

Stepping Out in Faith to Believe God's Word

There's probably nothing more exciting in Christian life than the adventure of living by faith! I think that was the thing that got my attention the most after I got saved. I had asked my pastor to pray for me that I would please the Lord, and he quoted me Hebrews 11:6: **But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.**

He said, *“If you want to please the Lord, you need to live by faith.”*

I wanted to please God more than anything in my life, and still do.

The scriptures say that the just shall live by faith: **For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. Romans 1:17**

But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. Galatians 3:11

Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Hebrews 10:38

Living by faith is what pleases God, and that's one of the reasons why it's always been a paramount issue in my life. I love to hear people share, and ministers preach and tell stories about how they stepped out in faith on the promises of God to do what God told them to do! We, as believers, have a great heritage in our forefathers and mothers who stepped out and pleased God by obeying Him.

One of the most remarkable incidents of someone believing God for a miracle was Mary believing God. When the angel appeared to her and told her she would bear a child, Mary said, . . . **be it unto me according to thy word** (Luke 1:37).

Abraham and Sarah stood on God's Word. Both of them were almost 100 years old before the promise was manifested, as we read in Romans 4:17-21, **(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**

In contrast, there was Thomas, Jesus' disciple, who believed differently than Mary, Abraham and Sarah. He operated in head faith, and not the God-kind of faith. In other words, he only believed in what he saw and felt, as we read in John 20:24-31. **That's why he's known as "doubting Thomas."**

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Thomas wasn't going to believe what Jesus had said until he saw, and until he had the physical proof. But in verse 29, Jesus said, **Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

Faith believes that what God has said is true and requires no visible sign. Faith says what the apostle Paul said in Acts 27:25: **...FOR I BELIEVE GOD, THAT IT SHALL BE EVEN AS IT WAS TOLD ME.**

What Mary, Abraham, Sarah, and Paul all had in common that Thomas didn't, was that they were willing to risk their reputation. Even though they had no physical evidence, they were still willing to step out in faith and believe that **what God had said, He would perform.** Likewise, be willing to step out in faith on God's Word to believe the many promises God has written to you in His Word.

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow. Remember that God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

Your Word of faith pastor,

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