

Faith Basics 101
Session 2 – The Function of Faith

I. Review

A. Why Faith?

1. Faith is God's chosen tool by which we receive the things that he has provided to us.
2. Everything that we receive from the Lord must be received by the hand/arm of faith
3. Examples of the necessity of Faith Throughout the Bible
4. Hebrews 11 offers the following names of people who walked by faith in the Old testament
 - a. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthae, David and Samuel
5. Jesus commends people for their faith
6. Jesus ministry was limited because of a lack of faith
7. Jesus commanded Faith
8. Faith throughout the Apostles Ministries

II. The Function of Faith

A. To understand faith, we must understand the Function of faith

1. Function = *The natural purpose of something or someone*
2. The Scriptural function of faith is to RECEIVE what God has already provided through covenant
3. The scriptural function of faith IS NOT to get God to move
4. For many in the traditional church, to have faith is to get God to move by answering our prayer for specific things.
5. Biblical faith simply receives/takes that which God has already provided.

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III. Examples of Biblical Receiving

A. Hezekiah – Receives his healing in the Old Testament

Isaiah 38:1-6 (KJV) –

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

²Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD,

³And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

⁴Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying,

⁵Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

⁶And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city.

1. Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall and prayed
2. Hezekiah received his healing by praying according to the covenant process of his time.
3. The Old Covenant was based upon performance
4. Hezekiah declared his performance in prayer because his covenant required it
5. Hezekiah was healed because he exercised his faith according to his covenant with God.

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B. The woman with the issue of blood – Healing in the New Testament

Mark 5:25-34 (KJV) –

²⁵ And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

²⁶ And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

²⁷ When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

²⁸ For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

²⁹ And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said, Who touched my clothes?

³¹ And his disciples said unto him, Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?

³² And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing.

³³ But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell before him, and told him all the truth.

³⁴ And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague

1. The Woman used FAITH to receive the healing that was available through the earthly ministry of Jesus
2. She did not ask Jesus to heal her
3. She recognized that HEALING VIRTUE was upon Jesus
4. She simply used faith to receive/take what was working within/upon him.

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C. Acts – Faith in His Name

Acts 3:16 (KJV) – And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

1. The lame man was healed *By faith in His name.*
2. Faith in His name = faith in what His name has already provided
3. Healing was made available through His name
 - a. **Mark 16:17b (KJV)** – They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover –
 - b. This was a non-conditional promise based on what was now available through the new covenant

IV. Understanding Biblical Receiving

A. John 1:12 (KJV) – But as many as **received** him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

1. **Received** = to take, lay hold on, to claim to procure for oneself
2. **Note:** *Biblical receiving is not limited to requesting and is never associated with begging*

B. John 15:7 (KJV) – If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall **ask** what ye will, and it shall be done unto you

1. *To abide in Him* = I am saved – a participant of the New Covenant
2. *My Words abide in you* = I am disciplined = I know/understand the blessings proclaimed throughout the Word of God = Covenant promises

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C. John 15:16 (KJV) – Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall **ask** of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 16:23 (KJV) – And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you

D. Ask = *gr – ask, beg, request, petition or demand – to require*

1. Occurs 71 times throughout the New Testament
2. The context is crucial in determining the actual definition/use of this term.
3. Ask may be used to make a simple request
4. Ask may be used to make a demand/requirement on something that is already granted
 - a. Example of requesting money from your bank account vs requesting a loan
 - b. Example of requesting a raise and requesting funds from your retirement/pension account
 - c. There are times that ASK means simple request
 - d. There are times that ASK means to make demand/request on that which has already been granted to us.

E. John 16:23-26 (KJV) –

²³ And in that day ye **shall ask** me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye **shall ask** the Father in my name, he will give it you.

²⁴ Hitherto have ye **asked** nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

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²⁶ At that day ye shall **ask** in my name: and I say not unto you, that I will pray the Father for you

John 16:23-26 (NIV) –

²³ In that day you will no longer ask me anything. Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. ²⁴ Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

²⁵ “Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about my Father. ²⁶ In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf

1. Jesus speaks of a transition that is coming
2. Until this transition, the disciples had not been able to ask the Father for anything on their own. They had only asked him/JESUS to meet their need
3. **In that day** = The day that the new covenant has been established and access is granted for all believers to approach the Father on their own and receive every benefit provided in Christ.
4. Now that I am in the NEW COVENANT = I approach God in faith to RECEIVE/TAKE/REQUEST that the things already provided be manifested in my life.

F. Biblical Receiving primarily IS NOT requesting for something in hope that it might be granted

G. Biblical Receiving IS requesting with assurance the things that have already been bought/paid for/made available to me in my covenant based on Jesus.

H. 1 John 5:14-15 King James Version (KJV)

¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

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¹⁵ And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him

1. **Petitions** – gr = Request – Require

V. **Closing Remarks**

- A. Asking in Faith is to request with confidence that Jesus has already said YES to whatever we are seeking
- B. Our confidence is based upon knowledge of his word
- C. Praying in faith is not praying to move God
- D. Biblical prayer is praying in faith to receive/draw on the benefit package of our new covenant.