

“NEVERTHELESS AT THY WORD!”

JAMIE MCNAB

29.8.26

We have looked at the Eye of Faith — versus the physical senses. We’ve seen that **faith isn’t about seeking to move God** (though scripture does refer to moving mountains).

Last week we looked at **some counterfeits of faith — feelings ... mental assent ... presumptuousness.**

Let’s move on:

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, **“The just shall live by faith.”**

See also: **Hab 2:4; Gal 3:11 and Heb 10:38.**

2 Corinthians 5:7

7 **For we walk by faith, not by sight.**

Though our physical senses are vital ... they’re insufficient for the spiritual realm.

Hebrews 11:1

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

The evidence of things NOT SEEN!

Hebrews 11:1 AMPLIFIED BIBLE

1 **NOW FAITH is the assurance** (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being **the proof of things [we]**

do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

Faith is not to move God. God is not waiting for us to produce faith ... then He'll move!

Our faith may move mountains. But God doesn't need to move. **FAITH IS THE MEANS BY WHICH WE REACH OUT INTO THE INVISIBLE REALITY AND RECEIVE WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY PROVIDED!!**

God is disposed to be gracious. All we need is available upon request. We've got to receive. God's attitude is revealed.

Matthew 7:7-11

7 **"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.**

8 **For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.**

9 Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

10 Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!**

HOW MUCH MORE — will your Father give you?

Not uncaring ... unfeeling ... remote? Aware — before we ask!

We can believe when we ask ... because GOD IS SO WILLING.

Matthew 8:1-4

1 When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him.

2 And **behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."**

3 Then **Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed."** Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

4 And Jesus said to him, “See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

If you are willing. He didn't know. He didn't have a Bible! WE DO! WE CAN KNOW (should know).

THE BIBLE SHOWS US GOD'S WILL!

Romans 10:17

17 So then **faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (which reveals His will).

FAITH IS ABOUT RECEIVING WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY PROVIDED!

1 John 5:14-15

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**

15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, **we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**

CONFIDENCE! WE KNOW!

How do we know God's will? It's in the Word. Not what we just think or hope ... or desperately need!

Is our knowledge in the Word vague ... shallow? Or — are we sure?

We need our noses in the Word. Not 5 minutes per day ... or even a “chapter a day”.

If we are not sure — we'll doubt.

James 1:5-8

5 **If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

6 But **let him ask in faith, with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For **let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;**

8 **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**

Do we need wisdom? It's a PROMISE! **ASK IN FAITH. NO DOUBTING!**

Two minds (undecided — Greek: Diakrino) — receive nothing.

We need to choose. The Word ... or senses and circumstances (others opinions — even church members).

Romans 4:18-22

18 who, **contrary to hope, in hope believed**, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be."

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

20 **He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith**, giving glory to God,

21 and **being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.**

22 And therefore **"it was accounted to him for righteousness."**

Considered not physical evidence.

- Didn't waiver (staggered not).
- DIAKRINO = undecided. Two opinions — which to choose!
- FULLY CONVINCED. FULLY PERSUADED.

We're in faith when fully persuaded — no doubts. Not “hovering” — flip-flopping between different opinions.

Can't be fully persuaded if we don't know the Word accurately.

Not natural to “consider not” the physical evidence ... but we're not supposed to walk purely in the natural.

Romans 8:5-6

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but **those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.**

6 For to be carnally minded is death, **but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

Don't set your mind on the flesh — sense-dominated.

Romans 8:8

8 So then, **those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

In the flesh ... we cannot please God (without faith ... we cannot please God).

We need to renew our minds (Romans 12:2) ... so that God's Word is more real than physical senses.

GOD'S WORD IS TRUE — ALWAYS!

Romans 3:3-4

3 For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?

4 Certainly not! Indeed, **let God be true but every man a liar.** As it is written:

“That You may be justified in Your words,
And may overcome when You are judged.”

Let God be true ...

Throughout our lives ... we'll face the choice — senses or the Word.

But faith — believing God — is powerful.

1 John 5:4

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And **this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.**

Victory over the world!

“Victory” is a strong word? Were to be victors — not victims.

1 John 5:4 (NET)

4 because everyone who has been fathered by God conquers the world. **This is the conquering power that has conquered the world: our faith.**

Even if facing contradictory physical evidence ... it's best to choose God's Word.

Luke 5:1-10

1 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,

2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.

3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

4 When He had stopped speaking, **He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.”**

5 But **Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.”** (*I'll do what you say*)

6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.

7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!”

9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”

Peter almost missed out on several weeks of income. The physical evidence was clear — no fish! Peter has 30 years’ experience. Now daytime ... sunshine.

“NEVERTHELESS AT THY WORD” — that needs to be our approach.

Luke 5:17-26

17 Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. **And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.**

18 **Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralysed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him.**

19 And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

20 **When He saw their faith,** He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

21 **And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason,** saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts?

23 Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’?

24 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the man who was paralysed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

25 Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, “We have seen strange things today!”

POWER TO HEAL THEM!

But only one received healing.

Jesus saw their faith ... corresponding actions.

THEY TOOK ACTION! NOT PASSIVE!

Others began “to reason” in their hearts. **Considering physical evidence ... their experience ... who is this preacher?**

The man and his friends went away healed and delighted.

The Pharisees and the Scribes got nothing. They reasoned themselves out of God’s blessings.

We need to watch out! It may take time to renew our minds ...
learn to see with the Eye of Faith ... walk by faith and not by sight.

But remember: **FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD.** So that’s where we need to start! **GET INTO THE WORD!**