

"FAITH IS" (Colo - dwg)

Salvation is like a house. I stand on the outside of that house and I see written over the door: salvation - forgiveness of sin. I know that if somehow I can get through that locked door and into that house, I'll ~~be~~ saved, all my sins will be forgiven, I'll have a home in heaven, and I'll be a child of God. I go up and I knock on that door. I bang on that door. I try to pick the lock. I try to climb in through a window. There is just no way. One day the Father taps me on the shoulder and gives me a key, and says ^{that} this key will open the front door. I look on the key and it is labeled "faith". It is the key of faith. I insert the key into the lock and sure enough the door swings open and I go inside - I'm saved.

Once I get inside, I realize the house of salvation is a house with many rooms, and I'm only standing in the foyer. Over there is a door labeled "answered prayer." Over here is another door labeled "spirit filled home." Over ~~re~~ there is another door labeled "abundant life." Over here is another room labeled "victory over sin".

I surely do want to get in those rooms. I don't want to live in the foyer all my life, and that's where a lot of Christians have been living. We've been living in the foyer all our life. We got saved, walked in the door and that's where we are today.

I read a story about a little girl whose mother put her to bed. About 30 minutes later she heard a thump on the floor and the little girl ~~started~~ crying. The mother went in and found ^{that} the child had fallen out of the bed and on to the floor. She picked her up

~~and~~ put her back in the bed and asked ^{her} what happened? The little girl replied through her tears, "I don't know what happened, Mommy, except maybe I went to sleep too close to where I got in."

And do you know what's happened? Too many of us have gone to sleep too near the place where we got in. We used the key of faith and we walked into the house of salvation and we've been living in the foyer ever since.

I don't know about you, but when I move into a house, I want access to every room. I want to go into the bedroom and rest. I want to go into the kitchen and eat. I want access to the whole house. I don't want to live in the foyer all my life and that's where some of you have been living. That's why you don't enjoy the Christian life -- who would enjoy living in a foyer? Who would enjoy sleeping on a foyer floor? Who would enjoy that kind of an existence? And that's why you don't enjoy your Christian life, you endure it.

Well I want to get in those doors. I pull out my key chain, and there's the key of self effort. I'm going to get in that door of victorious living, ~~and~~ so I try the key and it doesn't work. I try another key. It's the key of rededication - I've almost worn that key out. I try that key again, but it still won't unlock the door. Well here's another (I'm really desperate now) Here's the key of tithing. I'll try tithing and maybe this will unlock the door of answered prayer, abundant life, and victorious living, but that key won't unlock the door either.

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The greatest discovery of my life ~~was~~^{CAME} when the Father tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Son, do you remember that key I gave you?" "It is the MasterKey of faith that unlocks every door in the house." ~~I~~ I gasped, "I don't believe it! That's too simple! That's too easy!" And I went along for years not believing it. I'd buy every book I could find on "How to Live the Abundant Life" and "How to be Spirit Filled", but I was always disappointed because they said, "You just accept it by faith."

You know, I had the idea that they knew something and they weren't telling me. They had the formula. They had the secret and they weren't telling me. One of those days I said, "I'm just going to try it," and you know what I found? The key of faith is the Master Key that unlocks every door in the house of salvation.

Four times in the Bible I read, "the just shall live by faith." Notice it doesn't say, "the just shall be saved by faith". It says "the just shall live by faith." That means your every day life is energized by faith. Now why did God say that same thing four times? Was He running out of material? Was He trying to fill up the Bible? No! The Bible is very economical in its language and when I find the same statement occurring four different times in the Word of God, I begin to get the idea the Lord is trying to tell me something. He's trying to tell me that those that are saved LIVE by faith.

~~It~~ Everything you get in the Christian life you get by grace through faith. By grace, God makes it available -- through faith, I appropriate it. Faith is accepting what God has made available.

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And everything in the Christian life comes by grace through faith.

The Bible says "without faith it is impossible to please God." That's one of the most devastating statements in the Word of God. It would have been much easier if He had said, "Without church attendance it is impossible to please God." It would have been so much more comforting if He would have said, "Without tithing it is impossible to please God." But He said, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." And He says in Romans 14:23, "and whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Now that's a very disturbing definition of sin. Anything in my life that does not arise and is not energized by faith is sin. That makes faith a very priceless commodity in the Christian Life.

