

Faith



Hebrews 11 Verse 1 says

Now faith is being sure  
of what we hope for and  
certain of what we do  
not see.



## According to the Dictionary On Christian Theology

“the trust in God and in His promises as made through Christ and the Scriptures by which humans are justified or saved”.

# Matthew chapter 14

- <sup>22</sup>Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup>After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but the boat was already a considerable distance<sup>[a]</sup> from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. <sup>25</sup>During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. <sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.
- <sup>27</sup>But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."
- <sup>28</sup>"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."
- <sup>29</sup>"Come," he said.
- Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"
- <sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **"You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"**
- <sup>32</sup>And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup>Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

# FAITH

This occurrence referred in Matthew chapter 14 gives us a deep insight to our own lives. Take a look at what happened...

Peter saw Jesus walking towards the boat and he asked Jesus...in verse 28

<sup>28</sup>"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."

- Peter had had so much faith in Jesus to ask him to allow him to walk on the water. He requested Jesus “Lord if it is you...tell me to come to you on the water”
- Where...? Walk on that windy and choppy sea. He could not recognize Jesus...because it was windy and the sea must have been rough...But he said...
- “Lord if it is you TELL ME TO COME to you ON THE WATER...”
- An important thing that we must consider is that Peter had come to know Jesus barely two years ago. But within that short time he had developed so much faith in this person called Jesus that he requested a humanly impossible task...to allow him to walk on water!
- and Jesus said “ COME”
- He asked Jesus what we all believe is a Humanly impossible task.

- In our own lives we face situations that overwhelm us. Situations that seem beyond our control so much so that we tell our selves; I cant do this...it is impossible... in human terms. and then we loose confidence in our selves...feel depressed...
- At this time since your mental condition is low or depressed, **the NEGATIVE FORCE - Satan** (if you may) pulls you down further with thoughts of hopelessness
- When you are pulled down and **weak...the Negative force is at its strongest!**
- Making us spiral down...down...and further down...
- **Our FAITH is weakened and then the cracks start to appear...in our FAITH in our GOD.**

Like the windy and choppy sea...overwhelmed  
Peter and he lost his FAITH...

In verse 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid  
and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save  
me!"

This time the cry more from fear for his life as a  
desperate attempt ...like we all do at times. We  
come to God as a last resort ...in desperation...

More through desperation rather than of FAITH...



- When we are faced with impossible situations **loosing our FAITH IS THE VERY THING WE SHOULD NOT DO.**
- As a CEO of a company I had had to face many situations. I must confess that in my journey of discovering the importance of FAITH it began from scratch and enhanced my FAITH to what it today. I've come a long way in my Understanding of FAITH... I must say that I still have a long way to go on my journey.
- My attempt here is to share my journey to come to this understanding and the very good reasons found in the word of GOD...Words that helped me understand on the **importance of FAITH in JESUS our LORD AND SAVIOUR.**

- These words reaffirmed and strengthened me in times of turmoil that helped me to get a deeper understanding of the importance of FAITH and enabled me to steadfastly hold on to it ever since.

- As **Christians we are followers of Jesus**. We believe that He is the son of God who brought us the message (preached) of the pathway to reach the **Kingdom of God**
- And we believe Jesus to be our savior because he sacrificed himself so that through **His sacrifice** we may have redemption for our sins and a **FRESH START** in our pilgrimage to achieve **GODs KINGDOM**.

- Jesus brought us a message...This message is found in **Gods word...**
- I wish to draw your attention to the importance of **FAITH in Gods word** ...and to give you an added insights to some contents in **His word** in reference to **FAITH...** and to prove the importance of **FAITH** for us as **Christians.**

We can obtain a good reference  
to the word **FAITH** in Matthew  
Chapter 8

Jesus and his disciples were on a boat when a furious storm hit them. Jesus who must have been tired and He was fast asleep.

In verse 25 it says...<sup>25</sup>The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!"

Jesus then got up and in verse 26...

### **Matthew 8:26**

He replied, "**You of little FAITH, why are you so afraid?**" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.

# FAITH

- I wish to draw your attention to the importance of **FAITH** in the following references in Gods word...

## **Matthew 9:2**

Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat.

