



FAITH IS.

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

SINCERE REPENTANCE: Touches the heart of Jesus to forgive us and establish us as one of His children.

THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH: Opens the hand of Jesus to help us experience divine intervention.

Here is the key to all that I am about to say:

- Faith is essential to our - initial - and our ongoing relationship with God.
- Our faith response to Jesus' invitation - began it all!!!!

Hebrews 11:6 clearly states: ***"Without faith it is impossible to please Him."***

My paraphrase of Hebrews 11:1 ~ "God's word is the 'Title Deed' that initiates faith responses on our part to His promises. The promise claimed then becomes the foundation for our God to manifest His power to meet our need, so that He can be a Promise Keeper - to a promise claimer"

Note what God promises here in Hebrews 11:6:

1. He promises to "Reward" those who know how to stand upon His promises in true faith
2. In other words, He is a Promise Keeper - to a promise claimer!

When God uttered these words:

He was NOT trying to make it difficult. He was not establishing something that would be impossible FOR ANY PERSON to be able to simply do. He was simply establishing **His method, or His way**, whereby we could, according to His terms, prove Him to be faithful to His Word as a *Promise Maker* and a *Promise Keeper*.

God will make promises to any and every believer, who will by faith, dare to believe and become a promise claimer.

Our God simply established from the beginning a *'Transaction'* that any individual could action faith in Him and in His ability through His promises.

When God sees someone standing on one of His promises and invoking His power - in the name of Jesus – He will respond to that person to bring about profound answers to our unsolvable situations.

Let me say this about the way of faith:

God made the way of faith so simple, that even children seem to do the “faith thing” best. Exercising faith is the only way that God has established to get supernatural answers into our lives and into our circumstances. He needs a *Promise Claimer* so that He can be a *Promise Keeper* in order to manifest His power to change the things that we cannot change - or produce ourselves.

IF WE WANT TO SEE GOD WORK MIRACLES IN OUR MIDST, THEN IT IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTAND HOW FAITH WORKS!

Since God Himself made the statement: *“Without faith it is impossible to please Him”*, would it not then be within our best interest to know exactly how our faith can work the right way so that we can get the most out of our walk with God?

It is fair to say that God has no obligation to bless that which is not of faith. Unanswered prayer is often the result of an unfounded faith by an Individuals results with faithless, unbelieving praying.

This statement is very challenging to our sophisticated mind: ***THE MOST PROFOUND THINGS ARE HIDDEN IN SIMPLICITY!!***

FAITH, ALONG WITH REPENTANCE - IS ONE OF THE TWO ESSENTIAL FOUNDATIONS WE NEED TO GET ESTABLISHED FROM THE VERY MOMENT WE GET BORN AGAI, SO THAT WE CAN ENTER INTO KINGDOM OF GOD DYNAMICS.

If we don't establish these 2 key foundational elements, then we really cannot move on into greater things (refer Hebrews 6:1).

HOW CAN I BEST DESCRIBE WHAT FAITH IS?

The Greek word for “Faith” is derived from the verb meaning, *“to be persuaded.”* (refer Romans 4:21).

We are told that Abraham was ***“fully persuaded or convinced”*** by what God had promised to do in, and through his life.

He was totally convinced that God would not promise something like He did, and then not fulfill the promise He had made to him.

Abraham simply stood upon that promise – regardless of how long it took and how impossible it may have seemed. In so doing, it produced in him, persuasion, and unwavering faith.

How can we become “persuaded without divine revelation?”

Simply, **we cannot**. Faith for something always begins where the will of God is made known, i.e., through His Word:

- A person actioning bible faith has established a foundation for God to answer. The foundation is His Word, nothing else (refer Hebrews 11:6)
- Faith is never described as a feeling, but as a focus (refer Mark 11:24)
- Promises are the basis of faith. Someone must make a promise. Faith that works stands upon a promise that God makes.

Simply put, if you want your faith to grow, you must feed it. How would you do that? On the Word of God!

The development of your faith is more up to you - than it is up to God (refer Jude 20).

Regarding Genesis 12:1, faith is portrayed as a belief in God. It is clearly seen in the way Abraham responds to the amazing promise that God made to him.

Abraham believed God, but for that to happen, God had to first make a promise so Abraham could believe. Abraham could not have believed God unless he had first heard from God and the detail of the promises He made.

We could say that a person that now has faith for something, initially got knowledge of God’s will, and His willingness to miraculously meet that need from the promise of His word.

