

**Faith**

**Lesson Five – Part One**

**Hebrews 6:1-6 (NLT)**

**1**So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God. **2**You don’t need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. **3**And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.

**4**For it is impossible to bring back to repentance those who were once enlightened—those who have experienced the good things of heaven and shared in the Holy Spirit, **5**who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the power of the age to come— **6**and who then turn away from God. It is impossible to bring such people back to repentance; by rejecting the Son of God, they themselves are nailing him to the cross once again and holding him up to public shame.

I am convinced that what most people in “The Church” think is faith, is truly hope.

Hope is a natural response when we need something. Without hope, we would have no ability to look forward to what life has in store for us. Hope is something that all of us has. It is built in to our human soul (psyche). Even people who are not born again have hope. When people give up hope, they quite frequently die.

**Hope** – the feeling that what is wanted can be had or that events will turn out for the best.

Faith is one of the key (main) doctrines of Christ.

Faith is different than hope but is predicated upon (derived from) hope.

In our last lesson we talked about how we humans are a three part being.

We ARE a spirit (pneuma). This is the real us. Once we are born again, our spirit is tied directly into God.

We have a soul (psyche). This is the seat of our emotions, our mind, our will and our intellect. The Bible refers to our sin nature as “the old man.” The Bible also talks about our flesh. Both of these references is to our soul. The spiritual battles we fight are between our spirit and our soul.

Our spirit and soul live in our body (soma). Without our body, we cannot live on this earth.

It is impossible to distinguish what comes from your soul and what comes from your spirit without the Word of God.

**Hebrews 4:12 (NLT)**

For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

**“The Word of God TRUMPS reason EVERY TIME!”** Sean E. Harris

We grow up, depending upon our minds and our reasoning.

**The Word of God may, and typically does, go against human reasoning!**

**Faith COMPLETELY goes against human reasoning!**

**What many Christians think is FAITH, is actually just HOPE.**

**Hope falls short of faith. Hope will not get prayers answered. FAITH WILL!**

So, what is FAITH?

**Hebrews 11:1 (KJV)**

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

The first time I read this scripture, it didn’t make much sense to me. Over the years though, I’ve really begun to grasp what the Bible is saying.

Faith is:

1. **Substance** – that of which a thing consists; physical matter or material.
2. **Evidence** – that which tends to prove or disprove something; ground for belief; proof.

The state of Missouri has a motto which is: “Show Me.” It is the “show me” state.

The natural man wants to see something before he/she will believe it.

Faith is our evidence and substance of what we have prayed for or are believing for, even when we do not have that thing in our hand or even if we haven’t seen the answer to our prayer.

This is completely contrary to the way natural men/women believe. Belief is NOT faith.

“Believe falls short in the area of faith. Faith is belief followed by a spontaneous, corresponding action.” Jay S. McMullan

If I come into your house and I am exhausted and can barely stand and you offer me a seat, I could stand there and say, over and over, “I believe if I sit in that chair, it will be strong enough to hold me and I will finally be able to relax.” But, I can say that over and over until I fall down from exhaustion. When I have faith, I will immediately sit in that chair without any worry whatsoever that it will hold me.

Faith ACTS! Smith Wigglesworth used to say, “Faith is an ACT!”

Hope falls short in the area of faith also because it does not reach out and take what faith offers.

**Matthew 11:12 (KJV)**

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

What does this mean? I believe it means that we need to do our part to reach into the kingdom of Heaven and take what we want and need.

God, after creating the earth and everything in it, gave all “dominion” to Adam. Adam became the ruler of this earth and all the plants and animals. When Adam willfully ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he gave away that dominion to Satan who became the god of this world.

Now that we have been born again, our dominion is restored and that dominion is even better because we KNOW about good and evil.

Jesus has already done everything He could do to forgive our sins. He already did everything to provide our healing. He already did everything to make sure we prosper in this life.

It is our responsibility to get into the Word to learn how to walk in that dominion. When we realize Jesus took care of everything already, it will change the way we pray, it will change the way we walk our Christian life!

We are created in the image of God. What does that mean?

1. We are a spirit, just like God.
2. God operates by faith

**Romans 4:17b**

God, who quickeneth the dead, and **calleth those things which be not as though they were.**

God calls things into being BEFORE they even exist! This is what we do as we walk in faith.

