

# Have Faith In God

9/28/2008 – Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

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Mark 11:19 *And when even was come, he went out of the city. 20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. 22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The clause “Have faith in God” needs to be written upon the heart of every believer, because it is by faith that each one of us walks.
- B. This clause should be put in the front of every textbook, every novel, and in the front of every Bible, because faith is the channel through which God saves us and by which we walk daily. We need a daily reminder of our walk with the Lord—that it is by faith.
- C. 2 Cor. 5:7 tells us that we walk by faith, not by sight.
- D. Faith should be at the front and back of every day—at the beginning and end of every job—at the forefront and background of every idea and thought.
- E. “Have faith in God” is a powerful statement. Let’s notice it in detail.

## II. WHAT IS FAITH?

- A. Definition of Faith: Heb 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
  1. Here we find two important things about faith: First, it is the substance of things hoped for, the reality of what is to come. We can look to the future with confidence, because God’s grace has provided not only for our past sins but also for our present and future sins. He has given us a hope in him. Colossians 1:27 speaks of “. . . Christ in you, the hope of glory.” If Christ is in us, then we have a very sure hope of a future, a wonderful and glorious future. This is the substance of our faith. Our faith is in Christ, and he is also the substance of our faith—he is the object of our faith. It would do us no good to have faith in our minds without a sure object. We who are true and genuine believers have our faith, not in a religion or an ideology, but we have faith in our Lord, Jesus Christ. This is the substance of our faith. We hope to see Christ face to face one day.
  2. Secondly, faith is the “evidence of things not seen.” We cannot see the future. We cannot predict what will happen either on a financial level, a political level, or a spiritual level; but we can have faith that “all things work together for good to them that love the Lord and are the called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). We have a conviction and an item of proof that what we look forward to is not in vain. Notice 1 Cor. 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*
  3. This is the definition of faith, and we see that faith, then, is not just an idea or a religious

musings of spiritual matters, but faith is based upon solid evidence and security of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross and his work through the Holy Spirit in our lives. This is faith!

- B. We Are Saved Through Faith: Eph. 2:8 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:*
1. God has chosen to save us; but he has not chosen us without a plan and a purpose. He chose to save us through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no other way; God has no other plan.
  2. God has chosen to save us through faith but by grace. Without the grace of God, we would have no faith. It is a gift of God.

### III. LACK OF FAITH BRINGS FEAR

- A. Mt 6:30 *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, [shall he] not much more [clothe] you, O ye of little faith?*
1. Don't you think, if God can clothe the grass of the field, he can and will also clothe us if we believe?
  2. O ye of little faith.
- B. When the disciples were with the Lord on the sea of Galilee, they were afraid in a storm because of their lack of faith. Jesus said in Matt. 8:26 *And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.*
- C. When the disciples doubted at the Lord's word about being aware of the leaven of the Pharisees, he said in Matt. 16:8 . . . *O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread? 9 Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?*
- D. Have we forgotten what God can and will do through faith? Yes, I believe we have forgotten.

### IV. FAITH HAS A VERB

- A. Faith is not a passive belief in God; it is a working, laborious faith that reacts to the will of God as we grow in grace and knowledge of God.
- B. The verb for faith is "faithful."
- C. Luke 12:42-43 *And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom [his] lord shall make ruler over his household, to give [them their] portion of meat in due season? 43 Blessed [is] that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.*
- D. As stewards of God's heritage we are to be found faithful: 1 Cor. 4:2 *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*
- E. 2 Tim. 2:2 *And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*

### V. CONCLUSION

- A. We should have faith in people. When we lose our faith in people, we believe we have lost God; but it is not "have faith in people," but "have faith in God."

- B. We feel that when we lose our freedom we have lost God; but it is not “have faith in freedom,” but “have faith in God.”
- C. We feel that if we lose our money we have lost God; but it is not “have faith in money,” but “have faith in God.”
- D. We feel that if we lose our government we lose God; but it is not “have faith in government,” but “have faith in God.”
- E. We feel that if we lose the president we want that we lose God; but it is not “have faith in the president,” but “have faith in God.”
- F. We feel that if we lose our friends we have lost God; but it is not “have faith in your friends,” but “have faith in God.”
- G. And we feel that, if we lose our life, we have lost God; but it is not “have faith in life,” but “HAVE FAITH IN GOD.”