

Faith

Road to Victory

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

This sin-sick world is sprinkled with millions of Christians who should be the “salt of the earth”, but whose “salt” has so lost its savor that their influence for Christ is as worthless as the savorless salt that Jesus mentioned in the Bible. These are Christians who once exercised faith enough to believe that Jesus died for them and took their punishment for sin, and that upon the basis of His own simple declaration, they are SAVED.

The greatest tragedy of our time is that the vast majority of born-again Christians refuse to use this same simple faith process to appropriate ALL the many other promises that this same wonderful Saviour made to them! He left us the glorious heritage of a whole Book full of *“great and precious promises that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust”* (2 Peter 1:4).

Why, oh, why should it be harder for us, who are now saved and therefore indwelt by His Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9), to believe His many other promises and thus receive their fulfillment, than it was to “believe unto salvation?” Indeed, it should be much easier to live this life of “victory upon victory through faith in His promises” than it was to obtain New Life by that one great initial transaction of faith! Then, we were “dead in trespasses and sin.” The Word says there was NO life in us! Yet, we reached out the feeble hand of faith and believed His promise and took the offered salvation as His gift to us.

We believed that it was ours just because He said so! He, of course, kept His promise and we received the witness within that we were saved. What a glorious experience that was! What a joy it brought! What peace flooded our souls! Our Lord Jesus Christ had kept His promise and had given us LIFE! How tragic it is that so few of us went on from there to the same kind of victory in appropriating His many other promises!

For instance, He promised that if we would seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, that “all these things” would be added unto us (Matthew 6:33). What things? Why, the same things our unsaved neighbors are usually worrying about: what to eat, what to wear. What do we Christians do about it? Do we put Him first and enjoy seeing Him provide our needs in glorious ways? Not usually. We fret and stew very much like our neighbors. We work ourselves to death trying to keep up with their standard of luxurious living, and then we bemoan the fact that we find so very little time to serve Christ, so little time for reading His Word, almost no time for real intercessory prayer, no time for family worship, and no time for witnessing to the lost all around us!

Christians used to be noted for their calmness in the face of trouble and difficult situations (True Christians living in harmony with their Lord still are). What do we commonly see today? The

way many of us act when our health or our livelihood is endangered, you would think that Romans 8:28 was not in the Book, and that God's many promises of providing "all your needs" were so many empty words that He really never meant!

Have you any anxiety about anything? His command is: "*be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*" Is it harder to believe that promise than it was to believe the one that made your old, dead sinful self to come alive in Him? The salvation of many around you hinges on how you live this Christian life. Are you going to give the Lord Jesus the opportunity of really living this life through you, or are you going to continue to grieve and smother the Spirit by disobedience and unbelief?

Some Christians say, "Oh, if only I had the faith of so-and-so." God has given you faith. You would not be a Christian at all without it. He will give you more only as you use the faith He has given you. You have to take that step of faith that you can take – put that foot in Jordan's waters, before the waters will separate and make a clear path for you. He will always meet you more than half way if you'll humbly confess your sins of omission and commission so He can cleanse and use you, and then put to use the faith you do have, trusting Him to perfect that which you have, and give you more. Faith is not a mysterious or mystic thing that only a few gifted ones can grasp.

It is developed in Christians as a product of faithfulness – faithfulness in doing His will, as near as we know it, and trusting Him to be as good as His Word. You already do this for your most trusted human friends, could you not do as much for Him?

Jesus Christ can and will meet all your needs, allay all your fears and bring great peace and joy to your heart through any kind of trouble, if you will surrender all to Him.

— *Book Fellowship*