

KINGDOM LIFE -2

“THE COIN OF THE REALM”

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FAITH IS THE CURRENCY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

1. We cannot enter God's Kingdom without faith.

Rom. 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith.* (NRSV)

Rom. 3:28 *A person is made right with God through faith, not through obeying the law.* (NCV)

2. We cannot live the entire Christian life without faith.

1 Tim. 6:12 *Fight the good fight of the faith.* (NRSV)

Rom. 1:17a *This Good News tells us how God makes us right in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith.* (NLT)

Rom. 1:17b *As it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”* (NKJV)

3. We cannot fulfill our divine destiny without faith.

Heb. 11:6a *Without faith it is impossible to please God.* (NRSV)

2 Tim. 4:7 *I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.* (NRSV)

FAITH FACILITATES OUR ACCESS TO THE HEAVENLY REALM.

Heb. 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* (NASB)

How We Gain Access to God:

1. By Believing that God is.

Ex. 3:13-14 *Moses said to God, “When I go to the Israelites, I will say to them, ‘The God of your fathers sent me to you.’ What if the people say, ‘What is his name?’ What should I tell them?” Then God said to Moses, “I am who I am. When you go to the people of Israel, tell them, ‘I am sent me to you.’”* (NCV)

2. By Believing that He rewards those who seek Him.

Matt. 6:33 *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”* (NKJV)

Why We Need to Access the Eternal Realm

1. God Exists in an Eternal (Timeless) Realm That Is Different from Our Time-Space World.

1 Cor. 2:14 *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.* (NKJV)

2. When We Step into God's Eternal Realm, We are Able to See and Grasp by Faith the Blessings of Heavenly Realities for our Physical World.

2 Cor. 4:18 *We do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.* (NKJV)

Examples:

a. The Sacrifice of Christ (1 Peter 1:20; Heb. 10:14)

b. The Resurrection of Christ (John 11:25-26)

c. The New Covenant and Abraham (John 8:56-58)

d. The New Covenant and David (Psalm 22:1)

WHAT IS FAITH?

1. What Faith is Not:

a. It is not Hope. Hope may be a step on the way to reach faith, but it still carries an attitude of uncertainty that real faith never has.

b. It is not Knowledge. Accepting known facts or evidence is not faith. If you wait to see, hear or know something naturally before you can believe, then you are moving in natural knowledge and not in faith.

c. It is not Presumption. Faith is not attempting to claim something that you want. Presumption is trying to force or create into existence what does not yet exist in God's reality.

2. The Biblical Definition of Faith

Heb. 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* (NKJV)

Faith - Gr: *pistis* (noun); *pisteuo* (verb - “believe”)

a. Faith “is” - Faith is always in the **present tense** but it is based on something that **has already happened** in the past.

Mark 11:22-24 *And Jesus answered saying to them, “Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted him. Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you.”* (NASB)

b. Faith is the “substance” (assurance or confidence)

Substance - Gr: *hupostasis* - to be under authority

c. Faith is the “evidence”

Evidence - Gr: *elegchos* - convincing proof

BY FAITH WE LAY HOLD OF WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY SPOKEN INTO EXISTENCE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM.

Heb. 11:8-10 *It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith – for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.* (NLT)

Heb. 11:11-12 *By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old – and Sarah herself was barren – because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”* (NRSV)

Heb. 11:17-19 *It was by faith that Abraham offered Isaac as a sacrifice when God was testing him. Abraham, who had received God's promises, was ready to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, even though God had told him, “Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted.” Abraham reasoned that if Isaac died, God was able to bring him back to life again. And in a sense, Abraham did receive his son back from the dead.* (NLT)