**When Jesus saw their FAITH**, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; **your sins are forgiven.**"

# More on Faith...

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## **Matthew 6:30**

If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, **O you of little FAITH ?**

- **Matthew 15:28**

Then Jesus answered, "**Woman, you have great FAITH!** **Your request is granted.**" And her daughter was healed from that very hour.



# More on FAITH

- **Luke 7:50**

Jesus said to the woman, "Your FAITH has saved you; go in peace."

- **Luke 18:42**

Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your FAITH has healed you."

- **John 14:12**

I tell you the truth, anyone who has FAITH in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

I like to draw your attention to a very important occurrence...which gives us a further insight.... We see this in Mathew chapter 9 verse 27

That day was particularly hectic day for Jesus.  
But two blind men kept following Jesus...

- In Mathew 9 verse <sup>27</sup>As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" <sup>28</sup>When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?"

"Yes, Lord," they replied.

- Jesus asked them DO you believe?....do you have FAITH... that I can do this?

Jesus is asking us...DO YOU  
BELIEVE THAT I CAN DO THIS?  
When we pray and ask God do  
we believe 100% that he can do  
it?

## Matthew 9:29

Then he touched their eyes and said,  
"According to your faith will it be done to  
you";

In other words depending on your FAITH it will  
done to you...(you shall receive...)

The insight here is that primarily we must have **FAITH for us to receive...Gods blessings**

**FAITH** therefore is a very important requirement that we have to develop within us by reading **Gods word, abiding by it** and experiencing an overwhelming intimate relationship with Jesus. As you learn more from the word you understand the content of his word more and this understanding will help us to **develop FAITH in Jesus.**

Word and FAITH. Like any relationship. A relationship does not work on remote control. We have to **WORK AT IT.**

In other words we have to read the word and to develop our **FAITH** through this understanding

...because it is there **IN THE WORD** for **ALL OF US TO SEE!**

# Then we also see again

- That FAITH Is a primary requirement...
- in Matthew 13:58

And He (Jesus) did not do many miracles there because of their lack of FAITH.

So we have to first understand that we have to have **FAITH**...and that **FAITH** plays an important role...in receiving **Gods blessings**...

**FAITH IS A REQUIREMENT!**

Now...Lets go back to what happened to Peter



# Faith turning to Doubt

- He had **FAITH** to ask Jesus if he could come and walk on the water...but when he was faced with the windy and choppy sea he did not hold on to that **FAITH in Jesus... his FAITH WAVERED...**
- So he went to drown...
- **in Matthew 14:31**  
Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **"You of little FAITH," he said, "why did you doubt?"**

# Doubt

- Aren't we like Peter... LOOK AT THE SIMILARITY
- We have problems...we take it to Jesus...but when it becomes difficult....our FAITH wavers and we don't hold on to that FAITH...
- But we keep instructing GOD to change this and change that...I NEED MONEY...give me a million rupees...a better house...a better car...
- Then we at times get angry when we don't get what we ask... then start to blame God as to why this problem befell us...this adds further doubt...then the negative forces intensify in your head and eventually you start to doubt God...
- **EXACTLY WHAT THE NEGATIVE FORCE INTENDED!**

# The degree of FAITH

- BUT WHO MADE THE MISTAKE?
- We ourselves without believing in his word and without having absolute FAITH, expect our prayers to be answered. We live our own lives giving importance to other things than God. Rarely read his word...going to church a mere formality...but in spite of all that we expect God to answer our prayers...
- Its like without depositing any money we expect the bank to honor each time we want to withdraw...
- The degree of doubt may vary according to our level of spirituality and belief in Gods word. The level of Faith can range from 0 - 99%.
- How many of us can claim that we have 100% FAITH. And have you considered as to how you can develop Faith without developing a closer walk with our God?
- Consider...How can we develop FAITH in someone we barely know?
- We are human and by nature we develop FAITH through getting to know someone better and better.

So you can exponentially  
develop the level of FAITH by  
intimately getting to know GOD...  
believe in his love for you...  
believe in his awesome power  
that surpasses all human  
understanding!

# FAITH AND DOUBT

Peter had **FAITH** and was able to walk on water...but his **FAITH** **wavered** and he nearly drowned...

