

BEYOND FIRST FOUNDATIONS 2 - FAITH TOWARD GOD

Heb. 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again **the first principles** of the **oracles of God**; (**logion**- plural - sayings, teachings, words of God) (RUDIMENTARY - there's more!)

and you have come to **need milk and not solid food**.¹³ For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.

¹⁴ But solid food belongs to those who are of **full age**, (**MATURE**) that is, **those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil**. **HEBREWS. 6:1** Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to **perfection** (**NLT- Let us go on instead and become MATURE in our understanding**), not laying again the foundation of **repentance from dead works** and of **faith toward God**,² of the **doctrine of baptisms**, of **laying on of hands**, of **resurrection of the dead**, and of **eternal judgment**.³ And this we will do if God permits.

- **RATHER THAN FOCUS ON THINGS WE ALREADY UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT ABOUT THE TEACHINGS OF OUR LORD, WE MOVE FORWARD TO EXPLORE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THESE TRUTHS IN OUR OWN LIVES, IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND IN OUR WORLD. THIS DEEPER UNDERSTANDING IS THE WORK OF MATURE BELIEVERS TO ADVANCE THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH.**

I. **THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FAITH** - All the benefits of salvation come to us through our faith. **EVERYTHING IS BUILT UPON FAITH.**

Romans 4:20 He [Abraham] did not waver at the **promise** of God through **unbelief**, but was **strengthened in faith**, giving glory to God,²¹ and being **fully convinced** that what He had **promised** He was also **able** to perform.²² And therefore "it was **accounted to him for righteousness**."²³ **Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him,**²⁴ **but also for us**. It shall be imputed to us who **believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead,**²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. **Rom. 5:1** Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² **through whom also we have ACCESS BY FAITH into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.**

A. FAITH IS THE GATEWAY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. **UNBELIEF IS A LOCKED DOOR.** *When we do not believe God, it keeps us from accessing Grace. Our unbelief is reinforced because nothing ever happens for the unbelieving heart. That's why **the only option for the unbeliever is to STRIVE** and try to gain salvation through works and not by Grace.*
2. **WE CAN ONLY BE SAVED BY A RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT DOES NOT DEPEND ON OUR EFFORT. ONLY FAITH IN GOD ALONE SAVES US. NO AMOUNT OF GOOD WORKS CAN DO IT.**

Rom. 4:1 *What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?* ² *For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but **not before God**.* ³ *For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**"* ⁴ *Now to him who works, the **wages are not counted as grace but as debt.** (PROBLEM)*

3. **FAITH VS. WORKS** - *Faith is the only way we gain access to grace. However genuine faith will be demonstrated by ACTION. "Faith without works is dead". **REAL FAITH ALWAYS HAS THE FRUIT OF WORKS.***

James 2:18 *But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and **I will show you my faith by my works.***

- **TRUE FAITH WILL BEAR THE FRUIT OF GOOD WORKS!** JN. 15:4
- **TRUE FAITH SAVES** - ROM. 3:23-25; EPH. 1:7
- **TRUE FAITH DELIVERS** - HEB. 2:14-15; COL. 1:13-14
- **TRUE FAITH RESTORES** - LK. 15

II. HAVING FAITH TOWARD GOD

Mark 11:22 *So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have **faith in God.**"* ²³ *For assuredly, I say to you, **whoever says to this mountain,** "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and **does not doubt** in his heart, but **believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.**"* ²⁴ *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*

- A. **THE FAITH OF GOD** - *Have the same kind of faith God has. God calls things into existence simply with a word. (Fig Trees and Mountains)*

Romans 4:17 ... God, who gives life to the dead and **calls those things which do not exist as though they did**

B. THE CORROSIVE NATURE OF DOUBT - *Doubt undermines our ability to trust, to hope, to expect and to believe God. Being fully convinced is the natural progression of believing*

Romans 4:20 *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,²¹ and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

C. THE POWER OF DECLARATION - SPOKEN FAITH IS POWERFUL TO CHANGE OUTCOMES. WHAT YOU SAY SHAPES YOUR MIRACLE. Not a formula. This is about the condition of our heart and our relationship to God's heart. **SPEAK HIS WORD NOT YOURS**

D. WE ARE MEANT TO RELEASE MIRACLES - *Working miracles is the natural outcome of faith. FIRST STEP: BELIEVING TRUTH SECOND STEP: CHANGING OUTCOMES To align with Kingdom*

III. BEYOND FAITH - OUR ACCESS TO SALVATION ONLY COMES BY FAITH THROUGH GRACE. BUT WHAT DOES FAITH BEYOND SALVATION LOOK LIKE? **STEP THREE: REIGNING AND RULING**

John 11:40 *Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "**Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.**"⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!"⁴⁴ And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."*

A. KNOWING THE HEART OF GOD INCREASES FAITH & POWER

Phil. 3:7 *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.⁸ Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the **excellence of the knowledge of***

Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ⁹ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;¹⁰ **that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,¹¹ if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.**

B. TESTED FAITH LIFTS US BEYOND BELIEVING TO KNOWING - THAT IS MATURE FAITH (Mary, Martha and Lazarus tested)

James 1:2 Dear brothers and sisters, when **troubles of any kind** come your way, consider it an **opportunity** for great joy.³ For you know that **when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.**⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, **you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.**

C. UNDERSTANDING HIS HEART UNFOLDS FAITH FOR OUR FUTURE (Scrolls) - HE IS WORTHY TO OPEN YOUR SCROLL

Rev. 5:1 *And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals.*² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"³ **And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.**

⁵ **But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."**⁶ *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain...*

Rev. 5:9 *And they sang a new song, saying:*

"You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,¹⁰ **And have made us kings** and priests to our God; **And we shall reign on the earth."**

D. THE GOAL OF FAITH MOVES US FROM POVERTY TO KINGSHIP