There is a question I must ask myself: If without faith it is impossible to please God, do I have faith? That leads to one other question - What is faith? Do I know what faith is? How will I know if I have it? In Hebrews 11:1 we have the only dictionary definition of faith found in the Bible: "For faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

Now faith is the key to your having a Spirit-filled home. Faith is the key to Jesus being Lord in your life. Faith is the key of your authority over the Devil. Faith is the master key and you must understand what faith is.

I'm going to give you a three-fold definition of faith as found in this eleventh chapter of Hebrews. First of all FAITH IS SUBSTANCE. Notice the writer doesn't say that faith brings substance. He doesn't say that faith obtains substance.

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He says, "Faith is substance." Faith is synonymous with substance. Now you know there have been times when I have needed substance, when I needed money to meet bills and obligations. I said, "Lord, I have the faith, now you provide the substance." And I thought that faith and substance were two different things. I thought faith obtained the substance from God. That's not what the verse says, It says faith IS substance.

Do you know the most important word in that verse? It is "IS". Is. I've had a wonderful time with "IS" lately! The Wizard of Is. He doesn't say faith will be, or faith can be, or faith gets; he says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for. That means that faith is the title deed to everything you've always hoped for -- to everything you've stood by and watched the Spirit do for others. You've watched victory in another's home and you've hoped for that. You've watched somebody have their prayers answered and you've hoped for that too. Faith doesn't say, one day I'll have it; Faith says I have it now! Faith isn't hoping; faith is HAVING. Faith is substance.

Now there are three steps to faith. The first is labeled: GOD CAN. The person standing here says, "I believe God can do anything and everything." Everyone of us believes that. I believe God CAN do anything. God CAN do everything. God CAN, but that's not victorious faith.

Let's go a step farther. ~~some~~^{you} say, "I believe God WILL." I believe God WILL -- now that takes more faith. Not only CAN God solve the problems in my home, but I believe God WILL. That's still

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not victorious faith. Let's suppose ^{an UNSAVED} a man is standing in a worship service during the invitation, ~~and he says~~. He hears the gospel and he says, "I believe God CAN save me." Is he saved? No. He says, "I believe God WILL save me." Is he saved? No.

There has to be a third step. It's not only saying God can, and God will, it is saying God HAS. God HAS ALREADY. It has already been DONE. You say that sounds strange, ^{and begin} read one of the most famous prayer promises in the Book: Jesus said, "Therefore I say unto you, ~~What~~ things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:24). Jesus said that whatsoever things ye desire, when you are praying for them, believe you have already got them, and you'll get them. That's exactly what He said. When I come in prayer and ask for something according to the will of God, I am to get up off my knees ^{and begin} ~~and~~ thanking God that I already have it. You ask, "Are you telling me that if I believe I've got it, then I'll get it?" That's right. You mean that if I say I believe I've got it when I don't have it, I'll get it. That's exactly what Jesus said. Victorious Biblical faith says Faith Is Substance.

God has already made provision for everything. Some Christians believe that God creates provision to meet ^{their} ~~your~~ problems. A problem arises and then you pray that God will meet that problem. You wait and hope He'll meet it. You've been operating on the assumption that God creates His provision to meet your problem. No! That's not the way it works. God creates PROBLEMS to meet his PROVISION. God creates problems that you might enter into His provision. God

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has already made provision for everything in your life.

Which came first -- the Second Adam or the first Adam? Jesus is the Second Adam, Adam is the first Adam. Which came first, the first of the second? That's right, the Second Adam. That's not good mathematics, but it's great theology.

Go back to the story of creation. First of all, God made air, then He made birds to fly in the air. He didn't make the birds and say, "Now you hold your breath and I'm going to create some air for you." That's the way some of us pray. We're holding our breath and crying, "Lord, I have this problem, now you hurry up and make some air." God made the green herbs and then He made the animals. God made the water, then He made the fish. God made the garden, then He made the man. God erected a cross on Calvary and then He let man sin. God always operates this way.

In Romans 8:29 I read that I am already glorified: As far as God is concerned, I'm already glorified in Heaven. I come to victory when I start looking at things through God's eyes instead of my own eyes; When I look at it the way God looks at it. You say that if you don't see the provision, you can't believe the provision. God has already made provision for everything we're going to need, And God creates problems that we might know His provision.

The Apostle John writes, "and as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, "Master who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither has this man sinned, nor

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his parents: (now get this) but that the works of God should be made manifest in him." (John 9:1-3). Jesus didn't say that God would create provision to meet this man's problem. He said that God allowed this problem so the blind man might enter into the provision God had already made.