Faith gets ignited in a person when they get God’s Word on an issue. Only then can you be moved to have faith for God to fulfil that promise. A person who has faith in one of Gods promises, can then take action to claim that word as a “Title deed” to their miracle.

True faith is based on facts that are greater than feelings and circumstances - God’s Word is His will to us.

Basically, faith gets established in our hearts by the Word of God. It is false faith when we just try to hype a positive attitude or be bold and bolshy.

If you are in real faith, you do not need to do incantations or walk around babbling. Real faith has a ‘calm assurance’ in Jesus and His power to perform His word.

God wants us to know that His Word is more reliable than our circumstances, sickness, disease, or whatever it maybe that is trying to master us.

Faith is always sourced in God and His Word. His word is the source and beginning of all faith transactions (refer Romans 10:17).

Faith always begins with someone hearing God on a matter.

You cannot have faith for anything that you have not heard the Word of God on.

The great John Wesley was asked: *“Brother Wesley, can you tell us what faith is, and how it works?”*

His reply was: *“It is simply taking God at His Word, and confidently expecting Him to perform it.”* (He said, nothing will happen until you do that).

Another great preacher said this when describing faith: *“It is the undeniable fact that God cannot lie; if He says it, He means it and wants to perform it.”*

Another said: *“Faith is the only link that brings us into contact with God and that makes us pleasing to Him.”*

Martin Luther said: *“Faith is the master key which opens the door to God’s Promises that then permits Him to reveal His power.”*

God’s Word, appropriated by someone exercising faith, becomes the “Title Deed” and the legal right of possession.

Let me give you an example:

You can never have faith for say, healing, help, provision, protection, or anything at all, without hearing what God has to say about that issue. All He wants is for us to believe in His ability. **IT IS CALLED FAITH IN GOD.**

His word is His will. It is through His Word we discover His willingness to meet the need that is at hand.

80 times alone in John’s Gospel there are expressions of faith recorded!

Now there are some misconceptions about faith:

1. There are those who have a high expectation based upon false information. Some people think God sits around all day waiting to *just bless their need*. Well, I am sorry to pop your bubble... He does not do that. We get His attention when He sees us appropriating faith in a promise that we have discovered through prayer and in reading His Word.
2. There are those who have the misconception that faith is a positive feeling. That is untrue also. I call these people “hype-a-faith-a-laters.” True faith has nothing to do with feelings, or just babbling on. True faith is based on fact, not feeling.

The faith that God blesses, happens when... You start making a claim on Him through one of His promises that you have found in His word. One that covers His will to meet your need. When He sees you claiming that promise, it then allows Him to bring supernatural intervention into your circumstances.

There is no other source for faith or for the foundation for your miracle to stand upon, other than that of the Word of God. God graciously makes promises that He wants someone to claim, so that He can give that person the miracle that is needed.

THERE IS NO EXCEPTION TO THE RULE OF FAITH.

True faith starts with a promise from God through His word. For that word to work, it then needs a person who will stand upon that promise and then expect Him to perform it.

God does not just want to know what you think about His ability, but whether you have bothered to find out what His Word says regarding your need, and your absolute belief in His ability to meet it.

There are countless scholars who know much about God, but it is not their knowledge of Him that He blesses, but their faith in His ability. Children do not necessarily have a lot of knowledge about God, but they just have simple, uncluttered faith

The point that I am making is this; *'New Christians'* tend to see more answers to their prayers. Maybe this is simply due to their newfound love and uncomplicated approach to their Saviour. They just want to believe in their newly discovered love for Jesus, and desire to see His miracles.

God is always waiting to see if you are going to claim a promise or not. There is no point just believing God can do anything. You must make a claim upon Him through His Word being assured that He wants to meet your need.

THE BIBLE GIVES US A CLEAR DEFINITION OF WHAT FAITH IS, AND HOW IT WORKS (refer Hebrews 11:1).

It is true that there are many places in the Word of God that show the results of faith. We need however, to get **the process of faith** broken down on a step-by-step basis so that we can see how we can practice the simple keys to making it work so that we can end up with profound results.

FIRST STEP - 'THE STARTING PLACE':

- **"Now faith is..."** (refer Hebrews 11:1)

True faith is in the *now* moment. It is us, *connecting with the true and living God in the, "NOW"*.

It is us making the connection with God for His divine intervention. The first principle (or part of the faith process) starts by us getting God's Word on a matter that covers our need.

Romans 10:17 says, *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God"*

THE BOTTOM LINE IS: NO WORD, NO FAITH!

