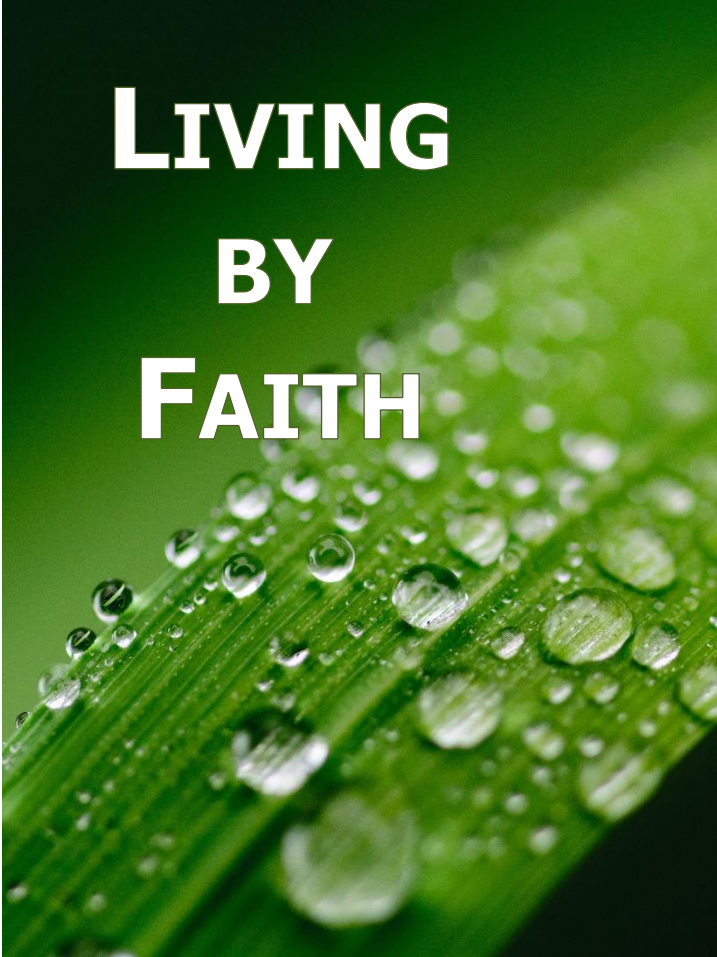


LIVING BY FAITH



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LifeinJesus.net

'Living by Faith'
by
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LIVING BY FAITH

The Bible makes this statement in Hebrews 11:6 – *‘Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him.’* It really does say that it is ‘impossible’ to please God if you haven’t any faith. You might wish it said that it’s difficult to please God without faith or that you can please Him a bit without it, but it doesn’t – it says it’s impossible. That might sound quite daunting, but don’t give up, read on and be encouraged.

What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 says what faith is – *‘Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen.’* Faith is believing what you have been told before you can see that it’s true. But faith isn’t passive – it goes further than believing. It goes on to taking God at His word and trusting Him in everything He says and does. It means believing in Jesus and accepting what He has done and won for you without any visual proof. Does that sound hard? Well, it’s not as hard as you might think.

Faith isn’t something you can drum up yourself – it’s a gift from God. Romans 12:3 says – *‘God has apportioned to each person a measure of faith.’* God gives you faith and He gives the same amount to everyone. So how does He get it to you? Romans 10:17 says – *‘Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.’* It is when you hear the truth of God’s Word that faith comes to you. Someone tells you that God loves you or you pick up a Bible or some Christian pamphlet and read it for yourself, and your heart and mind respond and reach out to God. It’s then that faith comes to you so you can use it to believe and trust.

By Grace through Faith

John 3:16 says – *‘For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.’* God loves you so much that He put a plan into action so you would not have to perish, but could live with Him in joy and peace for ever. He sent His Son, Jesus, to suffer the punishment that every person deserves. No-one is perfect but God doesn’t want to punish people, so He punished Jesus instead. That’s real sacrificial love. Jesus died in your place so you wouldn’t have to. It isn’t something that anyone deserves or anyone can earn. It is pure unconditional love – it is grace. And it’s all for you.