Another illustration of this principle is found in II Cor. 12. You remember Paul's "thorn in the flesh." Here again we have the Wizard of Is. God says, "My grace IS sufficient for thee." Not WILL be, not CAN be, it IS sufficient. Paul had a thorn in the flesh. He cried, "Lord you've got to help, you've got to get me out of this, you've got to deliver me from this." God only whispered, "My grace is sufficient for thee;" ~~Already~~ sufficient. Paul, before you ever had that thorn, my grace was already sufficient for you. And this problem I'm allowing in your life is so that you might recognize and enjoy my blessed provision. For my strength is made perfect in your weakness." Now notice Paul's reaction: "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities," ^(v.9) That word glory means to give a shout of triumph in my infirmities. That fellow Paul sounds like he's ready to be committed. Here is a fellow who gives a shout of victory in his infirmities. He continued, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake." (v. 10) Can you imagine that? Paul had received a revelation from God. He said, "Praise the Lord! God is getting ready to show me more of his grace." Paul's victorious faith said: Not only God can, not only God will, God HAS. It's already DONE.

I remember when God first taught me this a year or so ago.

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Like many of you, we go through times of real financial difficulty. We needed about \$500.00 and we needed it yesterday. I didn't have anybody to go to. I didn't have any collateral, and I'd already borrowed .02 on my name. I was uptight; I was worried; and all of a sudden I got sick. I said to myself, "This is good. The Lord is letting me get sick so I can take time off from my work and pray this thing through. I'm going to lock myself in ^{my} bedroom and I'm going to get down on my knees and open my Bible to Matthew 6:33 and I'm going to prevail God. I'm going to wrestle with God, and I am going to pray down provision from God." So I did it. I got down my Bible, and opened it to Matt. 6:33: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." What things? Jesus is talking about the physical necessities of life. And so I prayed, "Lord, I believe your Word. Lord meet my needs. I've got this need and I've got that need. Lord meet these needs. Lord are you going to meet my needs?" ~~and~~ I'd pray for awhile, and then I'd read the Bible for awhile. I was just determined to read myself into believing that verse. I read it and I read it and I prayed and I plead and I asked God to give me a sign. I said, "Lord give me some evidence; give me some sign that you're going to meet my needs."

That went on for awhile and the Lord seemed to impress me to read that verse again. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." And then the Lord seemed to say to me, "Don't you wish your banker had said that?" And I saw it. What if the president of my bank had written me a note that read: "Take no thought of what you

shall eat or drink or what you shall put on, but seek first the kingdom of God. You just go ahead and let Jesus be Lord and you seek Him first and I'll take care of all of these things for you. Do you think I would have been down there on my knees begging and pleading and getting ulcers, or worrying and being uptight, or frustrated and fretful? No, I would have been living, enjoying life, praising the Lord that I had someone who would meet my needs.

And then God said, "The only thing wrong with you is that you have more confidence in the word of a man than you have in the Word of God. What do you mean asking me to do something I've already said I would do? What do you mean, asking me if I'm going to keep my word?" And I saw that my prayers were blasphemy. Do you know what I did? I stopped praying for God to meet my needs and I started praising Him that He'd already met them. I got up off my knees and said, "Thank you, Lord. I've already got the money. I can't see it; I can't spend it; but it's mine. Faith is substance, and I thank you that the need is met! I began to praise Him for it, and He met the need. ~~Not~~ Not one time since have I prayed and pleaded with God to meet my needs. When the need comes up, I lay it before Him, and I thank Him that He's going to do it.

~~I~~ I made a vow with God that day. (I'm not saying that you ought to make this same vow for what's right for me is not necessarily right for you.) I said, "Lord, I'll never again go to another banker and ask him to loan me money for these little emergencies because you have taught me something today." I made this vow and I haven't broken it since. The Lord has been creating more and more problems and I've been entering more and more into His provision.

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There was a time when I prayed that God would give me money. I often wished that somehow God would let somebody leave me a lot of money. I was tired of worrying about bills and finances and I wished God would make me wealthy enough so that I wouldn't have to worry about money. But God gave me something better. He gave me the faith to trust Him. And that's better. Several months ago, all of a sudden, we needed \$700.00 to meet some emergencies. We didn't have it. For a minute I was tempted to go to the bank. Then I said, "No sir, Lord. My Father owns all the cattle on a thousand hills, silver and gold is His, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and you promised to meet my needs. Now if you want to meet them through a banker, you let me know, but I don't think you do." "Lord," I continued, "I'm going to trust you". The Lord answered, "You've got some Mutual Fund investments that you are saving for your boys' education, exactly the amount you need - \$740.00. You cash that in." "But Lord," I retorted, "My wife and I vowed that we would never touch that money because that's our future." And the Lord said, "Oh, you mean you can't trust me with your future?" So I told the Lord that if he wanted me to use the ^{INVESTMENTS} ~~he~~ he would have to speak to my wife about it because she felt the same way I did. I went home that night and as we were watching television, Kaye said, "Hey, I thought of something today. I know where ^{WE} ~~we~~ can get that money. Let's just cash in our Mutual Funds." "Thank you, Lord", I whispered to myself. We had made the agreement together, and God had to deal with her just as He did with me.

