

# Trust: the Highest Form of Faith

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- The beauty in our life comes when we live it according to God's plan.
- The key word during the series on "Living the Dream" was faith. We are now beginning a series on faith.
- You need to ask yourself, where is your faith. What condition is your faith in? Is your faith consistent? Is it strong?
- Faith is a big issue. This is not about religion. Hebrews 11:6 tells us that without faith we cannot please God.
- The strength and maturity of your faith is important to what you become in life.

Romans 4:17-21 (NKJV)

*"(as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations") in the presence of Him whom he believed— God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform."*

- Look at all of the statements (in bold) around believing and faith.
- This is the story of how Abraham and Sarah "believed" God for a child and for the fulfillment of everything God has promised Abraham in his life.
- In the New Testament, Abraham was the only one from the Old Testament that we are told to follow his example of faith. This shows us what faith looks and feels like.
- You can be a person who loves God and who is faithful. But you must live by faith in order to have a life that is vital. Otherwise, it becomes a mere religion.

Romans 1:17 (NKJV)

*"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

- This tells us that all of God's ability to work in us is only revealed through faith.
- Romans 10:17 tells us how to get faith. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God.
- As you get in the Word, faith becomes activated in your soul.
- Your hearing must be opened / awakened by the spirit so that you can understand and apply it.
- Many can read the Bible with their head but never have the faith ignited in their souls. They never approach the Word of God prayerfully seeking God for His revelation so that their spiritual hearing is awakened.
- How do you know if God's Word is really coming alive for you? Ask yourself, is God's Word messing with you!! If it isn't, then it isn't producing faith in you.
- The verse states *"and the just shall live by faith"*. This means that the "just" are those born again who have His righteousness in us. We live by our faith.
- This verse didn't say we shall get or claim faith. But that they shall *"live"* by faith. This must be a lifestyle.
- The mountain moving kind of faith will not work unless you have an environment in which you walk, live and breathe faith throughout your life. Your thoughts must be in line with His Word. Not the thoughts of the world of fear and trouble.

- Your mouth should have an environment of faith. Luke tells us that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. James tells us that out of the same well comes bitter water and sweet water. This shouldn't be so.
- Both Luke and James are telling you that if you live your life with a "potty" mouth and a bad attitude, that is your treasure. The power of your prayer is based on the treasure inside of you.
- Your home should have an environment of faith, not of junk (criticism, gossip, things on TV, music, talk that goes on, etc). Let it all reflect what you want.
- If you want peace and blessing in your home, then build an environment that reflects this.
- This does not mean you should become legalistic, but powerful and normal!
- Judge the things you bring into your home for whether it is profitable or destructive. Don't clutter your mind with stuff not of faith.
- Focus on things that create an environment of peace, joy, love, strength.

Colossians 2:5-6 (Amplified)

*For though I am away from you in body, yet I am with you in spirit, delighted at the sight of your [standing shoulder to shoulder in such] orderly array and the firmness and the solid front and steadfastness of your faith in Christ [that leaning of the entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness]. As you have therefore received Christ, [even] Jesus the Lord, [so] walk (regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him."*

- Paul is commending them for their faith. And the highest realm of faith is the realm of trust.
- The verse also tells us the kind of faith we need; *"that leaning of the entire human personality on Him in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness"*.
- If you will cast your whole life on Christ this way, your life will be much easier. And scripture and spiritual things will make more sense.
- Many Christians try to apply biblical truths to their lives but they have not laid themselves fully on Christ in trust.
- It is as if some of us are sitting on a chair (Christ) with only one "bun" on the seat. This is so we can still keep full weight on our own feet – just in case God doesn't come through. One bun faith doesn't get it done!
- Trust in His POWER. This means you have to trust that God has the ability to do whatever needs to be done. Most say, God can do anything. But they don't really believe it in their own personal situations.
- Another analogy is a man on a tightrope over Niagara Falls with a wheel barrel. People cheer him on and believe he can get across. He does it, and they cheer him on even more. They believe. Then he asks for a volunteer to get in the wheel barrel. Now we see who really believes.
- Our view of God is too small.
- Your faith must be built on the Word of God alone. But your faith is confirmed through your own personal experience of what God does in responding to you. When you can point to the times when God showed up in your life, you will never deny His existence and His power.

Luke 1:37 (NKJV)

*"For with God nothing will be impossible."*

- We desperately need kids to grow up in a home where they don't just hear you talk about what God did years ago. But where they see God show up and where they hear God's voice.
- If they have this kind of faith, they will go to universities and when challenged, it will be too late to cause doubt. Because they have already seen and experienced God's power.