

School of Life

Faith and Confession

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Lesson One: Faith Defined

- I. God's own definition? So with that said, let's go to.
 - A. "Now" and "is" put this passage in the present tense.
 - B. When **Hebrews 11:1** says, "*now*," it literally means, at the present time. It indicates continuance of a previously stated thought or idea.
 1. Holy Spirit here takes us all the way back to creation, that it was through His Son that God created the worlds. **Hebrews 1:1-2**
 2. *By faith we understand.* **Hebrews 11:3**
 3. Don't let the word "*worlds*" throw you. This verse is not talking about the universe, stars, planets, etc. If that were the case, the writer would have used the Greek word, "kósmos," but he did not. We know from Genesis that God did indeed speak the "kosmos" into existence, so I'm not disputing that He did,
 4. The writer instead uses the Greek word, "aíón." This word refers to an age, or period of time. It is by faith that we understand that the ages of time were "*framed*" by the Word of God. The word "framed" is translated from the Greek word, "katartízō," meaning, to complete thoroughly, to repair or adjust:—fit, frame, mend, or perfectly join together, to prepare or restore.

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II. Romans 8:20-21

- A. Immediately after the fall, God began to introduce His Word (Jesus, God the Word that became flesh— **John chapter 1**)
- B. By the entrance of the Word of God, He began to “*frame,*” to restore creation. **Galatians 4:4**

- 1. Line upon line. **Isaiah 28:10**

- 2. Then in **Luke 4:18-21** Jesus made the announcement, giving personally application.

III. Jesus, was the Word spoken in the garden immediately after the fall. **Hebrews 12:2**

A. **Genesis 3:15**

- B. Jesus, the author and finisher, was the Word speaking the Word in **Luke 4**, and He is the one who on the cross, in **John 19:30** said, “*It is finished!*” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.” And He is the Word who in **Hebrews 10:12**, “*after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God.*”

IV. “*Now faith is the substance....*” Substance is the matter, or material that something is made of.

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- A. What hope sees as a possibility, faith sees as reality. **Hebrews 11:1 Amplified Classic Edition** *“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].”*
- B. *“Faith is the substance of things hoped for.”* **Ephesians 1:18**
1. *“The eyes of your understanding...” by faith you, understand!...* that your world, your time and place in history were framed, completed thoroughly, repaired or adjusted:—fit, mended, and perfectly joined together, prepared and restored.
 2. It’s what you hoped for, but now you have believed the word God has spoken to frame your world, and faith has now given substance to it. Faith has become the *“evidence of things not seen”* with physical eyes, but your spirit eyes see it.
3. **Hebrews 11:3**
4. Their testimony, which is seen, was made of an invisible substance; invisible to physical eyes that is, which is visible to the *“eyes of your understanding”*. **Hebrews 11:2**
- C. Moses saw Jesus. (**Ephesians 1:18**). Now look at **Hebrews 11:27**, speaking of Moses.

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1. Much of our faith teaching has been about visualizing the thing we are believing God for, but It did not say Moses saw the promised land.

2. Moses was seeing Him who is invisible, who is Christ.

D. **Hebrews 11:27** says Moses saw Him, Christ. How will you obtain a good testimony? By seeing Him... His finished work.

1. **2 Corinthians 3:18**

2. Thorough transformation **1 John 4:17**

3. If you truly understand what happens when you see Him, you will stop trying to see stuff and the cry of your heart will be, "Holy Spirit, reveal Jesus to me."

V. This is the essence of faith; **Hebrews 12:2**

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Lesson Two: Does Faith Move God?

- I. Some say God is only moved by faith.
 - A. Some say “God us not moved by your need. If He were, there would be no poverty, sickness, etc.”
 - B. The truth is, God was moved by the need He knew we would have. He was moved to lay your sin, sickness, disease and pain on Jesus. **Isaiah 53:6**
- II. Adjust your thinking. God was moved by our need, but He is not moved today by your need— or by your faith. He already moved on your behalf. **Hebrews 10:11-13**
 - A. The Lamb slain... past tense. **Revelation 13:8**
 - 1. What God did in Christ was enough for all people, for all time. Jesus sat down because He was finished. **Hebrews 10:12-14**
 - 2. **The Mirror Study Bible, Hebrews 10:13**
 - B. *For God to do again what He already did, would be a vain repetition... and it is a vain repetition for us to ask Him to.* **Matthew 6:7-8**

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C. No respecter of persons. If He did it for them He will do it for me.”
-vs-“if He did it for them, He did it for me.” That is a critically important statement.

