

# HOW FAITH WORKS

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We've learned that our God is a faith God and that we were created to be like Him. Our lives should reflect Him. We should look like Him, think like Him, talk like Him and act like Him. Since He is a faith Person, we should be a faith person, too. So, what does a faith person look like? To answer this question, we must learn what faith is and how it works.

Hebrews 11:1

And faith [what you believe] is of things hoped for a confidence, of matters not seen a conviction, for in this were the elders testified of; by faith we understand the ages to have been prepared by a saying of God, in regard to the things seen not having come out of things appearing.

You could say it like this: WHAT YOU BELIEVE is a confidence of the things hoped for, a conviction of matters not seen. The Amplified translation says that what you believe is the substance of what you hope for and the evidence of the things you can't see. We believe the Word of God. The Word of God is the substance we use to create the things we hope for and it is the evidence of these things we have created that we can't see yet.

Seen things have become so real to some people that they have forgotten about the unseen. We live in a world of the natural. We rub shoulders with the physical day after day until the unseen realm seems unreal. We are almost tempted to believe it doesn't exist. But Paul said, For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. [2 Corinthians 4:17-18]

These words almost cause us to think the apostle Paul had lost his mind when he said, Look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. Paul is talking about unseen principles: the principles of God's Word which are actually spiritual law--spiritual forces that are unseen. These are eternal forces which always work when you set them in motion. In other words, if you're looking only at seen things, things of the

natural, then the affliction will not work an exceeding weight of glory in you: It will work only while you're looking at things which are not seen.

You must shift over into the realm of spiritual law and begin to look at things which are not seen with the natural eye. You look at things which are not seen with the eye of the spirit--the eye of faith. Notice again, it doesn't say ALL affliction will work a far exceeding weight of glory. No, it will only happen while you're looking at things which are not seen. Ask yourself the question: What are the things which are not seen?

If you're having financial problems and the bank statement comes back in the red ink, then the thing that is not seen is the bankbook balancing or your need being met. The thing seen is lack. Scripture is saying that pressure will work for you an exceeding eternal weight of glory if you will look at things that are not seen. It is actually the looking at the unseen that brings the glory, not the pressure of affliction.

This agrees with **Philippians 4:8: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**

In other words, get your mind off the problem and begin to think on the things that are not seen--the things you desire, the things you don't see with your physical eye. You must learn to see the answer by the eye of faith. The word temporal means 'subject to change'. Things you are seeing with the physical, natural eye are always subject to change through spiritual law.

So many times what we see with our physical eye does not agree with the Word of God, the promises of God. The world's system shapes the seen things around us. They seem to be very real, and they are real; but the Word of God says that they are subject to change! God's Word is the establishing force of the image of unseen things. We should not allow circumstances and the cares of life to create images within us. Take God's Word and change things that are seen--the things you don't desire--into things that you do desire.

WRONG ASSUMPTIONS: Words produce images inside us; but sometimes we get these images by making the wrong assumptions. It's like Aunt Suzie is going to pick you up at the motel and you're assuming she is in her grey Pontiac Grand Prix, but all you see is a gold Cadillac with this woman honking her horn at you. When you finally look at the woman in the Cadillac you see it's Aunt Suzie. You had an image of Aunt Suzie in the grey Pontiac Grand Prix. Because you were looking for that, you missed her. She had been right in front of you all the time, but you didn't pay any attention to it. You weren't expecting Aunt Suzie in a gold Cadillac. You made the wrong assumption.

Because we have not shaped the unseen within us, we miss it. We walk by it. We let it go. Sometimes God sets it before us; but because we've never shaped the image of the unseen within us, we keep pushing it out of the way, looking for something else. We're so wrapped up in what is seen that we fail to see the unseen.

CREATING RIGHT IMAGES: We need to recognize one thing: it is God's Word that will establish the image of the unseen within us. We should not allow circumstances or the cares of this life to create images within us. What the Word says should create the image. If you don't get rid of that image of looking at the seen, and produce another image inside you, then the afflictions of life will not work in you an eternal weight of glory. But they will if you're looking at the things that are not seen.

We should take God's Word and change the things that are seen--things we don't desire--into the things that we do desire. Someone said, 'I can plainly see my financial situation. I can plainly see the red ink on my bank statement.' Those are things you can see. The exceeding eternal weight of glory will be brought into place by looking at the unseen. Notice, it is not the affliction that brought glory, but concentrating on the unseen. The unseen is from the spirit world. Spiritual forces are released by God's Word being spoken.

Unseen things are shaped by the Word of God. You change the seen with God's Word. You shape the unseen by calling things that are not as though they were. [Romans 4:17] Faith is unseen. No, for God selected--deliberately chose--what in the world is foolish to put the wise to shame, and what the world calls weak to put the strong to shame. And God also

selected--deliberately chose--what in the world is lowborn and insignificant, and branded and treated with contempt, even the things that are nothing, that He might depose and bring to nothing the things that are. [1  
[Corinthians 1:27-28](#)]

God has chosen things that are not to bring to naught things that are! He is simply talking about things not revealed to the physical senses. Remember, faith is the substance, the raw material. Faith is giving substance to things hoped for, to what you desire and what is not yet manifested to the physical senses. Faith is the substance that God used to create the universe, and He transported that faith with His Words. God used His Words as containers to transport His faith out there into the vast nothingness, into the darkness. He said, 'Light be!' [[Genesis 1:3](#)] And light was! When there was nothing but darkness, God took the Word light and spoke it into existence. He took that which was not and brought to naught that which was!