You can only be saved through God’s grace. If you feel you have to earn it or deserve it then you’ve missed it. It isn’t about what you do – it’s about what Jesus has done. But you do have to believe in it and trust it. God has done His part – grace. Now you have to do your part – faith. You have to respond with faith. It’s the only way you can be saved. You are saved by God’s grace through your faith in Jesus. Ephesians 2:8-9 says – *‘For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, that no one would boast.’*

If you haven’t already done so, accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour today – that is being born-again. Romans 10:9 says – *‘If you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.’* Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you do, say and think. Believe that Jesus is Lord, that He died for you and that He is now alive. Accept Him as your Lord and Saviour. Say it with your voice and believe it in your heart. If you’ve done that sincerely, you are now born-again. Jesus has come to live in you

and your spirit has been made brand-new – believe it and thank Him. All your sins, past, present and future, are forgiven, and you'll be with God for eternity.

As a child of God, you now have a whole new family of brothers and sisters. Tell a trusted Christian that you are now born-again so they can help you in your new life in Jesus. And you have the Bible to help you understand and experience more of God's love for you and all Jesus has done and won for you. It will help you to live your life in the best possible way – His way.

You are now at complete peace with your Father God because the things you think, say and do which are wrong have all been dealt with. Romans 5:1-2 says – *'Being therefore justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; ²through whom we also have our access by faith into this grace in which we stand.'*

The Faith Principle Still Works

The principle of faith coming by hearing God's Word continues to work after you are born-again. Reading the Bible builds up your faith and gives you faith for specific things and specific situations. God has provided everything that you need, but it is through your response, your faith, that you are able to receive all the blessings that He has for you.

Jesus says in Mark 11:24 – *"Therefore I tell you, all things whatever you pray and ask for, believe that you have received them, and you shall have them."* Jesus is telling you to visualise what you have asked for as already yours. This is faith in action – believing that what you cannot see will happen. It is then that it can become reality. For example, see yourself as already healed and restored and your difficulties resolved.

Faith in God's Word

The Bible has so many wonderful promises from God for you. You will learn that He loves you totally unconditionally and how He demonstrated that love through Jesus. You will see how He cares for you and has a plan for your life. To start, read the Bible verses in this booklet out loud. Choose to believe and trust them and let them build your faith. Then go to the Bible and find more – there are so many just waiting for you.

Living by Faith

You used faith to be saved. Now use it to live day by day. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says – *'We walk by faith, not by sight.'* People without faith see everything from a worldly point of view. They don't believe that God cares for them and has a plan for their life. They live by sight – by what they can see. But with faith, you can start to see things from God's point of view and find a better way of living.

Habakkuk 2:4 says – *'The righteous will live by his faith.'* An unrighteous person is not right with God and has no faith in Him to live by, but you are righteous – yes, you really are. It's not because you have lived a good life and earned it. No, it's all because of Jesus. When He died on the Cross, not only did He take the punishment you deserved, but He made it possible for you to receive His righteousness. And this is what happened when you were born-again. He gave you a new perfect spirit just like His, so you truly are righteous. And because of that you can live by faith. Galatians 2:20 says – *'I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.'*

How does living by faith work day to day? Faith is not about feelings – it is about a decision to believe and trust. Jesus often commanded people to have faith, so it is something you can decide to do. He never commands you to do something that is impossible. So through the day, choose to react to people and to things and to situations by faith in God and in His Word, rather than by your emotions. For instance, if someone says something which annoys you, choose to let it go and forgive them in your heart rather than having an argument or harbouring a grudge.

And when you have to make decisions, base them on God's Word, not on what the world thinks and says and does. It isn't always easy, but it's always the best way. Sometimes it can feel like a battle in your mind. 1 Timothy 6:12 says – '*Fight the good fight of faith.*' But choose the Jesus answer and you are always on the winning side. Choosing to think, speak and act from a faith basis rather than a feelings basis, will build you up as you see God working in response to your faith. Remember, Jesus said that you will receive what you ask for in His name if you believe. Faith brings results.