1. If He did it again, how would He do it? The same way He did it before, by sending Jesus to die on a cross. It will never happen again!

2. He dies NO MORE! **Romans 6:8-10**

D. The words, “vain repetitions,” is translated from a single word in the Greek, “battologéō.”

1. The first part of this word is “báttos.” This word describes a stammerer, or stutterer. It means to prate— talk at great length but with little meaning.

2. The last part of this compound word is “lógos.” It is usually translated as “word.” When put together we are depicting a person who, usually involuntarily, repeats words, or sounds

E. Jesus told us, the heathen keep repeating the same thing over and over again, because they don’t understand that Father already knew before they asked. If at first you don’t succeed, try and try again? If you don’t get it the first time, ask and ask again?

III. We have mischaracterized God as a cranky old man.

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A. We continue to view Him as judge, therefore we feel that we are on trial, 24-7-365, that we must always be making our case before Him.

B. Ravens and lilies. **Luke 12:24.**

1. Let's do what Jesus said, consider the ravens.
2. The birds are not trying to get God to move. Father takes care of them because it is His nature to do so.

C. Jesus goes further to emphasize to us the futility of the "faith to move God" approach to Father. **Luke 12:25-27**

1. Consider King Solomon.
2. What did Jesus tell us to consider about the lilies? Consider "*how they grow.*" "*How?*"
3. Is "faith really an act?" Jesus is teaching us that faith should be comparable to how lilies grow.
 - a) Jesus says the lilies "*neither toil nor spin.*" The word "*toil*" is from the Greek word, "kopiáo," which means, to feel fatigue; implying, from hard work.

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- b) The **Amplified Bible** really describes the word “*spin*” well in how it translates this verse. It says, “*Consider the lilies and wildflowers, how they grow [in the open field]. They neither labor nor spin [wool to make clothing]; yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory and splendor dressed himself like one of these.*”
- c) Jesus tells us that all of our self effort is “little faith.” **Luke 12:28-30**
- d) “*Do not seek*” these things. The word “seek” is translated from the Greek word, “zētēō,” Strong’s Concordance defines this word as “to seek, to worship (God), or (in a bad sense) to plot (against life):—be (go) about, desire, endeavour, enquire (for), require, seek after, seek for, seek means).” Jesus is telling us that the nations of the world are occupied with, as if in worship of these things... the necessities of life, what they will eat, drink and wear. This is their devotion, their passion, their pursuit.
- e) Notice, Paul said, “*whose god is their belly.*” That sounds like seeking what they shall eat... **Philippians 3:18-20.**
- f) **Colossians 3:1-3**, The word for “seek” here is the same word we’ve been talking about from **Luke 12. Contemporary English Version** “*You have been raised to life with Christ. Now set your heart on what is in heaven, where Christ rules at God’s right side.*” **Bible in Basic English** “*If then you have a new life with Christ, give your attention to the things of heaven, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.*”

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IV. Set your heart, or your attention His kingdom. **Luke 12:31-34**

A. **32nd verse** *“Do not fear...”* How is that possible? Remember the ravens, remember the lilies.

B. Jesus says, *“Sell what you have and give alms.”* You can do that without stress and worry because you are not trusting in yourself, your treasure is not in a bank or in your self effort to provide.

C. Much faith teaching has been about laying up the treasure. I remind you of what Jesus said in **Luke 12:24**

1. It is not your responsibility to stock that storehouse. **Philippians 4:19**

2. The word translated, *“according to,”* is the Greek word, *katá*, meaning; to the charge of, out of the measure.

3. Daniel Shirley Paraphrase, *“And my God shall supply all your need to the charge of, out of the measure of His riches in glory that have been laid up for you by Christ Jesus.”*

V. We are not to set our heart on provision, but on the Provider, not on the gift, but on the Giver...

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Lesson Three: Whose Faith Is It?

I. Habakkuk 2:4

A. Paul quotes Habakkuk, with one variation. **Romans 1:17**

1. It seems Paul omits one word, “his.” But when looking at the Hebrew text he quotes from (**Habakkuk 2:4**), we see the phrase “*by his faith*,” is actually a single word, “*ěmûwnâh*” which does not assign the possession of the faith. In other words, it simply says “*the just shall live by faith*,” as does Paul in **Romans 1:17**, **Galatians 3:11**, and **Hebrews 10:38**.