I called the investment company and told them I had to have the money within five days. They assured me that it would be mailed from the Minneapolis office within five days. In five days it wasn't there. I phoned the company again and they said the check had been mailed three days ago. It should have been there. I began to doubt. I began to worry.

There is a man in my church, a very dear friend ~~of mine~~^{of mine.} He's well to do and I knew I could go to him anytime and ask him for what I needed, and he'd give it to me. I said to myself, "I'm going to call and ask him if he can just loan me the money for a day -- just a little bit of interim financing." I called his office and he wasn't in. I left word for him to call me. In the meantime I began to think about my plan. I was a bit troubled that I was going to ask my friend to meet my needs. Then the Lord said, "Listen if you had needed that money today, it would have been here." You don't know but that I'm coming back tonight and you won't need it." Wouldn't that be something, ~~if~~ if I had to meet Him after I'd gone back on my vow.

The Bible says "But God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). Here's the rule: What I do not receive, I do not require. If I require it, God will provide it if I'm trusting Him, living for Him, and seeking His kingdom; If He is Lord. When my friend called a little bit later I assured him that I didn't need anything after all and that everything was all right.

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About 3:30 the same afternoon, my wife called me from home and said the stock people ~~had~~ ^{had} called and told her the check was sent to them by mistake and that a man was bringing it out right away. Oh, I was pleased. But that's not the best.

The next day - my friend and his wife walked into my office. He handed me a white envelope inscribed: "Those who are taught the truth should share all their goods with the man who teaches them." (Gal. 6:6 - Williams). I opened the envelope and pulled out seven, one hundred dollar bills. He said, "We sold some property and feel like we ought to share ~~it~~ with the pastor." I was overcome. When I began telling them what I had planned, he said, "We had decided to give you \$600.00 and this morning at breakfast we had those six one hundred dollar bills laying on the table. As I was brushing my teeth, the number "7" just kept coming to my mind. I told my wife that I felt like we ought to give ~~him~~ ^{you} seven hundred dollars." You can call that a coincidence and be miserable if you want but I want you to know that is providence. That is God keeping His word. He is faithful. Paul writes in 2 Cor. ~~10:10~~ 12:10: "So I most happily boast about my weaknesses, so that the strength of Christ may overshadow me. That is why I take such pleasure in weaknesses, insults, distresses, persecution, and difficulties which I endure for Christ's sake, for it is when I am consciously weak that I am really strong." (Williams).

My friends, this ^{truth} will change your outlook on everything. You'll begin to praise the Lord in every situation. There is no situation in which you cannot praise the Lord if you believe His word. Even in the situation of tragedy and death, if you believe His Word, you

can praise the Lord. Many of you will never get victory over some of your problems until you praise the Lord for them. You've got to praise the Lord for everything; in the good things and the bad things. Praise is the highest expression of faith towards God. Many of you cannot pray through to victory because you've not praised Him for the problems that have come into your life. "In all things (not a few things, but in everything) give thanks to God for this is the will of God concerning you in Christ" (I Thess. 5:18). Faith is substance.

You see, I was saying, "Lord, I have the faith, now you provide the money." No. When I had the faith, I had the money. You say that its not so, but it is. Faith is real -- faith is substance. Faith is concrete and faith is substance.

Let's look at another "IS" -- John 5:4: "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world and this IS the victory that overcometh the world even our faith." Faith IS the victory. For a long time I thought faith BROUGHT the victory. I thought faith OBTAINED the victory. But faith IS the victory. Do you mean that if I believe I have victory over this sin, if I believe I have victory over this weakness, if I believe I have victory over this habit, I have victory? That's right. You say, "I don't believe it." No, and you don't have victory either. Faith IS victory. It is wrong terminology for a Christian to say that he must win the victory. Jesus Christ won for you every victory 2,000 years ago on the Cross.