In [Genesis 1:26-27](#) we are told that God created man in His own image and likeness. Therefore, man is capable of taking those things which are not and bringing to naught those things which are. He is capable of taking things that are not revealed to the physical senses and bringing to naught things that are revealed to the physical senses. Faith is the substance of things, but you can't see faith. Faith is a spiritual force. You can't see my faith. You can't see air. You can't feel it or hear it; so there must not be any there. Right? Wrong!

God chose the things that you couldn't see to bring to naught the things you could see. When you realize these laws work and you begin to work them, then you can supersede other laws. Jesus did. Jesus walked on WATER! How do you do that??? Jesus went from the middle of the lake to the shore on the other side in an instant! How do you do that??? Jesus divided up two fish and five loaves of bread and fed a multitude with basketfuls left over! How do you do that??? By using your FAITH to supersede natural laws. You don't supersede one law with another by violating God's laws. First, you have to find out how they work; then you have to cooperate with them. Operating according to God's laws causes you to be able to shape things that don't seem to be--the unseen--into a workable situation.

An excellent example of changing the seen and shaping the unseen is shown in the life of Abraham. **Romans 4:17: As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations, before him whom he believed, even God, who quickens the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were.** Notice, it is God and Abraham who are calling things that are not as though they were. God said, I have made thee a father of many nations. Abraham didn't have a child at that time, but the Bible says he believed God, and it was accounted unto him for righteousness.

This is the way you begin to change the seen and shape the unseen. Abraham called things which were not manifest in the natural realm as though they were--until they were! Abraham was the man who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations according to that which was spoken. He was 99 years old, and his wife was 90; but he was not weak in faith. He would not consider anything that contradicted what God had spoken.

Do you see what God did to bring about what He had spoken? **Genesis 17:5,15: Neither shall your name any more be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made you. And God said to Abraham, As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.**

God had promised Abraham something that was absolutely impossible in the natural. Abraham was too old, Sarah was too old; and God does not violate His laws. So God changed their names. Abraham means 'father of nations' and Sarah means 'mother of nations'. Every time Sarah stuck her head out the tent door and called 'Abraham!' he didn't hear 'Abraham'--he heard 'Father of nations'!

The Bible says that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. **[Romans 10:17]** God changed the seen and shaped the unseen for Abraham and Sarah by using their own voices. God's way of changing the seen and establishing the unseen is with words. Words produce images in your spirit and in your mind. The Bible says Sarah received faith to conceive seed. She did it by hearing God's Word for her. Abraham believed God, and he went about calling things that were not as though they were. This is the way you begin to shape the unseen.

**FAITH ALWAYS SEES:** You can see things in your spirit as well as with your natural eye. Faith always sees. Faith always knows. You don't see these things with the natural eye, but you perceive them in your spirit by discerning the Word of God by the Spirit of God within you.

Don't consider what you can see to be eternal. Don't consider what you can see to be established because the Word of God says things which are seen are temporal: they are subject to change by the Word of God and your faith! Sometimes you have to cast down your imagination. [2 Corinthians 10:5] The devil will use your imagination if you let him.

**RENEW YOUR MIND:** To get rid of what seems to be, you must get your mind and spirit so programmed with the Word of God that you will reject all the devil has to offer. Your spirit will scream--REJECT! REJECT! IT DOESN'T AGREE WITH GOD'S WORD! Then you will begin to shape the unseen by God's Word. Why should we walk in defeat when God's Word has already been spoken? God has already had His say on the subject. The problem is that some don't know what He has said, and that enables the devil to take advantage of them.

**SHUT YOUR MOUTH:** Sometimes if you're going to change the seen to the unseen, you have to shut your mouth. Don't start talking doubt and unbelief. If you're struggling with what you see, just don't say anything. You can't be speaking words of doubt and unbelief and words of faith at the same time. That's being double-minded and a double-minded man can expect nothing from the Lord.

**A TIME TO SPEAK. A TIME TO BE SILENT:** The Word of the Lord has been spoken. God's Word is out. God's Word is the final authority on any subject. To change the seen things, sometimes you must get your mouth in motion. There are other times, if you're going to change what is seen, you will have to practice the vocabulary of silence.

This is especially true in situations where Satan comes against you so strongly that you can't bring yourself to say the things that are positive or in line with the Word of God. The pressure is on, the circumstance is wild, and all that rises up within you is against what God says. You know if you say anything, it will be negative; so don't say anything. Be quiet before God because His Word has already been spoken. You have confessed it for weeks, but now it's time to be quiet.