2. **Romans 1:17 (Mirror Study Bible)** *Herein lies the secret of the power of the Gospel; there is no good news in it until the righteousness of God is revealed. The dynamic of the gospel is the revelation of God's faith as the only valid basis for our belief. The Prophets wrote in advance about the fact that God believes that righteousness reveals the life of our design. Righteousness by his (God's) faith defines life.*

B. *As a partaker of the divine nature, everything that is His by nature, meaning Jesus' nature, is yours. That includes His faith is now yours.* **2 Peter 1:4**

C. His life, and His faith... I live by His faith... you live by His faith.
Galatians 2:20

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1. **Mark 11:22 (New King James Version)** says, *“So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Have faith in God.’”* But let’s look at some other translations of this verse.
 2. **The Message** says, *“Jesus was matter-of-fact: ‘Embrace this God-life. Really embrace it, and nothing will be too much for you.’”*
 3. **Young’s Literal Translation 98**, *“And Jesus answering saith to them, ‘Have faith of God.’”*
 4. **Bible in Basic English**, *“And Jesus, answering, said to them, Have God’s faith.”*
 5. **Worrell New Testament**, *“And Jesus, answering, saith to them, ‘Have the faith of God.’”*
 6. **Douay Rheims**, *“And Jesus answering, saith to them: Have the faith of God.”*
 7. **Godbey**, *“And Jesus responding says to them, Have God’s faith.”*
- D. Consider this; you have been so thoroughly joined to the Lord that you have His mind. In other words, you died with Him, you have His life manifesting in you, you have His mind, you are one spirit with Him, so why not His faith?
1. **1 Corinthians 2:16**

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2. **1 Corinthians 6:17**

3. **2 Corinthians 4:11**

4. **Colossians 3:3-4**

5. **Philippians 3:9**

6. **2 Corinthians 5:21**

7. **Ephesians 2:14**

8. **1 John 4:17**

9. **Acts 17:28**

E. Let's look at **Galatians 2:20** in the **Mirror Study Bible**. *"So here I am dead and alive at the same time. I'm dead to the old me I was trying to be and alive to the real me which is Christ in me. Co-crucified, now co-alive. What a glorious entanglement. I was in him in his death; now I discover that he is infused in me, in my life. For the first time, I'm free to be me in my skin, immersed in his faith in our joint-sonship. He loves me and believes in me. He is God's gift to me."*

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1. The word, “infused,” which Webster’s dictionary defines as, “to cause to be permeated with something (such as a principle or quality) that alters usually for the better.” This is descriptive of the process of dying a piece of fabric. Once the dye has “infused” the fibers of the fabric, for instance, a white fabric dyed red, it can never be white again.
 2. The other word I want you to look at is, “immersed.” Webster says this word means, “to plunge into something that surrounds or covers: especially: to plunge or dip into a fluid. This is the word that is portrayed in baptism. This is one of a couple of reasons why we baptize by immersion, rather than sprinkling. It paints a much more accurate picture for us of what took place when you received your salvation.
 - a) This word describes the process of pickling. A cucumber (or any vegetable) is immersed into a acidic or vinegar solution that permeates the vegetable to preserve it. The process cannot be reversed. The pickle can never revert to being a fresh cucumber. You can’t “unpickle” it.
 - b) I want you to understand how completely and thoroughly you are joined to the Lord. Until you grasp this, you cannot comprehend this truth that you can actually tap into and function by Jesus’ faith. His life, His nature, His righteousness and yes, His faith.
- II. Notice, the faith is a gift to you from God. You can’t gift something to someone if it is not yours.

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- A. If the faith was yours, it wasn't a gift. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
 - B. If God dealt it, it must have been His faith to deal. **Romans 12:3**
 - C. With a flesh ruled mind I cannot live out the life of Jesus. The legal approach to God is an exercise of the flesh. **Matthew 26:41, Mark 14:38, Galatians 5:16**
- III. *My own faith that is a mental ascent. My mind is not that strong.*
Romans 8:6-8
- A. You can stimulate the growth of your own natural faith, but not to the point of believing what your senses give contrary evidence of.
 - B. **Ephesians 2:9** says it is the gift of God that enables you to believe to salvation.
 - C. The faith to believe that Jesus rose from the dead is from the heart, not the head, or mind. **Romans 10:9-10**
 - D. Yes, you can stimulate the growth of your own faith by exercising it. **Hebrews 5:14**
- IV. **2 Corinthians 10:3** says, *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh."* The **Mirror Study Bible** says, *"The fact that we are living in a physical world in human bodies of flesh does not*

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mean that we engage ourselves in a combat dictated to by the typical tit-for-tat strategies of religion and the politics of the day.”