It is as simple as that. You may have a good feeling, but good feelings do not get miracles from God. God will only keep His Word and give miracles to someone standing on one of His Promises.

You need to be completely convinced that our God has no favourites: He loves us equally the same and wants to favour each of us with heavens blessings to meet our need. He does not just hold out on some and bless others:

- We all have access to Him, *the faith way*
- Each one of us can find favour, *the faith way*, and be pleasing to Him
- God made our part of the 'transaction', *'The Faith Way'*. This puts everyone on the same footing.

ISAIAH 55:11 ~ *"So shall My Word be that goes forth out of My mouth, it shall not return void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."*

God's word on a matter is the only basis for your faith: It is the only source for you to get faith and for to you to be able to believe what God wants to do for you.

You do not produce faith. It is God's Word that produces the faith.

Faith comes when you hear God on a matter, and it's what you do next with that word is the crucial part.

You must then take what God declares in His Word, and then lay it down in what the bible calls, "*substance*" (refer Hebrews 11:1). That "*Substance*" becomes the foundation for your miracle.

When God sees that you have taken Him at His word, and you have placed that word down as the foundation for your miracle, you can surely expect him to perform it.

So, practically, it works like this: You go to His Word seeking to find His will on a matter. Once you have His will, you can then tell God that you believe His Word and you are now claiming it. You are making a claim upon His power to meet your need through that Promise.

Once you have the *Word of God* on a matter, you do not have to keep believing God for your miracle. You can now claim the fulfilment of it based on His Promise to you.

You do not have to see the evidence before your eyes to believe. No, real faith has the evidence of things not yet seen. The evidence is based on promise. **You simply believe at that point that the evidence is on the way.**

We then become one of those who will not let His word return to Him void, without accomplishing that for which it is sent.

This is where we become convinced that we will get what He has Promised. **Because He is faithful to his word.**

Example...

1 JOHN 5:14 ~ *"This is the confidence that we have before Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us, and if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the request which we have asked from Him"*

When we have heard the Word of God on a matter, we then pray, claiming that Word, and confidently expect God to give us what He has Promised.

We then can start to call our miracle according to His promise to us (refer Romans 10:17).

THE NEXT STEP - UNDERSTANDING WHAT SUBSTANCE IS:

- ***"Faith is the substance."***

What Does the Bible Mean by Substance?

Simply, the Word that you claim as a promise to meet your need, then becomes "*the substance*", or the foundation that the miracle can then manifest on.

Super-structures do not just simply sit on the ground; they sit on “*substance*” or foundations that have been laid first. Sometimes these foundations are very deep, and very substantial.

It is the same with the process of faith. When you claim a promise, you then make a foundation, or the “*substance*”, so that God can manifest His part on the top of it.

When God sees a person *get in faith* on one of His promises, and He sees that person *claiming* that Word as the ‘*Title Deed*’ and the ‘*Foundation*’, He will then start the procedure to bring the miracle to that person. It may not happen right at that moment, but by *faith*, it is certainly on the way.

God’s part is to do what we cannot do and to fulfil what He has Promised to do, miraculously and for His glory.

We must never forget that something takes place before the answer comes. That is the part where the believer takes hold of a Word *by faith*, and then establishes it as the ‘*substance*.’

My friend, it is what you do with the *Word* or the *Promise* that you get from God that counts. It’s what you do here that determines whether you get God’s attention that allows Him to begin His delivery system and complete the transaction.

The Greek word for *substance* means something foundational. It is that which something else stands on.

In the building industry, *substance*, or *foundations*, are absolutely essential for the rest of the building to stand on.

It is the same with our walk of faith with God. God starts the process by declaring His will in His Word. They are called *Promises*. These *promises* are there to cover our needs and they declare His desire to meet that need. God then looks for a promise claimer so that He can become a *Promise keeper*.

Our part is to go to God’s word to find that promise.

It is the Word that we get, claim, and start to confess as a *Promise* from God to meet our need. Only then can the promise *claimed* become the *foundation* for which the rest can stand on. When God sees that you have put down the *foundation* of a Word, or a *Promise* that you got from Him through His word, then, and only then, can He begin the process of manifesting the answer. That word becomes the support basis for which the rest can stand on.

Jesus specifically said that He does not want us to build on sand, but on the Rock. **He is the Rock, and His word is infallible.**

The Bible says that faith is substance:

- “*Faith is the substance of things hoped for*” (Hebrews 11:1).

The Greek word for substance is “*Hupostasis*”. This refers to something that is underneath ‘*a thing*’. Broken down, the word ‘*hupo*’ means ‘*state*’, and ‘*stasis*’ of ‘*a thing*’.

