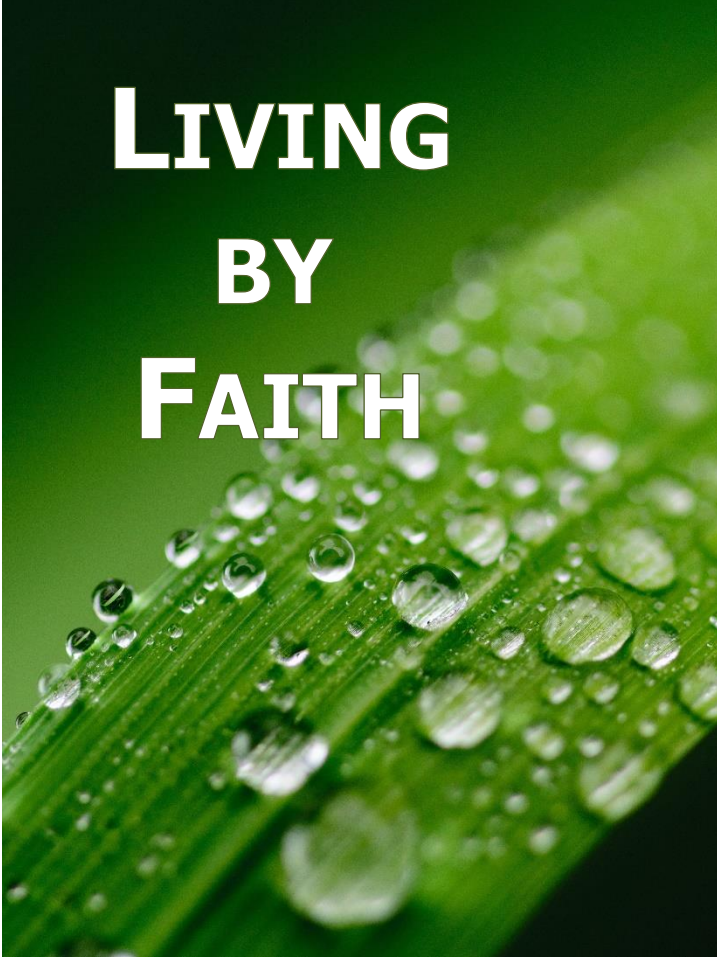


LIVING BY FAITH



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'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 explains what faith is – *‘Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen.’* It is believing what you have been told before you can see it. But faith isn’t passive – it goes further than just believing. It goes on to taking God at His word and trusting Him in everything He says and does and acting on it. 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 – *‘not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think; but to think reasonably, as God has apportioned to each person a measure of faith.’* God has given the same amount of faith to everyone who will accept it, so no-one can think they are better than someone else. So why do some people appear to have more faith than others? Romans 10:17 says – *‘Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.’* We need to encourage our faith by speaking out God’s Word and using it and standing on it. Faith is far more evident in people who do this, than in those who don’t.

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 know Him and live with Him for ever. He sent His Son, Jesus, to suffer the punishment that every person deserves. That’s real sacrificial love. It isn’t something that 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 deserve it or earn 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. God has done His part – grace. Now you have to do your part – respond with faith. Ephesians 2:8 says – *‘For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.’*

If you haven’t already done so, accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour today – be 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.* Do it out loud and if you’ve done it sincerely, you are now born-again. Jesus has come to live in you and you have a brand-new spirit. All your sins, past, present and future, are forgiven, and you’ll be in a love relationship 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 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.

God's Law of Faith

So let's explore what faith is all about. God put physical laws in place when He created the world, such as the laws of gravity and inertia. In the same way He established spiritual laws, which also will never change – they remain constant and can be depended upon absolutely. Romans 3:27 refers to '*a law of faith*'. Below are some of the principles within God's law of faith:

Faith Comes by Hearing God's Word

Romans 10:17 says – '*So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*' This principle of faith was at work when you were born-again and continues to work through your life. For us to hear the Word, it has to be spoken. Speaking out His Word builds you up in faith and lays a foundation of truth for you to base your life on.

Faith is Voice Activated

Jesus tells us that we have to speak our faith out loud to see things change. In Mark 11:22-23 He 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 talk to God about the problem; talk to the problem about God. Speak directly to it, commanding it to go in the name of Jesus, and use your faith to believe that it will move. Remember, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Romans 10:10 says – '*For with the heart one believes resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation.*'

Faith Brings Results

Jesus continues to say 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 tells us to visualise what we have asked for as already ours. This is faith in action – believing that what we cannot see will happen. It is then that it can become reality. For example, if you are ill, see yourself as already healed. God has provided everything that you will ever need, but it is only by faith, that you are able to receive all the blessings that He has for you.

