

LET'S CLEAR UP THE CONFUSION ABOUT FAITH

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Faith—true faith—is more than a ‘belief’ in God.

- James 2:19
- Faith CHANGES things.
- True faith changes a person
- True faith changes a situation

Hebrews 11:1

- Faith brings our ‘hopes’ into reality.
- Faith becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for.
- Faith is the evidence required to prove what is still unseen.
- The dictionary defines faith as ‘a strong belief in God’.
- Simply put faith is what you believe.

Notice what faith ISN'T-----

- Faith is NOT ‘hope’.
- Hope lives in the soulish realm.
- Hope operates in the head: your thoughts and emotions.
- Hope never brings change.
- Hope never answers prayers.

It's FAITH that does that.

- Hebrews 11:3
- Faith has eyes to see into the invisible realm.
- Hope only sees in the natural realm.

Everything begins in the invisible realm and so it takes faith, that SEES in the invisible realm to bring our ‘hopes’ where they can be seen in this natural realm.

- Notice how faith works...
- And understand this: FAITH DOES WORK...
- And it works through our WORDS!

Hebrews 11:3 TPT

Faith empowers us to see that the universe was created and beautifully coordinated by the power of God's WORDS! He SPOKE! And the invisible realm gave birth to all that is seen!

- God spoke what He believed in His heart and everything you see in this natural world became the reality.
- He created this natural world with His words and that's how you create YOUR world—with the words spoken from what you believe in your heart.

Luke 6:45

- Pay attention to what this is telling us!
- It is out of the overflow of what you have put within your heart that will come out of your mouth!
- What's in your heart will be seen in your actions and heard in your words!

WHAT ELSE IS SEEN IN YOUR ACTIONS AND HEARD IN YOUR WORDS?!

- FAITH!

There are those folks who are hypocrites – pretenders –who act and talk differently than what is in their heart.

- But when the rubber meets the road...
- When troubles come...
- What they believe will come pouring out of their heart in their actions and their words.
- Lies have no stability.
- If you build your life on lies and pretensions, when storms come, your foundation will crumble and fall.
- The wise person will build on the truth of God's word.
- They will fill their heart with His truth.
- And when the storms come, out of their heart faith will roar into the storm and defeat it.

Mark 11:12-26

- Jesus noticed a leafy fig tree in the distance.
- The leaves told Him that there should be figs on the tree, because the figs start growing the same time as the leaves do.

- This incidence happened in early spring and any gardener would know that the fig tree that had leaves on it should have unripe figs on it, too.
- Jesus certainly knew this.
- He wanted to eat some of the unripe figs that should have been on the tree because the leaves were there.

Notice what Jesus did when He did not find any fruit on the tree.

- He SPOKE to it!
- See, the tree had spoken to Him—there were leaves on the tree and the figs appeared at the same time as the leaves.
- The fig tree told Jesus ‘Come, I have figs you can eat. They aren’t fully ripe, but they still taste like figs.’
- The fig tree lied to Jesus.
- Jesus responded by speaking to the fig tree.
- “No one will ever eat fruit from you again.” – You won’t lie to anyone else.
- And the disciples heard Him say this.

Pay attention to this!

- NOTHING HAPPENED TO THAT FIG TREE IN THAT INSTANT THAT THEY COULD **SEE**.
- They continued their journey to the temple.

Verse 15-19

- What was Jesus trying to teach the people by doing this?
- They had made a religion and a business out of the way God had established to have RELATIONSHIP with mankind again.
- Prayer is our communication with God.
- This temple was the place to come and fellowship, communicate and enjoy the presence of God.
- They had twisted it and perverted it into a place of no integrity—a mockery of everything that God had intended for it to be.
- Religion will do that...

Now, let’s learn what real faith is: verse 20-26

- This whole incidence was for the purpose of teaching us what real faith is and how to operate it!
- Jesus was not mad at the fig tree, He saw an opportunity to teach us about real faith.