**Faith is our EVIDENCE and our SUBSTANCE!**

How does faith come?

1. Faith does NOT come through our human reasoning.
	1. Human reasoning will almost always lead you away from God’s Word and will be opposite of what God’s Word says.
2. **Romans 10:17 (KJV)**

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

* 1. Faith comes by HEARING THE WORD OF GOD.
	2. We must get the Word of God into Spirit and Soul.
	3. As we get the Word in us, we will start operating in faith.

Jesus said that we need to “have the faith of God.” Remember, God calls things that do not exist, into existence. He declares something and THEN it becomes.

**Mark 11:12-14 (KJV)**

12  And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:
13  And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not *yet*.
14  And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard *it*.

**Mark 11:19-24 (KJV)**
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** ***(This literally means to “have the faith OF God” or the “God Kind of Faith”)***.
23  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**.
24  Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, **when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them***.

Jesus said that we should believe we receive what we desire, WHEN WE PRAY!

You may ask, “How can I do that when I don’t see the answer to my prayer?”

When you pray, BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART – DON’T DOUBT that God has heard your prayer and that you receive the answer RIGHT THEN!

You receive BY FAITH! Faith is your **SUBSTANCE**, Faith is your **EVIDENCE**!

A good example of this stretching your faith to give your TITHE and OFFERINGS.

**Malachi 3:8-12 (KJV)**
8  Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.
9  Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation.
10  Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall* not *be room* enough *to receive it*.
11  And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.
12  And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

It is a big leap of faith to give your tithe and offerings. I encourage people to immediately give their 10% (tithe means “tenth”) and whatever other offerings they feel led to give before doing anything else with their money. Most people, if they sit down and figure out their bills, will realize that they cannot afford to pay their tithe but IF they will put their trust in God and pay their tithes and offerings FIRST, God will make up the difference! I don’t know how many times I have seen people have enough at the end of the month and God has supplied supernaturally!

When you a Child of God and you tithe, you can EXPECT God to meet your needs. This is how God has set in order for our financial needs to be met, by giving! This is opposite of what the world would tell you!

This is the ONLY place in the Bible where we are told to “prove God” or to TEST Him to see if He will really do what He says He will do!

When you tithe, this is what you can expect God to do for you:

1. God will open the windows of Heaven and pour out a blessing so big that you will not have room to receive all of it!
2. God will rebuke the devourer (Satan) for your sake.
	1. Satan will not destroy the fruits of your ground (the work you put your hands to).
	2. Your vine won’t cast its fruit too early. (When fruit grows too fast, a freeze may come in and kill the fruit and the plant).
3. All nations (other people) will call you BLESSED because you will be a delightsome land (People will see the GOOD in your life. They will see your prosperity).

When you believe you receive the answer to your prayer WHEN YOU PRAY, it will change the way you pray. You will find that you don’t have to pray over and over because you ALREADY received the answer to your prayer BY FAITH!

Daniel prayed and the answer was manifest twenty-one days later.

**Daniel 10:12-14 (KJV)**
12  Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.
13  But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.
14  Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision *is* for *many* days.

Even though we believe we receive when we pray, we may not receive the manifestation of the answer to our prayer.

Until we hold the answer in our hand, if you will, we must have faith that our prayer was answered, WHEN we prayed and that the manifestation is coming.

During this time, we may still have symptoms and we may not hold the physical answer in our hand but while we are waiting, FAITH is the substance and the evidence we hold onto!

Evidence can and is used to convict people in a court of law to prove that something is true and actually happened. It is just the same in the Spirit realm.

**Hebrews 10:35-39 (KJV)**
35  Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.
36  For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.
37  For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.
38  Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.
39  But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

 You have prayed and believed that you received the answer to your prayer. NOW, you must NOT CAST AWAY YOUR CONFIDENCE.

Satan knows when your answer is almost manifest and he will do his best to get you to give up on your faith. Don’t let him win!

To be able to do this, you must pray according to God’s will! Find scripture that backs up what you are praying for. While you are waiting for the answer to be manifest, declare to the heavens what those scriptures say!

If you need healing, find scriptures that promise what you are praying for, THEN pray IN FAITH!

