’t give Noah 50 pages of instructions; He just gave His man a very simple directive: “*Build a big boat because a flood is coming. Collect two animals of every kind, and get ready for the ride of your life.*” as Genesis 6:13-22 states.

Noah knew he had heard from God, and he believed what God told him. So Noah committed himself wholeheartedly to obey the word he had received from the Lord. He determined in his heart to stand by that word from Heaven, regardless of any opposition, accusations, or slander he encountered; and he refused to never give in or give up. As a result, this one man completely altered, remolded, and reshaped the history of mankind, because he stood by a word from God which framed and transformed his generation.

All of us live in the “*world*” corporately and each of us live in our worlds individually. God is not only out to change the world, He also is out to change our individual worlds. Our worlds consist of where we live, where we work, where we go to church, and the people we encounter as we walk through life. Our challenge is to get into the Word, be still and ask God to speak to us a “*rhema*” that will instill faith, which will then give us the where-with-all to radically change our worlds to reflect the purposes of God.

Next month, I want to share a “*rhema*” that God gave me when I was serving a 30-year sentence in the most violent prison in the state of Florida. I’ll share the word now, and next month I’ll put it in its context. God said to me, “*Son, I want you to start a cell* (He actually said Bible study, but I needed another C for this article), *which will become a church, that will change a culture.*”

Jim Newsom

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If you can give, please make out your check to “**Outward Focused,**” then place your tax-deductible contribution in the envelope provided. You can also give through our website. The address is: www.outwardfocusedinternational.org



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Notes From The Newsom's From Diane's Desk



Jim's Itinerary For January - 2023

Happy New Year! Each new year we start with a blank slate, that we can fill with new dreams and ambitions. But those dreams and ambitions won't ever happen, unless we make a step-by-step plan to execute them. Dream big, and go for it!

This picture is of Ronan, after he finished his ice-skating competition, with a gold medal for the technical program, and a silver medal for the musical program. He was so proud of himself, and so were we!



This picture is of Ronan with his ice-skating coach, Chase Finster after they performed in the "Nutcracker on Ice." The show was amazing! Ronan was one of the mice, and Chase was the nutcracker. Chase has ice skated internationally representing the USA in both singles and pairs competitions.



January 3-4 - Harvey, IL
Restoration Ministries
Ray Banks - (708)339-3573

January 17-18 - Nashville, TN
River Bend Correctional Institution
Charlie Bretz - (615)554-9085

January 18-20 - Pensacola, FL
Restoration Ministries
Jim Britnell - (850)380-0745

January 21-22 - Mobile, AL
Covenant Church of Mobile
Pastor Keith Currie - (251)623-9989

January 22-26 - Atmore, AL
Renew Hope Prison Crusade
Don Metzler - (251)368-8818

January 27-29 - Mt Juliet, TN
Abundant Life Church
Larry Grainger - (615)724-7035

If you would like to schedule Jim to come speak at a school, prison, or church in your area, please call or e-mail Jim at the above number or address.