I find everything I need in the **C**ross. When Jesus died on the **C**ross, He defeated the **D**evil. When Jesus died on the **C**ross, He conquered the world. When Jesus died on the **C**ross, He crucified flesh. But how do I enter in to that victory? I simply enter into it the same way I entered into salvation - by faith. When Jesus died on the **C**ross, He obtained salvation for me. He obtained victory over the **D**evil. He obtained the Spirit-filled life. He obtained the right to pray and get an answer, He obtained everything for me. How do I get salvation? It is by grace through faith. I just thank God that it's done and accept it. How do you get this victory? God always works the same. He is consistent. His M.O. never changes, and everything you receive from God, you receive by grace through faith. Faith IS the victory. When you come to the place where you say, "Right now I take authority over this sin in my life. I take authority over this habit in my life, and I thank God that He has already given me the victory. Jesus, when you died on the cross 2,000 years ago, you gave me victory over this habit and I thank you for it; I accept it; and I praise you for it. I will obey Hebrews 4:14: "You hold fast your confession."

Faith Is Substance and

FAITH IS SIGHT

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 12:11). Faith is the proof of what we cannot see. The Apostle John writes, "But Thomas, one of the twelve called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other

- want written
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 - set of cancer letters
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 feel"

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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." (Jn. 20:24-25).

I can divide this congregation into two groups. There are those who say, "Believing is Seeing," and then there are those who say "Seeing is Believing." "Seeing is Believing", that's what Thomas said. Thomas said, "except I see I will not believe." And many of you say, "I will not believe I have victory unless I see it. I will not believe God is meeting my needs unless I see it." There are those of us who say that Seeing is Believeing and then there are those of us who say that Believing is Seeing.

John continues, "Now 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 said he unto 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 ~~3~~ (and I believe He shook His head)-- thou hast believed: (you believed Thomas, because you SAW.) Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:26-30). Faith is SIGHT. Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Somebody says, ~~"Teacher,~~ "You prove to me that I have victory." The only proof you need is faith in the Word of God. Faith is the fleece you put out. You need not ask for signs when God has plainly revealed the answer in His Word.

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There I was in my bedroom, praying that God would give me some evidence; give me some sign that He was going to meet my needs. The only sign I needed was the fact that He had said it. Many of you live in the realm of your senses: what you can see, hear, taste, touch, and handle. If you can't see it or feel it or hear it, you won't believe it. If you don't feel like you're spiritual, you don't believe you are. If you don't feel like Jesus is Lord of your life, you don't believe He is. If you don't feel like praying, you don't believe in praying. If you don't see the money to build that building you don't believe you've got it. If you don't see the solution, you don't believe the solution is there. It's because you don't have Biblical faith. The only evidence, the only fleece, the only proof you need is the fact that God said it. Faith is proof.

~~_____~~^A preacher friend from Louisiana put this principle in a marvelous way: "Act like it's so when it isn't so and it will be so." After you see it, you don't need any faith. Many of you say, "If I could see today some evidence that God is working in my life, I'd believe it." How does that please God? Faith says: "I don't see it. My senses contradict everything else except the Word of God, but I believe it anyway."

Do you know how to live victoriously? You must step out of the sense realm: believing only what you feel, see and hear, and move into the spiritual realm. If what you see and what you hear and what you taste and what you feel contradicts everything in the Book, believe the Book. No matter how you feel; no matter what it looks like; no matter what all your senses tell

you, believe what God says. "Act like it's so when it isn't so and it will be so." You act like you've already got all your bills paid when you don't and they will be. God has promised to meet your needs if you seek Him first.

Do you remember the ten lepers who came to Jesus? He asked them what they wanted him to do for them. They said, "Master, heal us". They wanted to be cleansed of their leprosy. Jesus said, "Go and shew thyself to the priest." The Law forbid ~~you~~ ^{one} to shew ~~yourself~~ ^{himself} to the priest until AFTER ~~you~~ ^{he was} ~~were~~ cleansed. After a leper had been cured he had to go to the priest to get ~~the~~ authority and permission to return to society. The priest had to examine him. He didn't go to the priest, until after he was clean. The ten said, "we want to be healed of our leprosy." Jesus answered, "Go and shew yourself to the priest." He was saying: You act like you're cleansed when you're not. They said, "Heal us." Jesus said, "Go shew yourself to the priest." If we'd been in that group we would have said, "But, Lord, we can't go and shew ourselves to the priest yet because we are not healed. What will the priest think? The Bible says "AND AS THEY WENT THEY WERE CLEANSED." Luke 17:14 Praise the Lord. They would never have been healed if they had stood there and waited for sight to believe. They said "believing is seeing." The only evidence we need is the fact that Jesus has told us to act like we are healed. Do you believe that God has already met all of your needs? Then act like it.

