

KINGDOM LIFE -4

“THE LORD’S FAITH”

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FAITH IS FROM GOD, WE DON’T MANUFACTURE IT.

Rom. 12:3 *God has allotted to each a measure of faith.* (NASB)

WE RECEIVE FAITH BY HEARING THE WORD OF CHRIST.

Rom. 10:17 *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.* (NASB)

Gal. 3:2 *This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?* (NKJV)

Four Kinds of Christian Faith

- a. **Environmental Faith** - The atmosphere we’re in dictates whether or not we will believe.
- b. **Microwave Faith** - Whether we believe or not is based on getting answers immediately.
- c. **Seasonal Faith** - We press into God when we go through times of crisis, but we relax in between crises.
- d. **Fruit Tree Faith** - Our faith is like a mature tree that is fruitful all the time, regardless of circumstances.

HOW FAITH GROWS

Mark 4:13 *Then Jesus said to them, “If you can’t understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?”* (NLT)

Luke 4:8 *When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”* (NLT)

1. We hear the Word.

2. We understand the Word.

Mark 4:20 *“And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God’s word.”* (NLT)

3. We accept the Word.

Luke 8:15 *“But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.”* (NASB)

4. We hold on to the Word.

5. We persevere in the Word and bear fruit.

THE OPPOSITE OF FAITH IS UNBELIEF.

Two Kinds of Unbelief

a. Natural Inability to Believe

Mark 9:23-24 *Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”*

Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!” (NLT)

b. Willful Unbelief

Heb. 3:18-19 *And to whom did he swear that they would not enter his rest, if not to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were unable to enter because of unbelief.* (NRSV)

John 3:18 *“Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”* (NRSV)

1. Unbelief is the root cause of sin.

John 16:9 *“The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me.”* (NLT)

2. Unbelief is a choice.

3. Unbelief is the spirit of the devil.

Matt. 16:21-23 *From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. “Heaven forbid, Lord,” he said. “This will never happen to you!” Jesus turned to Peter and said, “Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me.”* (NLT)

a. Religious Unbelief

2 Cor. 3:14-16 *But the people’s minds were hardened, and to this day whenever the old covenant is being read, the same veil covers their minds so they cannot understand the truth. And this veil can be removed only by believing in Christ. Yes, even today when they read Moses’ writings, their hearts are covered with that veil, and they do not understand. But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.* (NLT)

b. Secular Unbelief

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)

4. God hates unbelief.

5. We must repent of our unbelief.

Mark 16:14 *Still later he appeared to the eleven disciples as they were eating together. He rebuked them for their stubborn unbelief because they refused to believe those who had seen him after he had been raised from the dead.* (NLT)

Matt. 14:26 *When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!”* (NLT)

Rom. 4:20-22 *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”* (NKJV)

GOD WANTS US TO LIVE WITH THE FAITH OF JESUS.

Rev. 14:12 *Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and hold fast to the faith of Jesus.* (NRSV)

Gal. 2:20 *The life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God.* (KJV)