- A. Even though we are in physical, flesh and blood bodies, we are not limited to what the flesh controlled mind can grasp. We are supernatural people because of our union with the Lord, that we can live by His faith.
- B. To live according to the spirit is to live by the faith OF the Son of God... to live by HIS faith. **Romans 8:13**
- C. *Your superpower... living according to the Spirit, His life in you, His faith in you.*
- V. It means when you curse a fig tree, and your eye sense tells you nothing happened, by the spirit you put to death the contradictory information provided by your sight sense, and by the faith of the Son of God, you can, *“not doubt in your heart, but believe that those things you say will be done, and you will have whatever you say.”*
 - A. Don't feel justified in living by “your” sensory faith, the just shall live by HIS, GOD's faith.
 - B. If you will consistently put to death the deeds of the body, the sensory faith, your senses will begin to come on board with the spirit.

VI. Mark 11:12-24

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Lesson Four: Faith Speaks

- I. Confession doesn't produce faith, faith produces the confession. **2 Corinthians 4:13**

- A. Faith has a language. **Romans 10:8-12**

- B. *We speak from the heart, the resting place of faith.* **Matthew 12:34**

- II. We exercise our dominion by speaking. **Genesis 1:26-28**

- A. Mountains. **Mark 11:23**

- 1. *The Lord said to me, "I told my people to speak to the mountain, but most of them are speaking to Me about the mountain."*

- 2. Hold fast. **Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 10:23**

- 3. No wavering. **James 1:5-8**

- 4. **James 3:10**

- B. Trees. **Luke 17:5**

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1. **Mark 11:12-14**

a) *Jesus spoke to the tree, then went on His way because He knew it worked*

b) With God's Faith. **Mark 11:20-23**

2. **Mark 11:23** is one of the defining passages for the Word of Faith teaching.

C. As though they did. **Romans 4:17**

D. Power to make a spiritually dead man live. **Romans 10:9**

E. Power to make a virgin conceive. **Luke 1:38**

III. Power to control your whole body. **James 3:2**

A. Stumble = ptah'-yo; a form of 4098; to trip, i.e. (fig.) to err, sin, fail (of salvation): - fall, offend, stumble

B. Perfect = 5046 teleios {tel'-i-os} from 5056; TDNT - 8:67,1161; adj AV - perfect 17, man 1, of full age 1; 19 1) brought to its end, finished 2) wanting nothing necessary to completeness 3) perfect 4) that which

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is perfect 4a) consummate human integrity and virtue 4b) of men
4b1) full grown, adult, of full age, mature

C. Bridle = 5468 chalinagogeo {khal-in-ag-ogue-eh'-o} from a compound of 5469 and the reduplicated form of 71;; v AV - bridle 2; 2 1) to lead by a bridle, to guide 2) to bridle, hold in check, restrain

1. 5469 khal-ee-nos'; from 5465; a curb or head- stall (as curbing the spirit): - bit, bridle

2. 71 ago {ag'-o} a primary word;; v AV - bring 45, lead 12, go 7, bring forth 2, misc 5, vr bring 1; 72 1) to lead, take with one 1a) to lead by laying hold of, and this way to bring to the point of destination: of an animal

D. If you can control your tongue, you can control your whole body.

E. The Lord said to me, "Your body is the simplest of all things to control because it only involves you. If you can't control your body, how can't you control other circumstances of life that involve other people?"

IV. Man, the only one of God's creation charged with the responsibility of "having dominion".

A. The only one of with the capacity for intelligent language?

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B. We rule with our words.

1. Over the spirit world. **Mark.1:34, Luke 4:36**

2. Over nature. **Mark 4:39**

C. Helpless without right words.

1. Man could not get saved without faith filled words. Without words, our creativity lies dormant. **Isaiah 57:19**

2. Without words, the obstacles in our way cannot be moved. **Mark 11:23**

3. Angels are at our command as we speak God's Word. **Psalms 103:20**

V. Notice, Jesus spoke to the tree. Many years ago, the Lord said to me, "I told My people to speak to the mountain (**verse 23**), but instead, they are speaking to Me about the mountain."