The Just Shall Live by Faith

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'd asked a minister to pray 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.** I wanted to please God more than anything in my life and still do. The scriptures say, the just shall live by faith:

> ... but the just shall live by his faith. Habakkuk 2:4

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 the 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 incidences of two people believing God for a miracle was when Joseph and Mary believed God. When the angel appeared to Mary and told her that she would bear a child, she said, "...be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:37).

And there were Abraham and Sarah, both of whom were almost 100 years old before the promise was manifested, as we read in Romans 4:17-21. And then, there was a disciple, Thomas, who believes differently than Mary and Abraham and Sarah, as we read in John and 20:24-31. Thomas wasn't going to believe until he saw ... until he had the physical proof. But 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 God would perform what He had said.

Living by faith is not something that we do once in awhile, as the need arises--it is every day. It's when you don't have enough money to meet financial obligations, and all you've got is a promise of God to stand upon and claim -- Philippians 4:19: **But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

Or, you're believing God for a healing, or for loved one's healing, and all you've got is 1 Peter 2:24. Or, you're believing God for salvation of a loved one, and all you've got is Acts 16:31 and, as Joshua said in Joshua 24:15, "...but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD". 
Or, you're believing God that you're delivered from some worldly habit or sin, and all you've got is Colossians 1:13. Or, you're believing God you're delivered from fear, and all you've got is 2 Timothy 1:17. Or, evil thoughts are coming to your mind, and all you've got is 1 Corinthians 2:16, or 2 Corinthians 10:4, 5. Or, you don't know what to pray for as you ought, and you feel so inadequate and helpless, and all you've got is Romans 8:26-20. And sometimes, you don't know of a verse of scripture that covers your problem, and all you've got is the Name of Jesus, as the scriptures say in Philippians 2:9-11:

9Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
10That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
11And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

But what you've got is always more than enough, for all it takes is one promise from God's Word in the Name of Jesus, and faith in that promise causes got to move the mountains in your life. God cares for you and He wants to provide your every need. He's concerned about every one of your problems and He wants you to turn them all over to Him, so He can work them out for you, for He said in 1 Peter 5:6, 7:

6Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:
7Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

He doesn't want you to worry, or fret--all He wants you to do is keep on standing. And as you and I stand fast on His Word, He will never fail to come through.

Years ago, there was a little boy who was crippled by polio and he had heard that Oral Roberts was coming to town. God had anointed Oral Roberts with a divine healing anointing to lay hands on the sick. In America in my lifetime, he's probably the most powerful healing evangelist that there has been. The little boy had pleaded with his parents to take him to the meeting. When they knew that he wasn't going to take 'no' for an answer, they agreed to take him. He couldn't walk on his own; he had walking sticks, similar to crutches.

There was only one night that the parents could take the little boy to the crusade, which was being held under a tent. There were probably about 20- to 25,000 people in that meeting and Oral Roberts had laid hands on and prayed for so many of them, that he was exhausted. The ushers told the crowd that didn't get prayed for to come back tomorrow. But the little boy didn't have a tomorrow; he only had a today. He was in a similar situation as blind Bartimaeus. He had to get a hold of Jesus as He passed by, and, that little boy was looking for the Jesus Who had anointed Oral Roberts to lay hands on the sick.

The ushers held the crowd back as Oral Roberts was leaving the tent. And the little boy cried out, "Brother Roberts, you didn't pray for me! " An Oral Roberts turned to the little boy and said in a very gentle way, exhausted and worn out, "Son, I don't have any faith left tonight ". The little boy responded by saying, "You don't need any faith; I've got my own. All I need for you to do is lay your hands on me and God will do the rest ". Oh, there's nothing like a child-like faith! Jesus said, " Suffer the little children, and to me ".

Oral Roberts reached out and laid his hands on that little boy and the power of God hit the little boy's legs who had been crippled with polio, and he went running and leaping around the tent. Years later, I saw that man give his testimony and I saw pictures of when he was crippled. This goes to show that, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible (Mark 10:27). So, grab a promise from God's Word and hold fast to it and keep pleading the promise and say it over and over, for faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. God always comes forth to do what only He can do--the miracle that you need, for He never fails.
I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow.

Your partner in faith,

Brother Rich

Remember, *God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers* (3 John 2).