Unforgiveness can Short Circuit Faith

Jesus continues in Mark 11:25 – *“Whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone; so that your Father, who is in heaven, may also forgive you your transgressions.”* He’s not saying that we lose our salvation if we don’t forgive everyone everything. But if we are truly born-again and know we have received our own forgiveness from God, we will have a natural desire to forgive others. If someone refuses to forgive or even try to forgive, it probably means that they haven’t really been born-again. It indicates a hard heart which cannot take hold of the forgiveness Jesus has won for them on the Cross. For our own sake, God wants us to forgive. He doesn’t want us to develop a hard heart which can’t hear Him.

Unbelief can Cancel out 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.”* In Mark 5:36 Jesus told a father whose daughter had died – *“Don’t be afraid, only*

believe.” You don’t need tons of faith but if you have unbelief – doubt or fear, it will cancel out your faith.

People often think that faith and unbelief are at opposite ends of a scale like a thermometer. They think the reading moves up and down according to how much faith or unbelief they have. But this isn’t a true picture. Instead of having just one thermometer, we have two. One registers faith and the other, unbelief. Both can be high at the same time or both can be low. What we want is for our unbelief thermometer to be right at the bottom. Then it doesn’t much matter how high our faith thermometer registers as long as there is something showing. Another father recognised he had doubt alongside faith when he said to Jesus in Mark 9:24 – *“I believe. Help my unbelief!”*

So how do we get rid of unbelief? 2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us we are to be – *‘throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.’* Refuse to entertain doubts and speak out God’s truth instead. As you hear it, you will be built up in your faith. Remember Romans 10:17 says – *‘Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.’* Focusing on the truth gets rid of unbelief and builds us up in faith too. It’s a win win. 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’s Word. God loves you and is on your side.

Faith Without Works is Dead

James 2:17 says – *‘faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself.’* We can never earn anything from God by our works – what we do or try to do. We have to receive it all by grace through faith. But the natural outcome of our faith is to want to live to please God. Works don’t produce faith, but works prove our faith exists.

Faith Works through Love

Galatians 5:6 says – *‘For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision amounts to anything, nor uncircumcision, but faith working through love.’* Faith and love are really powerful together. They go hand in hand – they build each other up. If someone has no love in their heart for God, then they can’t have any real faith. Love of God builds up faith and as our faith rises, our love for God will too. It is a wonderful upward spiral.

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?’* When you are born-again your faith can overcome anything and everything if you will let it. You don’t have to be tossed around by experiences and feelings. With Jesus, you can deal with and get through whatever the world throws at you. Faith is strong and victorious. Hallelujah!

Faith for Practical Needs

Jesus says to have faith for the practical things in life, 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. ... ³⁰ For the nations of the world seek after all of these things, but your Father knows that you need these things.”* And in Matthew 6:33 He said – *‘But seek first God’s Kingdom and his righteousness; and all these things will be given*

to you as well.' Keep your focus on God's Word, and choose to have faith in His promise to provide all you need, and it will be given to you. It is when you believe, that you receive.

Faith for Healing

Time and time again Jesus said the reason someone was healed was 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 tells us that – *‘You were healed by his wounds.’* Through His suffering and death Jesus bore your sickness so that you wouldn't have to. We need to choose to believe the Bible truth that we are already healed in the spiritual realm and have faith that the physical healing will come through, rather than believe a negative diagnosis. (For more teaching on this, read my booklet 'God Wants You To Be Well'.)

Living by Faith

2 Corinthians 5:7 says – *‘We walk by faith, not by sight.’* People without faith see everything from a worldly point of view. They live by sight – by what they can see. But with faith, you can see things from God's point of view and find a better way of living.

Galatians 3:11 says – *‘The righteous will live by faith.’* An unrighteous person is not right with God and has no faith to live by, but you are right with God. It's not because you've earned it – it's all because of Jesus. When He died, not only did He take the punishment you deserved, but He made it possible for you to receive His righteousness. And because of that you can live by faith in all of God's truth instead of by sight like the world does.

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 isn’t about feelings – it’s about a decision to believe in and trust God. Jesus often commanded people to have faith, so it is something you can decide to do. He never commands you to do anything that’s impossible. So choose to react to people 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 your feelings or 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 way 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 and you will start to see God working in response to your faith.

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 for you to make it possible for you to 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 now strive or doubt; just believe and enjoy your life of faith with your loving Father God and your wonderful Saviour Jesus.

Life in Jesus

To read more about Jesus
and all He has done and won for us
go to –

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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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