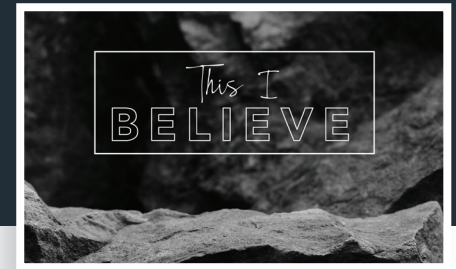




This I Believe

Part 4
January 24, 2021

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I. REVIEW/INTRO

2 Corinthians 4:13 (NKJV) And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, “I believed and therefore I spoke,” we also believe and therefore speak.

- A. What we believe will become an asset or a liability.
- B. Bible-based belief offers confidence, peace, victory, etc.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- C. Words are containers.
- D. Hearing God’s Word fills the containers with faith.
- E. Believing opens the containers.

The conclusion you arrive at is based on the belief you start with!

- F. The truth has no respect for wrong beliefs.
- G. Our “what if’s” can become “stumbling blocks” if they go unchecked.

II. JESUS ACKNOWLEDGED FAITH IN SOME OF THE PEOPLE HE ENCOUNTERED.

- A. The Centurion Matt. 8
- B. The Canaanite Matt. 15
- C. The Leper Luke 17
- D. Many Others

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

Mark 9:23 (TLB) “If I can?” Jesus asked. “*Anything is possible* if you have *faith*.”

“God did not write a book and send it by messenger to be read at a distance by unaided minds. He spoke a book and lives in His spoken words, constantly speaking His words and causing the power of them to persist across the years.” A. W. Tozer

Heb. 10:38 The just shall live by faith.

Heb. 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please God.

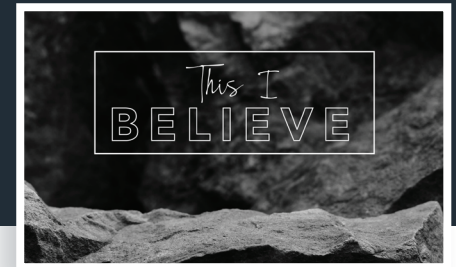
2 Cor. 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

1 Tim. 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith.

Romans 1:17 (TPT) This gospel unveils a continual revelation of God’s righteousness—a perfect righteousness given to us when we believe. And it moves us from *receiving life through faith*, to *the power of living by faith*. This is what the Scripture means when it says: “We are right with God through life-giving faith!”

III. FAITH IS A FIRM PERSUASION, A CONVICTION BASED ON WHAT WE HEAR AND ACCEPT AS TRUE! WE HEAR AND BELIEVE!

- A. We hear God’s Word.



- B. We accept in our heart that what we hear as true.
- C. People who don't believe do so for one of two reasons.
 - They did not hear.
 - They have rejected what they have heard.

Believers = people of faith (for many people it's not so much a faith problem as it is a word problem; but you need both).

Mark 5:25-29;34 (NKJV) Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came behind *Him* in the crowd and touched His garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." ²⁹ Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in *her* body that she was healed of the affliction. ³⁴ And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

IV. FAITH REQUIRES CHOOSING.

- A. We can choose not to see what God sees.
- B. OR....We can choose to please God and act on His Words of Life.

Hebrews 6:12 (TPT) So don't allow your hearts to grow dull or lose your enthusiasm, but follow the example of those who fully received what God has promised-because of their strong faith and patient endurance.

- C. Be careful who you choose to follow
- D. Don't be half-hearted (how far will you go with God?)

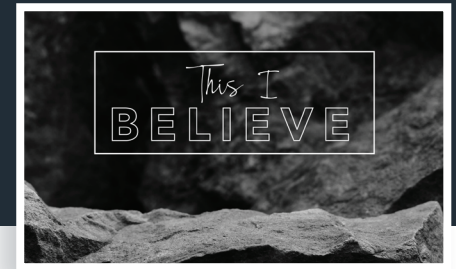
Hebrews 11:3 (TPT) Faith empowers us to see that the universe was created and beautifully coordinated-by the power of God's words! He spoke and the invisible realm gave birth to all that is seen.

If we don't understand the principles of faith we will miss out on living the blessed, and abundant life God has available for us.

V. FAITH IS REACHING OUT AND TAKING WHAT GOD IS OFFERING.

- A. New Birth
 - Believed with my heart
 - Confessed with my mouth
- B. Receiving things from God
 - Believe with my heart
 - Confess with my mouth

Hebrews 11:6 (TPT) And without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God. For we come to God in faith knowing that he is real and that he rewards the faith of those who give all their passion and strength into seeking him.



VI. FAITH DEFINED IN SCRIPTURE.

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

We extract from this verse and make application to our circumstances, and for some people this will make the difference of whether they will live in victory or not, or serve God or not, or be a part of church or not.

A. Now faith is.

- Faith has a time (always present tense).

Mark 11:24 (AMP) For this reason I am telling you, whatever things you ask for in prayer [in accordance with God's will], believe [with confident trust] that you have received them, and they will be *given* to you.

- Asking for in prayer now
- Believe you receive now
- They will be given to you

B. Substance – that which really is or exists, equally applicable to matter or spirit. (Websters 1828 Dictionary)

C. Things hoped for – If faith gives substance to hope, that means that hope has no substance of its own.

- Hope is future expectation; Hope is a goal setter.
- Hope is like a dream.

D. Evidence – Proves the existence of something else that you don't presently have. Once you have the thing you need, no more evidence.

E. Things not seen – The things not seen are the same things that are hoped for. Not just not seen – all five senses.

2 Kings 6:15-17 (HCSB) When the servant of the man of God got up early and went out, he discovered an army with horses and chariots surrounding the city. So he asked Elisha, "Oh, my master, what are we to do?"¹⁶ Elisha said, "Don't be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them."¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed, "LORD, please open his eyes and let him see." So the LORD opened the servant's eyes. He looked and saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

VII. THE APPLICATION OF FAITH

A. Get the final word concerning the matter

- What does God say?
- What scriptures will you stand on?

B. Pray claiming the God approved answer for your need.

C. Let your confession be a prayer of thanksgiving.