So, it simply means, *the state of a thing*.

If you break down the English word ‘*substance*’ we find two parts to it: *sub* (under) and *stance* (stand).

Substance is that which stands under a thing.

Paul states twice in his teaching to the Romans, that faith must be actioned first, and then grace attaches itself to that action (refer Romans 4:16 & 5:2).

FAITH IS OUR PART: It is where we go to God to get a Word from Him that will give us something to stand upon.

GRACE IS GOD'S PART: It is where He responds to the person who is standing upon a Promise. Grace is the supernatural provision of God for our need.

So, faith is taking your stand on the Word of God. When you do this, it becomes a "Rhema; a living Word."

Miracles happen when we get a Rhema Word and then take that Word and establish it as the foundation for our miracle.

When God sees our action of faith, He then does the part that He is so capable of doing... **HE GRACES IT.**

God's Promises claimed by the believer stands underneath and forms the foundation for the miracle to stand on. It is called '*Substance.*'

The Substance of Faith is the "Title Deed":

The '*Title Deed*' Becomes the Legal Right to your Miracle. It becomes a legal document to His children. God is watching to see someone get His Word on a matter and then have, "***The assurance of things hoped for, and the conviction of things not yet seen.***"

When He sees a person knowing that they have the right to possess, the miracle is on the way.

In Greek, the word, "*Hypostasis,*" has a legal meaning. It signifies a foundational document such as a '*Title Deed*' to something. That is why Greek scholars, Moulton, and Milligan, rendered this translation: "*Faith is the title-deed of things hoped for.*"

A '*Title Deed*' is a very important document. It shows ownership.

For example, I have a car sitting in my driveway. I know that it is my car because I possess the '*title deed*', which verifies my ownership. If anybody wants to do anything with my car, they must come and see me, because the car legally belongs to me.

If I decide to sell the car or give it away to somebody, I will have to sign the '*Title Deed*' over to them so they can become the legal owner. Only then will they have legal proof of ownership.

If I have the '*Title Deed*' to a piece of property, I do not even have to see the property to know that it belongs to me. I know it is mine by reason of the '*Title Deed*'. If I possess that '*Title Deed*', there is no question that I am the owner.

Example of a title deed:

Archaeologists uncovered something that got their attention in the burned ruins of an old inn in Northern Israel. There they found a small iron chest.

Initially they did not know that it contained some valuable papers that belonged to a Roman noblewoman who had been traveling in Israel.

What makes this discovery so impacting to us is this: To check up on her various land holdings and properties that this lady owned in Israel, she had a little chest that contained papers. On the top of that chest was a label that said, *'Hupostasis'*.

The chest, once opened, showed legal papers which had the title, *'Hupostasis'* on each one of them. Guess what? These were the legal *'Title Deeds'* to the properties that she owned!

In Hebrews, the 11th Chapter, Verse One, where the word *"substance"* is used, it beautifully explains how faith works. It gives us an amazing picture of the word of God being the *'Title Deed'* or the legal document to promises.

We could write above the word, *"substance,"* in our Bible, in parentheses, *'Title Deed.'*

Now faith is what? It is the *'Title Deed'* to your miracles!

We don't know what happened to that Roman woman and why she had been separated from her *'Titled Deeds'*, but regardless, they were legally hers. Perhaps she had never seen the properties she'd bought in Israel, but regardless she knew that they were legally hers because the *'Title Deeds'* and they were proof of her ownership.

If you have got real faith, even though you have not seen the answer manifest yet, wait, because if you have got the *'Title Deed'*, your miracle is on the way.

You can take ownership of the answer. What you asked for according to Gods promise, is yours. Your name is written on it, and you will see it manifest eventually with God behind it to *perform It* - **THAT'S FAITH!**

My experience of the power of a title deed:

In the early 1970's we were assigned to our first church as the pastors. We really wanted to own our own home, so we started looking. We already had an unconditional offer on our farm property in another town, so that allowed us to enter an unconditional contract to buy a house that we liked. We had the assurance that the money would be coming through from the farm and would cover the purchase.

To our utter astonishment, we got a letter from our solicitor informing us that a *'Caveat'* had been put over the *'Title deed'* of the property by a syndicate who had also wanted to buy the farm. They felt that they had not been given the opportunity to bid more for the farm, so they wanted to stall the sale and hold up the legal transfer. They were hoping that the buyer would want to pull out of the sale due to delay.