Here is the fallacy of just believing God will: You believe that God will, but you are still anxious and up-tight and not really relaxed about it. You will believe once God does it. But Jesus said for you to act like it's so. When you say God has already met your needs, then act like it - that's faith - SUBSTANCE, SIGHT, but there's more

FAITH IS SPOKEN

In Mark 11:23, we read "For verily I say unto you that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he saith." Jesus is not talking about prayer. In prayer you talk to God. This man is talking to a mountain. He's saying to that mountain of obstacle, that mountain of hindrance, that mountain that is obstructing the will of God, be removed into the sea. Jesus said that if you don't doubt you'll have whatever you say. You'll have. You can possess what you confess.

Do you know what many of you have been confessing? You've been confessing doubt. You've been confessing defeat. You've been confessing failure. You say, "Jesus, I'm turning over to you my life and I want you to fill me with the Holy Spirit." Are you filled? "Well, I don't know." you meekly reply, "I don't know if I can live the life; I don't know how this is going to work out; I just don't know." The minute you confess doubt, that's exactly what you have. You bind yourself by what you say. Your level of victory will never rise above the level of your confession. The Bible has much to say about publicly confessing your faith. There's power in the spoken

word. You must let the Devil hear what you say and you need to let your own ear hear your ~~mouth~~ ^{words}. Faith, to be victorious, always confesses that it's DONE. Jesus always spoke to the Devil; He never thought to him. The Bible says Jesus spoke to the fig tree; He didn't think to it. He spoke to it. He commanded us to speak to the "mountain."

God has given us the authority of Christ in faith. When we realize faith is the victory over this problem, over this sin, over this defeat, then we claim that Jesus conquered this for us 2,000 years ago. I believe I have victory therefore I confess I have victory. You say, "what am I to confess?" You are to confess that you are what God says you are. You are to confess that you are what God says you are. Now God says you are more than conquerors through Him that loved you. Is that what you've been confessing? He says that we have victory over the world. Is that what you've been confessing? He says that when you resist the Devil he will flee from you, is that what you've been confessing? Faith will never operate victoriously in your life until you take your stand on the Word of God and confess that you are what God says you are. You say, "Well, I don't feel victorious". Instead confess, "I am victorious - in Jesus." "Hold fast your confession." (Heb. 4:14).

The Devil will come to you and say, "But you don't feel victorious - you don't act victorious. You're not going to be able to make it." He'll try to sow seeds of doubt. You just say, "I confess that I am victorious. I confess I have victory over this. I thank the Lord I have victory -- thank you Jesus that 2,000 years ago you ~~defeated~~ ^{provided} that for me on the Cross of Calvary and I confess, I believe, I confess I have victory." Every time the Devil

sows a seed of doubt in your mind, you hold fast your confession. You cling to that confession. Faith is spoken.

God has already won all of your battles for you. All He's waiting for you to do is ~~take~~ the key of faith and walk into God's provision. It's yours, by faith. When you get down on your knees and say, "Lord, I give my life to my wife. Thank you that it's done." Don't be introspective. Don't say I wonder if I really meant it. I wonder if it really happened. Just say, "Thank you Lord, it's done." ¶ Joe Ann Shelton, who is a tremendous musician, was in our church giving her testimony about entering into the Spirit-filled life. She said "When I came to realize my need, I went home and did two things: First of all I got down on my knees and I confessed my sin to God. I enthroned Jesus as Lord, asking Him to fill me with the Spirit. The second thing I did was the most important. I got up off my knees, believing it was done." When you say I enthrone Jesus as my Lord, you thank Him that it's done, and He is Lord. Don't say, "I want Him to be Lord, I'm praying that He'll be Lord." No. You say, "Lord Jesus, I confess that you're Lord. I thank you that You are. He is.

You possess what you confess, according to Mark 11:23. You use that Master Key ~~off~~ ^{FAITH.} ~~ask~~ ^{Don't} ask "Do I have faith?" ~~ask~~ You have faith. Even one has faith. Don't stand around praying that God will give you faith - you have faith. You had enough faith to get saved, didn't you? That's all the faith it takes. You have faith - exercise it. Faith is simply acting on the Word of God.

FAITH IS SUBSTANCE.

FAITH IS SIGHT.

FAITH IS SPOKEN.