

GOD'S GREAT RACE FOR ALL TIME

PART 3 JESUS IS THE FINISHER OF MY FAITH

Hebrews 12:1-2 BSB **SLIDE**

... *Let us run with endurance the race set out for us.*

²*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith*

...

*We are looking at Jesus, being the Author and Perfecter of **our Faith**.*

BEFORE WE MOVE ON ... WE NEED TO LOOK AGAIN AT THIS 'FAITH' WHICH JESUS IS THE AUTHOR & FINISHER OF!

After many years of personal study and knowing what I know of Christians, I have concluded that most Christians have a wrong idea about 'Faith'.

*For instance: People talk about '**Exercising Faith**' or '**Placing Faith in God**' which implies that 'Faith' is a force WE USE ... and something THAT WE HAVE CONTROL OVER ...*

BUT IT IS NOT!

OUR FAITH

SLIDE THERE ARE TWO ASPECTS OF 'FAITH' SPOKEN ABOUT IN NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE ...

- THERE IS THE GIFT OF FAITH ...
- THERE IS SAVING FAITH

'THE GIFT OF FAITH'

I Corinthians 12:9 NLT

*The same **Spirit gives great faith** to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing.*

'The Gift of Faith' is a special manifestation of Faith, given by God to a believer ... for a specific moment ... to accomplish a specific task.

I heard of a pastor who, after a man had died in a church service, looked at the man and knew God was going to raise him from the dead.

He stated, 'We're going to pray for 20 minutes and God is going to raise this man from the dead.'

They prayed and the dead man awoke to life again.

THIS WAS A 'GIFT OF FAITH'.

BUT FROM THAT TIME ON, THAT PASTOR DIDN'T RAISE ANYONE ELSE FROM THE DEAD.

IT WAS THE GIFT OF FAITH FOR THAT SPECIFIC TIME.

THIS FAITH IS TEMPORARY ... FOR THAT OCCASION.

IT IS NOT PERMENANT!

WE MUST ALSO REALISE THAT WE DO NOT EXERCISE THIS 'GIFT OF FAITH' AT WILL. IT REMAINS UNDER GOD'S CONTROL

I Corinthians 12:11 **SLIDE**

But one and the same Spirit works all these things [including the gift of faith], distributing to each one individually as He wills.

NB: The Spirit '**WORKS**' these gifts '**AS HE WILLS**'

Wherever faith is found, it is the token of divine favour. True faith is, in every case, of the operation of the Spirit of God. (Spurgeon)

(See End Notes – Supplemental – for more)

SLIDE 'SAVING FAITH'

BUT THEN THERE'S THE CONCEPT OF 'SAVING FAITH' WHICH IS WHAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT TODAY.

THIS 'SAVING FAITH' IS IMPARTED INTO US AT THE POINT OF OUR RECEIVING CHRIST.

The moment you said 'Yes' to God's grace knocking on your heart ... you received '**Saving Faith**' which **was imparted deep within you forever.**

Ephesians 2:8 CLV

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and that not of yourselves ... it is a gift of God.

Romans 3:22 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

... The righteousness of God is through faith from Jesus Christ toward all those believing ...

NB Faith '**From** Jesus'. **He is The Author ... He implants it**

NOT AS THE NLT ERRONEOUSLY SAYS, 'We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.'

THIS IS AN INCORRECT CONCEPT OF FAITH.

No one has power over 'Faith' to 'Place it in anything'.

FAITH THAT COMES FROM GOD ORGANICALLY LOOKS TO GOD & JESUS.

THIS 'SAVING FAITH' REMAINS IN US AS A PERMENANT SPIRITUAL STATE. IT CANNOT BE LOST OR FAIL!

THIS IS 'OUR FAITH'

SLIDE Our verse says ...

Hebrews 12:1-2 BSB

... *Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith* ...

NB: 'OUR FAITH', meaning 'Faith' that has been allocated to us'.

THIS IS SAVING FAITH ... IMPLANTED FAITH ... WE MUST OWN IT

*A lady who used to come to this fellowship told us last Thursday that it was here, listening to these messages that **she realised 'God was within her'**. She always thought He was in Heaven only ... and she said **IT CHANGED HER LIFE.***

SO WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT TOOK UP RESIDENCE 'IN YOU', HE ALSO IMPARTED 'FAITH INTO YOU' AT THE SAME TIME.

You now have Faith permanently implanted into you.

You don't need to exercise it!

This is the Faith we are talking about ...

LIVE 'IN' AND 'FROM' THIS FAITH

NOW, IT'S THIS FAITH PERMENANTLY PLANTED DEEP WITHIN US THAT WE ARE TOLD TO LIVE 'IN' & 'FROM' EVERY DAY FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES HERE ON THE EARTH.

IT IS 'FAITH TO LIVE BY, DAY AFTER DAY ... 'FAITH' TO RUN THE RACE SET BEFORE US.

Romans 1:17 CLV **SLIDE**

*The justified person will live the rest of their lives **from** this faith.*

NB: The preposition 'by' (NKJV - 'the just shall live by faith') is 'ek' meaning 'From' or 'Out of'.

