

Remnant Life Church
June 11, 2017
Healing Power – Faith
Hebrews 11:1-6

The foundation of being a Christian

- God's love
- The victory of the cross
- The faith of the believer

Faith

- Has been described in many different ways
 - Heard it said many times that faith is like a muscle that with greater use grows stronger and stronger
 - Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe. - St. Augustine
 - Faith is voluntary anticipation. - Clement of Alexandria
 - Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible.
- Yet its place in the Christian's life has at times confused some
 - We know that it is God's gift of salvation to us that forgives our sins (Ro 6:23)
 - We know that we can do nothing to earn, keep, or increase His love (Ro 8:38-39)
 - Because of that there are those who sit back and do nothing in their Christian walk
 - BUT we do have a very active role in our relationship with God
 - Noah was required to build the ark – all the while exercising great faith in God
 - It is the establishing of our faith
 - It is the growth of our faith
 - It is the walking out of our faith
- Establish a theological base of faith according to how it was written
 - As repentance is the negative element of conversion (turning from the sin of one's life), so faith is the positive as we lay hold of the promises and work of Christ in our lives
 - **The Old Testament** (Hebrew in the original form)
 - Has no word for faith in the noun form
 - It is presented in the verb (or action) form
 - Hebrew words have stems attached which dictate the tense, the number, and ultimately the meaning of a word
 - English – past, present, future
 - The most common verb for faith is *am'an* and in the 3 primary stems its meanings are (1st) to nourish, (2nd) to be firm, established, or steadfast, and (3rd) to consider something as established, true, or to believe in
 - IOW – confidently resting upon someone or something

- Expressed in the OT as faithful; faithfully; faithfulness
- **The New Testament** (Greek in the original forms)
 - The primary words are pisteuo in the verb form and pistis in the noun
 - Giving us 2 equally important meanings of the word
 - First - to believe what someone says
 - **I John 4:1** - *Dear friends, do not believe (pisteuo) every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.*
 - **Matt 8:13** – (Jesus to the centurion) *“Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that moment.*
 - **Mark 5:36** – Jesus told Jarius to believe that his daughter would be healed
 - **Matt 9:28** – (to the blind man who followed Him, Jesus said) *“Do you believe that I am able to do this [heal you]?”*
 - Faith involves believing something is true
 - Second – belief through personal trust
 - In the Greek it is a preposition that makes the word faith about someone not an idea or something
 - **Acts 10:43** - *All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”*
 - **John 1:12** - *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—*
 - **Gal 2:16** - *know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.*
 - The name of a person was equivalent to the person himself
 - **Phil 2:10** - *...at the name of Jesus every knee must bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*
 - Necessary for salvation and healing means that, in faith, we stand with the facts and trust in the person
 - The fact is Jesus died for our sins and defeated death and sickness for eternity
 - I trust in the person of Jesus Christ and believe He is the risen Son of God
 - BOTH of these are important and operate in conjunction one with the other
 - Sometimes people who struggle with simple faith do so because they believe faith precludes or eliminates reason and is unconfirmable
 - It is true that, at times, faith is required where there is no evidence available

- But rather than weakness this type of faith should be seen as strength
 - **John 20:29** - *“Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*
 - But once faith has been engaged it allows us to see, recognize, and reason supporting evidence
 - JTB disciples come to Jesus and ask...
 - **Luke 7:19** - *“Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”*
 - **7:22** - *“Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.*
 - In essence, what Jesus was saying was, “Here is the evidence you need in order to believe.”
 - Faith in God and in the person of Jesus Christ is not a pathetic mindless hope that blindly looks for anything to hold to.
 - It is the assuredness, by the evidence of His work in our lives, that give testimony to His greatness every day!
-
- Faith is one of the 2 foundational pillars of healing for the Christian today
 - 74 times in the Bible we read the words “by faith”
 - 69 of those are in the NT
 - Jesus Christ brought the reason for hope and faith to the world
 - Peter and John heal a lame beggar
 - **Acts 3:16** - *By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.*
 - It was the faith of the man in the power of God to heal (pisteuo`)
 - It was the faith of Peter and John in the man Jesus Christ (pisis)

Healing for our bodies, our minds, our relationships, our finances, begins with faith.

But our faith must then be subjected to and surrendered to the overriding power of God – specifically the will of God!