Once you have done all of what Jesus said, why are prayers sometimes not answered?

1. You have not found scriptures that promise what you are praying about.
	1. Faith comes by hearing – get in the Word, get the Word in you!
2. You have not “believed in your heart.”
	1. You may be hoping that God will answer your prayer instead of KNOWING God has answered your prayer.
3. You are listening to what your five physical senses tell you instead of what the Word of God says.
	1. Our mind does not have to understand it, just our heart.
	2. Don’t try to reason in your mind what God’s Word says, just believe it for what it says!
	3. You may be putting more trust in your symptoms or what other people tell you – refuse to believe anyone or anything that doesn’t correspond with what the Bible says!
4. You gave up on faith.
	1. Have patience.
	2. Your mind and Satan will tell you that you are never going to receive the manifestation. Rebuke Satan and read the scriptures out loud that you are standing on!
	3. God’s timing is rarely our timing – be patient. Ask Him to help you to keep standing on your faith.
	4. Thank God every day that He answered your prayer and that the manifestation is on the way!

Reasons people think we have to pray, over and over and over, for God to finally hear us.

**Misinterpretation of the Parable of the Widow and the Unrighteous Judge.**

**Luke 18:1-8 (KJV)**
1  And he spake a parable unto them *to this end*, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
2  Saying, There was in a city a judge, which **feared not God, neither regarded man:**3  And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.
4  And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though **I fear not God, nor regard man**;
5  Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.
6  And the Lord said, Hear what the **unjust judge** saith.
7  And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?
8  I tell you that **he will avenge them speedily**. Nevertheless **when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**

1. Many people take this “UNJUST” judge to be a representation of God the Father.
	1. The judge did not fear God
	2. The judge did not regard men
	3. This is surely not speaking of God!
2. The Unjust judge waited until the widow started bugging him to give her justice.
3. Verse 8 tells us PLAINLY that God will “avenge them speedily.”
4. Then Jesus asked the question, “when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on earth?”
	1. Will people believe they receive “when they pray” like Jesus told us in Mark 11:24?
	2. Or, will people keep on asking because they never really believed God would answer their prayers?

**Misinterpretation of Matthew 7:7-11**

**Matthew 7:7-11 (KJV)**
7  Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
8  For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
9  Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?
10  Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?
11  If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

1. We are told to ask, to seek and to knock.
	1. We are not told that we have to ask and ask and ask or to seek and seek and seek or to knock and knock and knock!
		1. The Amplified Bible implies this but we must remember the Amplified is MAN’S COMMENTARY MIXED WITH THE WORD OF GOD.

**7**“[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7%3A7-11&version=AMP#fen-AMP-23324a)]Ask *and* keep on asking and it will be given to you; seek *and* keep on seeking and you will find; knock *and* keep on knocking and the door will be opened to you. **8**For everyone who keeps on asking receives, and he who keeps on seeking finds, and to him who keeps on knocking, it will be opened. **9**Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will [instead] give him a stone? **10**Or if he asks for a fish, will [instead] give him a snake? **11**If you then, evil (sinful by nature) as you are, know how to give good *and*advantageous gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven [perfect as He is] give what is good *and* advantageous to those who keep on asking Him.

* + 1. Notes on the Amplified say:

[Matthew 7:7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+7%3A7-11&version=AMP#en-AMP-23324) Here the use of Greek present imperatives (asking, seeking, knocking; vv 7, 8) emphasizes persistent, constant prayer.

* + 1. There ARE times that the Greek Present Imperative denote “constant action” but there are times it does not. Judging Mt. 7:7-11 with the rest of the Word of God (Mk 11:24 and the rest of the text in Mt. 7:7-11, we see that when we ask, we WILL receive, when we see, we WILL find and when we knock, the door WILL be opened. The text here is showing us how good God is and how He is better than any human father.
		2. Take a look at this, concerning the Greek Present Imperative.

<http://lists.ibiblio.org/pipermail/b-greek/2010-January/051813.html>

* + 1. Our study of the parable of the widow and the unjust judge shows us also that God is NOT like the unjust judge who had to be pestered to finally get a just ruling. We are told God answers “speedily!”

of, relating to, or constituting the grammatical [mood](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mood%5B2%5D) that expresses the will to influence the behavior of another