WE USED TO SING GALATIANS 2:20

'It's no longer I that liveth, but Christ that liveth in me ...'

WE KNOW THIS VERSE ... BUT DO WE REALISE THE 2ND PART OF IT?

Galatians 2:20 NKJV **SLIDE**

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Once again we read, 'By Faith' inferring that 'Faith' is something we use ... But the Preposition is (en) meaning 'in' Faith

Paul actually says here, I live 'in' Faith – I live 'IN' the state of Faith.

So the true concept of faith is A STATE WITHIN US **IN** WHICH WE DWELL AND **FROM** WHICH WE CAN NOW FUNCTION IN LIFE! IT IS NOT A TOOL OR A WEAPON **BY** WHICH WE GET THINGS DONE.

SLIDE THE MATURING OF ABRAHAM IN FAITH

It is often misquoted that 'Abraham's faith Grew'. But that's not what is written.

WE READ, ABRAHAM GREW STRONG IN HIS FAITH ...

Romans 4:19 Berean Literal Bible

And not having become weak in the faith, he considered his body already having become dead, being about a hundred years old, and the lifelessness of Sarah's womb.

Romans 4:20 Berean Literal Bible **SLIDE**

*Yet he did not waver through unbelief at the promise of God, but **was strengthened in faith, having given glory to God.***

ABRAHAM MATURED IN HIS FAITH & BECAME THE FATHER OF MANY NATIONS ... FATHER OF US ALL WHO ARE THE FAITHFUL (Romans 4:18&16)

SO IT IS WITH US

SLIDE GOD WANTS US TO GROW IN OUR FAITH

GOD WANTS US TO MATURE IN OUR FAITH

**NB: OUR FAITH DOESN'T GROW
WE GROW IN OUR FAITH**

**GOD HAS DESIGNED THIS 'FAITH-RACE' SO THAT WE CAN GROW
STRONG IN OUR FAITH ... SO WE CAN MATURE IN OUR FAITH ...
SO WE CAN BE ESTABLISHED IN OUR FAITH.**

WE READ THIS IN OUR TEXT

(I have added two words to make this clear)

Hebrews 12:2 SLIDE

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of **[us in] our**
faith.*

**Perfecter = (teleiōtēs) - A completer, finisher. ONE WHO BRINGS
SOMETHING TO MATURITY**

**SO, HOW DOES THIS HAPPEN IN OUR LIVES HERE &
NOW?**

**What if God organised circumstances so we could mature in our
Faith?**

**GOD PUTS YOU INTO A SITUATION THAT YOU CAN'T FIGURE OUT
BECAUSE **GOD WANTS YOU TO 'FAITH-IT'.****

Religious Christians 'FAKE IT' ... Real Christians, 'FAITH-IT'

***YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A SITUATION BEYOND YOUR ABILITY ...
PAST YOUR UNDERSTANDING ...***

There is no way out / no way back / no way over, under or around.

Your strength is futile ... You cunning flees ... Your ability fails ...

NOW YOU HAVE TO 'FAITH-IT' ALL THE WAY THROUGH.

Proverbs 3:5 Amplified SLIDE

***Trust in and rely confidently on the LORD with all your heart
And do not rely on your own insight or understanding.***

FAITH-IT

FIND THE FAITH IN YOUR HEART & LIVE IN IT & FROM IT

YOU START TO GROW IN FAITH

You enter stage 1 at the beginning of faith.

**OH YOU CAN PANIC ... PRAY LONGER ... PRAY LOUDER ...
REBUKE THE DEVIL ... GO FOR COUNSEL as many Christians do.
BUT GOD SAYS, 'NO! I WANT YOU TO OVERCOME IN YOUR
FAITH. YOU MUST FIND YOUR FAITH ... IT IS THERE WITHIN YOU.
THEN YOU CAN START TO 'FAITH-IT'.**

**ABRAHAM WAS MADE STRONG IN FAITH THROUGH THE
NEGATIVE – IMPOSSIBLE CIRCUMSTANCE ...
ABRAHAM FOUND HIS FAITH & HE MATURED IN HIS FAITH ...**

SUPPLEMENTAL

**THE 'GIFT OF FAITH' DOES NOT OPERATE BY OUR WILL.
IT MANIFESTS - AS GOD WILLS - THROUGH US, FOR THAT
MOMENT, AS WE ARE WALKING UNDER HIS COVERING.**

I Corinthians 12:11

**But one and the same *Spirit works all these things* [including the
gift of faith], distributing to each one individually as He wills.**

NB: The gifts happen, 'AS HE WILLS.'

I Corinthians 12:6 KJV

**There are diversities of operations, but it is the same God who
works all in all.**

Hebrews tells us Jesus Himself operated the same way ...

Hebrews 2:3-4 BSB

**This salvation was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to
us by those who heard Him ⁴and was *affirmed by God* through
signs, wonders, various miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit
distributed according to His [God's] will.**