



Berea Goshen Report

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Faith is the Victory!

Indeed! The refrain of an old classic hymn says:

You cannot receive salvation without faith or please God either. **Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 11:6.**

This does not mean that we deny that unpleasant circumstances are real! It means that we elevate God's word above them! That is how we get Victory over the circumstances!

*Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory!
Oh, glorious victory, That overcomes the world.*

Does the hymn not say it all? According to **1John 5:4**: **...this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith.** Without faith nothing in the kingdom of God works right! Someone says, “Yeah but, what about love? After all, doesn’t scripture say that faith works by love?” It certainly does. **Galatians 5:6** says so. **it is true that faith worketh by love but love also worketh by faith!**

Living in a world that is under the curse comes with all kinds of challenges. Spiritual, emotional, relationship, financial challenges and so on. Jesus knew that and He warned His disciples in **John 16: 33** “...**In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.**”

There are people, even family members ...maybe even close family members that you have to walk by faith to love them sometimes! As far as that goes, there are times when you must walk by faith to love yourself...like right after you act or speak ugly.

Well, how did Jesus overcome the world for us? By Faith! What does that mean? It means that Jesus conducted his life according to the Word of God. It means that Jesus spoke only what the Father said to speak. It means Jesus only went to the places that the Father said to go to. It means Jesus did only what the father said to do. So can we...by faith!

Love is the greatest and noblest **motivator** there is, but faith is the greatest **doer/receiver** there is! They work together. God so loved the world that He was motivated to do something about our lost condition! God gave His Son believing that we would respond and accept His love. If God did not have faith that His love would be accepted by at least one of us, He might not have given His Son. **So, without love, God would have ignored our lost condition, but, on the other hand, without faith, He could not have done anything about it!**

2 Corinthians 5:7 says, “**we walk by faith not by sight.**” The word “sight” means “senses.” That is to say that we walk by faith not by the senses of sight, hearing, feeling, smelling or tasting. In other words, we don’t let what we see dictate our lives, neither what we have heard, nor what we feel unless what we have seen or heard or feel lines up with the Word of God.

Jesus urges us in **Mark 11:22** to “**have faith in God.**” **The AS Worrell** translation says “have the faith of God” or have the God kind of faith or have faith as God has it. In other words, imitate God! Use the faith you have in God like God uses His faith! God used His faith to meet a want that He had...God wanted a family! Likewise, you should use your faith in God to receive what God wants you to have. Faith is the victory! It is a victorious doer/receiver!

We walk by faith in God’s word, according to what God has said. **If the circumstances don’t agree with what God has said, we choose God’s word in spite of the circumstances!** This does not mean that we deny that unpleasant circumstances are real! It simply means that we elevate God’s word above them. That is how we get Victory over the circumstances!

Although most people do not live this way, Scripture again and again **commands** Christians to do just that. **Romans 1:17** says “... **as it is written, the just shall**

live by faith.” Galatians 3:11 says “**But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, the just shall live by faith.**” Hebrews 10:38 says “**Now the just shall live by faith...**” As if to drive the point home Habakkuk 2:4 says, “**the just shall live by his faith!**” This is really not a suggestion. It is as much a commandment as “**thou shalt not bear false witness.**”

So, are you living by faith? Small thinking is not living by faith! Cruising and maintenance-living is not living by faith! Hence much of the Church is not living in Victory!

Cruising and maintenance living is a place where your life is scripted to the tee. You are not stretching your faith...you are comfortable and do not want any waves or uncertainties. You love God and would like to tithe but you just don't see how...it ain't happening!

Faith is the victory, your victory! **Faith will help you reach out and stretch to receive more from God.** Meditating the Word of God on the subject will help you see that the tithe is not a punitive measure but a set up for the abundant life in the area of finances. It is time to stop paying every bill except your share of the gospel bill. If you let it, your faith will help you have victory in this area.

Cruising and maintenance living in the area of healing is when you regularly pop a pill for aches and pains and forget about it....or you just reach for a phone and make an appointment to go see your doctor and let him or her handle it. You either do not know what the scriptures say about healing or can only glibly quote a couple of verses about healing. Your faith is the victory over sickness and disease not your doctor, as helpful as he or she can or has been! One of these days they may be stumped but your faith will never be stumped if you feed it God's word. It is the Victory!

It may be that you are right now dealing with a medical diagnosis that is overwhelming...not to your Faith. Your faith is the victory! Again, get into God's Word about healing and see yourself not as the sick trying to get well but the well who is being attacked by the devil in the area of health.

Love is the greatest, ablest and noblest motivator there is, but faith is the greatest doer there is! They work together.

In **Psalms 78:40-57** the psalmist decries how the people of God limited the God of heaven and earth on their way from Egypt to the Promised Land! They doubted Him. They murmured and complained about this or that. They were ungrateful and wanted to go back to Egypt although He took care of them very well.

Too often, too many Christians today are no different. How soon we forget how God gloriously delivered us from the last jam we were in! **Instead of believing God, stretching our faith, taking our stand of faith and refusing to budge...** how soon, how quickly too many Christians fold up, cave in and give up.

Pharaoh and his army may be rushing toward us daggers drawn, and the Red Sea might be before us, but we serve the living God and there is yet a way out and his name is Jesus! If you stand in faith, deliverance will come though sometimes in the last minute of the last hour! **Faith is the victory!**

Again, we are not to deny that the dire circumstances are real but we are to look to the Word of God to dictate the terms of our existence, not the circumstances. The Word is to govern what we do or don't do, where we go or don't go, **how we hear** when we listen and **what we see** when we look. That is what it means to walk and live by faith and that in turn guarantees our Victory in every situation.

2024!

The Year Of Flourishing!

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