We pray...take our problems to GOD and ask for his help  
... sometimes just ritualistically

sometimes hoping for a miracle LIKE WALKING ON WATER

We have to consider if our request is made to GOD in **100%**  
**FAITH?**

**...IN ABSOLUTE FAITH THAT IT WILL BE DONE?**

How many of us can answer YES!

**BUT we want our request that we made from GOD to be  
given to us one-hundred percent?**

I am sure that you will agree that  
it is not a fair deal...

- We have to believe and ask from God in absolute **FAITH**.
- **FAITH** that HE is a loving God
- **FAITH** that He will NOT let any harm happen to you because of that love...
- **FAITH** that He would deliver you from the problem...But not as you wanted but in His own way...in his own time!

We looked at only a few examples. There are much more references on the need for **FAITH** found in **Gods word**.

Just in the New Testament there are over 250 references to the word **FAITH**

How many times more has this got to be shown for us to realize that **FAITH** is an absolute essential in **our relationship with God**.



- We have to read **Gods word**...follow His teachings...LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE... seek GODs Kingdom...Experience GOD and through this learning develop **FAITH** in our **Lord and Savior Jesus**... and no matter what happens learn to hold on to that **FAITH** along our pilgrimage to reach **Gods Kingdom**

- We must always remember to have **FAITH**  
Jesus said in

**Matthew 9:29**

**“...According to your faith will it be done to  
you”;**

# In Matthew 14 verse 31

- When Peter started to sink...
- <sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. "You of little **FAITH**," He said, "**why did you doubt?**"
- We all agree that Peter could not have walked on the water by himself. His **FAITH in Jesus** enabled him to walk on the water...a **human impossibility made possible through FAITH in Gods power!** The power that created this whole Universe! As compared to that **POWER** how insignificantly small is the biggest problem that you have.

- Peter walked towards Jesus but when he did not hold on to that **FAITH** he started to sink... What happened to Peter also happens to us. When we live our lives and when troubles overwhelm us we loose our FAITH and with it that vital link with God. The very thing that God does not want us to do. We don't hold on to our **FAITH**. So we start to sink further!

## Jesus also warns us in Matthew 24:1

At that time many will turn away  
from the **FAITH** and **will betray and  
hate each other,**

So we have to be mindful of holding  
on to our belief



Finally on the importance of  
FAITH

# Mark 11 verse 22 Jesus says



"Have FAITH in God," Jesus answered. <sup>23</sup>"I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him".

# There is more insight...

- In verse 24 Jesus also tells us..
- <sup>24</sup>Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.** <sup>25</sup>And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, **forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.**"<sup>[g]</sup>



We must always remember that our God is a

**GOD of LOVE.**

Therefore Hate...Anger... Jealousy ... Vengeance ...

**deceitfulness** does not please Him and therefore has to be removed from our thoughts...so that our FATHER is heaven will forgive our sins and bless us accordingly by answering our needs.