If you know anything about Caveats, they are a legal thing that stops the *'Title Deed'* from being transferred to someone else.

Although this was a devilish thing, God had allowed it to teach us about *'Title Deeds'*.

The hold-up of the *'Title deed'* went on for months. We had to get bridging finance to cover the money for the house that we had purchased.

Things could not have been worse. It was my first church, and I was living by faith due to the church not being able to afford to pay us.

One day I got desperate enough to take some serious action. I decided that I was going to fast until God gave me a breakthrough. I reminded God that I hoped that fasting would not have to be drawn out too long as I did not look forward to fasting for the next few months. When I got to midday of the first day, I came home from the church office and went into my bedroom to pray.

Here is the lesson I learnt about the 'Title Deed':

As I got on my knees that day, I remember saying to God, *"God, you have to give me Your Word on this situation."*

As quick as the words came out of my mouth, I felt God say to me to read Jeremiah 29:10-14. I quickly opened my bible and began to read. It was like heaven suddenly opened over me. The word that I read literally became the foundation for my faith and the miracle that I received.

JEREMIAH 29:10-14 ~ *"For thus says the LORD, 'When seventy years have been completed for Babylon, I will visit you and fulfil My good word to you, to bring you back to this place. ¹¹ For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ And I will be found by you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,' declares the LORD, 'and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile'" (NASB).*

Right there on my knees in my room, God spoke so clearly to me about His purpose for my situation. I could hardly restrain myself. God literally zoomed into my bedroom to declare His will and His word. He said that He would, *"Visit me and fulfil His good Word to me."* He went on to say this: *"And I will restore your fortunes."*

At that very moment I knew that I had the 'Title Deed' to my miracle!

I got up from kneeling beside my bed and went shouting through the house, *"Take that, devil!"* I had my bible in my hand opened to my miracle word that God had just given to me, and I was wielding the Word like a sword.

By faith I struck every bit of evil that had gotten into my affairs, and I boldly declared and released the victory in the name of Jesus Christ my Lord!

At that precise moment, without any physical evidence, I just knew that I had just won a fight. I then went out and asked my wife for lunch. My wife was surprised that I was asking for lunch since I had only fasted for such a short time. She thought that I really hadn't shown much persistence in the fasting thing. I told her that I had the miracle because God had given me a *'Title Deed'* to my miracle. In that moment, I had put in place the *"Substance and the foundation"*, and I knew that God's miracle was on the way.

Early the next morning, well before most solicitors do business, the phone went, and it was my solicitor on the other end of the line. These were his precise words: *"You will never guess what happened late yesterday?"*

He proceeded to tell me that the whole situation with the *'Caveat'* bind over the *'Title Deed'* had been exposed, and furthermore, there had been an exposing of a corrupt syndicate that has been at work

against me. I did not want to “pop his bubble”, but I already knew what he was going to say and what the outcome was. Out of his mouth came these words, **“WE HAVE THE TITLE DEED BACK.”**

We soon found out that the solicitor that was involved with this other party was so corrupt, that eventually had to leave the country in a hurry. He had been exposed through what he had done in our situation, and in other situations as well.

The devil wants to throw a Caveat over our ‘Title Deeds’ hoping that we will give up. It is up to us to get the ‘Title Deed’ of God’s word to break every illegal bind that the devil tries to impose upon us.

God wants to give us miracles, but we need to get the ‘Title Deed’ so that God can work the miracle on our behalf.

HOW DOES ALL OF THIS APPLY TO US TODAY?

We can live a lifetime learning about faith and how it works because there are just so many applications given to faith:

- There is the ‘Object of Faith’. Jesus Himself said in Mark 11:22 ~ *“Have faith in God”*
- There is a faith that comes by hearing (refer Romans 10:17)
- There is a faith that comes by building yourself up (refer Jude 24)
- There is the ‘Gift of faith’ (refer 1 Corinthians 12:9)
- There is corporate faith (refer Mark 2 - the example of the four men)
- There is the prayer of faith (refer James 5:15)
- There is the walk of faith
- You can have little faith that can move a mountain
- You can have faith like a mustard seed
- Faith is something that you must utilize, otherwise it is useless
- There is faith that can make you whole (refer Matthew 9:32)
- There is faith in His name (refer Acts 3:16)
- You can be full of faith and the Holy Ghost (refer Acts 6:5-8)
- There is the shield of faith (refer Ephesians 6:16)
- There is faith that overcomes the world (refer 1 John 5:4).

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MY FATHER’S HOUSE

“Declaring a Living Christ to a dying world”