

Faith That Takes Session 1 – Aggressive Faith

I. Introduction

A. Matthew 11:12 (NKJV) – *And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.*

Matthew 11:12 (GWT) – *From the time of John the Baptizer until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful people have been seizing it.*

Matthew 11:12 (AFV) – *For from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven is taken with a great struggle, and the zealous ones lay hold on it.*

B. Faith that Takes

1. Everything in the Kingdom of God must be received by faith.
2. Receive = Take = to seize/lay hold of/to claim for oneself/to take by force.
3. Two Works of Faith
 - a. To receive/take from the Lord that which he has freely provided.
 - b. To Take/ by force from the enemy that which he is attempting to prevent me from receiving.
Satan works to prevent us from every benefit of salvation.

C. James 2:17 (NKJV) – *Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.*

James 2:17 (NIV) – *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

1. Faith Inspires Action.
2. Faith without works cannot be called real faith.

3. Faith with no action = dead faith or a so-called faith that doesn't get any results.

D. Bible Examples: *Throughout scripture the great people of faith always had corresponding action/No one did anything great without ACTION!*

1. Faith that Takes is an aggressive, active faith.
2. Aggressive – pursuing one's aims and interests FORCEFULLY.
 - Making an all-out effort to win or succeed.
 - Vigorously energetic and forceful.
 - Boldly assertive and forward – pushy.
3. Faith That Takes = an aggressive faith that is out to win or succeed, an energetic faith, a forceful faith, a bold faith, an assertive and pushy faith when it comes to the enemy.
This is the faith that takes the kingdom by force.
4. All the great example of the people of faith in the Bible demonstrated this "Faith that Takes" characteristic.

II. The Example of Jonathan's Aggressive Faith

A. Saul's Passivity

1 Samuel 13:5-7 (NKJV) – ⁵*Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, [a]thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude. And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven. ⁶When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits. ⁷And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.*

1. Saul is sitting under a tree – Ch 14:2
2. Saul is have become passive in the time of battle.
3. Passive Def = Accepting or allowing what happens without active response or resistance.
4. Passive Faith – Faith that accepts or allows whatever happens with no active response or resistance.
5. Passive faith speaks;
God's got this – (No action on my part)!
God's must have a purpose for this (No resistance)!
No matter what happens it will be His Will – (No response)!
6. Passive faith doesn't win battles!
Aggressive Faith with corresponding action – WINS!

B. Jonathan's Different Approach

1 Samuel 14:6-7 (NKJV) – ⁶*Then Jonathan said to the young man who bore his armor, "Come, let us go over to the garrison of these uncircumcised; it may be that the LORD will work for us. For nothing restrains the LORD from saving by many or by few."* ⁷*So his armorbearer said to him, "Do all that is in your heart. Go then; here I am with you, according to your heart."*

1. Come let us go over = ACTION
Let's do something!
2. It may be that the Lord will work for us – perhaps the Lord will help us – He can save with few the same as many.
Faith in God's ability
Faith in God's provision
3. The power of agreement and unity – the armorbearer.

1 Samuel 14:12-15 (NKJV) – ¹²Then the men of the garrison called to Jonathan and his armorbearer, and said, “Come up to us, and we will ^[a]show you something.” Jonathan said to his armorbearer, “Come up after me, for the LORD has delivered them into the hand of Israel.” ¹³And Jonathan climbed up on his hands and knees with his armorbearer after him; and they fell before Jonathan. And as he came after him, his armorbearer killed them. ¹⁴That first slaughter which Jonathan and his armorbearer made was about twenty men within about ^[b]half an acre of land. ¹⁵And there was ^[c]trembling in the camp, in the field, and among all the people. The garrison and the raiders also trembled; and the earth quaked, so that it was a very great trembling.

4. The Supernatural Occurred when faith aggressive faith stepped out to TAKE CHARGE!
5. God did nothing until they MOVED!
6. As soon as they MOVED, God MOVED!

III. Closing Thoughts

- A. Could it be that God is waiting on us while we are waiting on him?
- B. God doesn't want our faith to be passive.
- C. God want's us to pursue our victory with aggressive faith.
- D. Faith that won't quit.
- E. Faith that doesn't give up.
- F. Faith that demands that the enemy let go.
- G. Faith that puts the enemy to flight.
- H. Faith that believes, acts and receives.

I. Faith that WINS – Faith that Wins Big.

1 Samuel 14:23 (NKJV) – *So the Lord saved Israel that day!*

What Day?

The Day someone decided to have Faith that Takes!