Jairus is a good example of keeping quiet after confessing in faith. In the 5th chapter of Mark, verses 22 and 23, Jairus came to Jesus in behalf of his daughter. Jairus said, "...and she shall live. Those are his faith-filled words. He is building a faith image--shaping the unseen. He set the law of faith in motion with his words of faith. Follow Jesus, in verses 24-27, as He goes to Jairus' house and see how it worked.

Notice what was said of this woman. After spending all she had (indicating she may have been rich at one time) and suffering many things, she was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse. No doubt this woman had within her a 'grow worse' image. Many Christians have formed within themselves a 'grow worse' image. They never see themselves having any more than what they have had because of past experiences.

Perhaps they allowed fear to creep in and cause the circumstances to be as they are. Sometimes it is just a wrong decision they made that brought on the problems. Then the devil said, "These problems are happening because God is teaching you something." When they believed him, they received that 'grow worse' image as being from God the Father. Then they couldn't pray in faith.

That image held them in bondage for years because they were deceived by the evil one. All that time, God in His mercy would have loved to heal them or deliver them if they had released faith in God's deliverance.

God created this universe by speaking faith-filled words. Faith-filled words framed this world. The Word of God will frame your world also, if you will begin to speak it continually. That little woman with the issue of blood began to speak faith-filled words. She began to continually say that if she could only touch the hem of Jesus' garment, she would be made whole. She built faith in her heart and she took her healing when she touched the Lord's garment.

Remember Jairus? He's been waiting for Jesus to come to his house and heal his little girl when this woman interrupts their journey. While Jesus is still talking to this woman, bad news arrives for Jairus. The report is as bad as it gets--don't trouble Jesus anymore--there's nothing anyone can do now--your little girl is dead. Here is Jairus' opportunity to let the words he has spoken depart and let fear come. But he has already built a faith image

in himself by speaking that his little girl shall live.

As soon as Jesus heard the bad report, He turned to Jairus and said, 'Don't be afraid, only believe.' Now look at what Jairus said, '.....' NOT ONE WORD. Nothing! God will take the things that are not and bring to naught the things that are. There was Jairus. His little daughter was dead. But Jesus said, 'don't be afraid, only believe.'

Faith is the substance of things hoped for, or desired. Faith is the raw material, the spiritual raw material, from which things you desire are made. Fear is the opposite force of faith. It is the substance of things NOT desired. If you have fear, the thing you don't desire will come to pass.

Jairus didn't say anything. At this point, he took things he didn't say and brought to naught the things that were said. The word of faith had already been spoken: SHE SHALL LIVE. Jesus walked into that situation, and there was the little girl, dead. All the relatives were there, weeping and wailing, and He ran them all out.

LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF JESUS: She's not dead. She's asleep! Now wait a minute. She is dead, but Jesus said she's not. That sounds like a lie. But Jairus' words and his silence would not allow the death. Bad news was destroyed by silence. Jesus is talking and acting in Kingdom principles. We must get an understanding of this if we are going to operate on the same level of faith. He is talking things that are not and speaking as though they were.

What is Jesus doing? He is not trying to convince them she is alive. That would be a lie because, naturally speaking, she is dead. He is effecting something by what He's saying. He is highly developed in the God-kind of faith. Here is where some people are missing it. They say, 'I started saying certain things, and nothing happened. I said it four or five days and it didn't come to pass.' Keep saying. Keep speaking. You're shaping the unseen.

The first thing your words are doing is causing faith to come. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. You're really not going to effect anything until faith comes. Speaking words builds an image inside you. It's shaping the unseen. It all goes back to seed-time and harvest. Your words are like seeds: they will produce a harvest---WHEN FAITH COMES!



Jesus walked in and spoke to that dead girl, and she rose up! That was creative power flowing out His mouth because He was highly developed in Kingdom principles. This is the way Jesus ministered in the earth. On every occasion when He set out to change the seen, He absolutely would not talk about what was seen. He would not consider the thing that was seen as being permanent, only temporary. If we want the same results that Jesus got, then we must become as highly developed in the Kingdom principles as He was. He never waited for faith to come--it was always present with Him. You can hear it in His words.

Take for instance, in the **11th chapter of John**, when the runner came and told Jesus that Lazarus was sick. After hearing that, Jesus said: 'This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.' Jesus is speaking the end result. Jesus didn't see him dead. Jesus looked beyond the bad news, beyond human emotions. To all outward appearances, He simply ignored what was presently in existence and spoke the end results.

What is He doing? He is shaping the unseen before He changes the seen. Listen to His words: **Lazarus sleepeth. I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. Thy brother shall rise again. I am the resurrection. Though he were dead, yet shall he live.**

Jesus said that the ultimate end of this whole matter of sickness will not be death; the ultimate end of this whole matter will bring glory to God. It was the resurrection that brought the glory, not the sickness nor the death. Your words will change the seen and shape the unseen if you use these same principles of the Kingdom. You don't have to accept what you see now. You don't have to go through life with the things that are now seen, for things that are seen are temporal--they are subject to change!