Faith for Practical Needs

Jesus says it is important to have faith for the practical things in life, such as food and clothing, as well as for the big issues. In the Bible passage below, He's not saying it's wrong to take pleasure in buying nice clothes or planning menus and cooking. He's saying don't be anxious about it.

Jesus said in Luke 12:22-30 – "*Therefore I tell you, don't be anxious for your life, what you will eat, nor yet for your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they don't sow, they don't*

reap, they have no warehouse or barn, and God feeds them. How much more valuable are you than birds! Which of you by being anxious can add a cubit to his height? If then you aren't able to do even the least things, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow. They don't toil, neither do they spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if this is how God clothes the grass in the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith? Don't seek what you will eat or what you will drink; neither be anxious. For the nations of the world seek after all of these things, but your Father knows that you need these things." (Luke 12:22-30)

Choose to have faith in God's promise to provide all that you need, and then it will be given to you. Philippians 4:19 says – 'My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.' It is when you believe and trust that you receive.

Faith for Healing

Time and time again Jesus said that the reason someone was healed and restored was because of their faith. For instance, in Mark 5:34 He said to a woman who had been bleeding for many years – "*Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be cured of your disease.*"

1 Peter 2:24 explains – 'You were healed by his wounds.' Through His suffering and death Jesus bore your sickness so that you wouldn't have to. If someone has a serious illness which the doctors say they will never fully recover from, they need to choose to believe the Bible truth that they are already healed in

the spiritual realm and have faith that the healing will be manifest in the physical realm, rather than believe the doctor's prognosis. (For more teaching on this, read my booklet 'God Wants You To Be Well'.)

Speak your Faith

You have to speak your faith out to see it bring results. In Mark 11:22-23 Jesus said – *“Have faith in God. ²³For most certainly I tell you, whoever may tell this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and doesn’t doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is happening; he shall have whatever he says.”* He mentions speaking three times. The mountain is any problem you face and it is faith which is spoken, not just thought, that will move it. Don't speak to God about the problem; speak out loud to the problem about God. Speak directly to it in the name of Jesus, command it to go and have faith that it will be removed.

Unbelief

You don't need tons of faith. In Luke 17:6 when Jesus's followers asked Him to give them more faith, He replied – *“If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you would tell this sycamore tree, ‘Be uprooted, and be planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”* But it's important not to have any doubt or unbelief alongside your faith. That might sound impossible, but you can discipline your thinking so the doubts fade away. It's something you can do each time a doubt comes into your mind.

The way to get rid of unbelief is to read the Bible. Read Luke's Gospel and see all the wonderful things Jesus did and how He died so you could be like Him and receive all God's blessings. When you read something which tells you what Jesus has done

and won for you, say it out loud. Remember Romans 10:17 says – *‘Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.’* When doubts come, refuse to entertain them and speak out God’s truth instead so you hear it and your faith is built up. It’s not always easy, but the more you do it the easier it becomes. When you fail, don’t beat yourself up – turn back to God and His Word and start again. God’s not cross with you – He’s on your side.

Faith in Jesus Overcomes the World

1 John 5:4-5 says – *‘Whatever is born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world: your faith. ⁵Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?’* You are born of God because you have been born-again, so your faith can overcome anything and everything. You don’t have to be someone who is tossed around by experiences. With Jesus you can deal with and get through whatever the world throws at you.

Your Life of Faith

You can only please God through faith in Him and in Jesus. But God is so good – He gives you the measure of faith you need and He sent Jesus to die so you could live by that faith. Recognizing God’s grace through His unconditional love for you and receiving it for yourself by faith is what makes you a Christian. Don’t strive, don’t doubt, just believe and enjoy your life of faith with your loving Father God and your Saviour Jesus.

Life in Jesus

To read more about Jesus
and all He has done and won for us
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You can read them online
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Faith isn't just important – it's essential.
It's the only real way you can respond
to all that God has done and won for you
through Jesus.

So how do you get it and how do you use it?
Find out the truth and be encouraged
so you can start to live your life of faith
or step deeper into it.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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