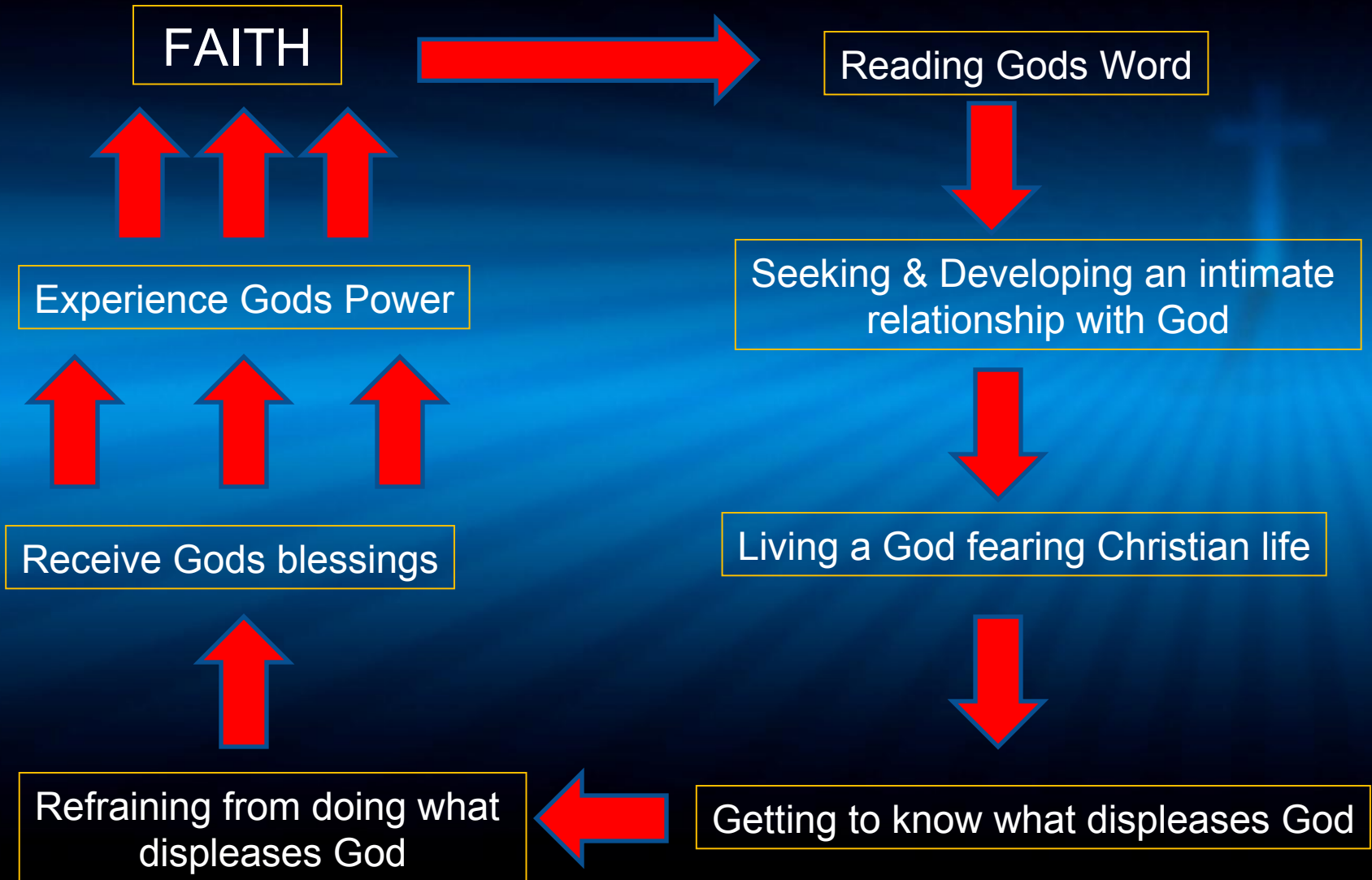
**WE CANNOT EXPECT ONE WAY MIRACLES**

# To receive God blessings...

- We have to have absolute FAITH
- To have absolute FAITH we need to develop spiritually by reading His word...
- Seek GOD and developing an intimate relationship with him...
- Steadfastly follow His teachings to eventually achieve Gods Kingdom as brought to us by Jesus.

- When you embark on this journey you will start to shed evil and come to realize the things that displease God
- Consider if someone displeases you will you give him anything?
- So by living a God fearing life and abiding by his teachings will please God and manifest His blessings on you.

# The Faith cycle



- This is the power that we have as Christians. Our God in an awesome God of incomprehensible power. If we can develop absolute FAITH in our God and are able to UNWAVERINGLY hold on to that FAITH then we can overcome any adversity...
- With FAITH we can manifest His blessings on us and with His awesome power with us as our shield we are able face any adversity...So we have to have FAITH in our God...because our God is a God of infinite Love!...and He is good!
- The good news is: You can start your journey even today...its NOT too late

# In Mark Chapter 9 Verse 21

- The father brought his son who was possessed to Jesus:
- <sup>21</sup>Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"
- "From childhood," he answered. <sup>22</sup>"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."
- <sup>23</sup>" 'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."
- <sup>24</sup>Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

# Ask God for help...

- We cannot expect our FAITH level to generate overnight
- It is a process that develops through understanding Gods word, living in accordance and firsthand experiencing Gods power
- A cycle that helps us to develop and hold on to FAITH
- We also can ask God to help increase our belief...FAITH

**We find in Luke 17:5**

The apostles said to the Lord,  
"Increase our **FAITH!**"





Thank you