- He knew His time in the earth was drawing to a close.
- He knew we needed a lesson in faith that we could study over and over until it overflowed from our hearts.

Pay attention to this!

- The fig tree withered from the roots up...
- It began in the unseen realm—under the earth...
- Then it broke through the unseen realm and into where folks could see it.
- The MOMENT Jesus SPOKE...
- The roots began to wither...
- Jesus SAW those roots withering the instant He spoke the words to that tree.
- Remember—faith has eyes!
- He saw it when no one else did!

Notice His response to their astonishment at the condition of the fig tree...

- Let the faith of God be in you!
- There is only one kind of faith.
- The kind of faith that sees what's not there as though it was there!
- God's faith and He's given every person a measure of His faith.
- It is up to us to develop it and grow up into the full measure of it.

Pay attention to this!

- How does faith work?
- YOU SPEAK!!!

Listen to the truth Jesus is telling us!

- If YOU, let's make this personal.
- If you will talk to your mountain
- If you will talk to your storm
- If you will talk to sickness and disease
- If you will talk to lack and poverty
- If you will command demons
- And tell them all what you want them to do...
- AND NOT DOUBT IN YOUR HEART, BUT SPEAK WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART..
- It will be done!
- IT WILL BE DONE!

Because 'IT WILL BE DONE', is the reason Jesus urges us to be bold in whatever we pray.

- Now THIS is where it gets confusing.
- Prayer.
- There are times we pray—we communicate with God
- And there are times that we SPEAK IN FAITH—to the mountain; to the storm; to the problem, etc.
- Jesus has given us His authority to speak into the earth.
- We are to enforce 'as it is in Heaven, so it is in Earth'.
- We do this by SPEAKING IN THE NAME OF JESUS.
- NOT! Praying, asking God to do something.
- He's already done everything—He gave Jesus and Jesus finished the task of redemption at Calvary.
- He's seated at the right hand of the Father, praying for us to walk in the truth of the Gospel.

All manner of prayer: this is communication with God

- Songs, Psalms, and Hymns
- Praying in the Spirit
- Praying in the understanding
- Listening for His voice
- Visions
- Dreams
- Intercession
- Decrees
- Declarations
- Petitions and requests
- All these are ways to communicate with God and He uses these ways to communicate with us.

These are personal and corporate, they are spiritual; and this is how we interact with God, but NOT how we deal with people and problems and earthly matters.

- This is where most folks get confused about 'prayer'.
- PRAYER IS WITH GOD; it deals with spiritual matters.
- SPEAKING TO THE MOUNTAIN is with people and problems; it deals with earthly matters.
- God has established ways of doing things.
- Prayer is communicating with Him in the spirit realm.
- Speaking to the mountain is how to have dominion in the earthly realm.

Examples of Prayer:

- We are called to pray for our government and all leaders so that we may live quiet and peace filled lives.
- Why don't we speak to them instead of praying?
- Because 1. We are told to pray for them. And 2. The times and seasons of nations are in the hands of God and we pray as we are led by Holy Spirit to pray for nations—trusting God's plans.
- We fellowship and interact with God through times of singing, dancing, celebrating with praise and worship music.
- In praying for people, we request that repentance be granted to them, that laborer's be sent across their paths; that their eyes of understanding would be opened and they would see and receive the truth of the Gospel.
- **YOU DO NOT PRAY AND ASK GOD TO HEAL SOMEONE.** He's already done that!
- Jesus expects you to lay your hands on the sick person and releasing your faith by speaking to their body, the disease, and commanding healing to come.
- Jesus said, "And they shall recover!"
- All the different manner of prayer is spiritual and connects us to God in the spirit realm.

Examples of Speaking:

- You speak to sickness and disease.
- You speak to the body.
- You speak to your finances.
- You speak to demons—but you don't listen to them—tell them to shut up.
- You speak to the wind and the waves; the natural elements.
- Any problem or situation that is earthly—you have the authority to speak to it, releasing your faith to bring change to the problem or situation.
- You do not have authority over humans.
- You must respect free will just as Father does.
- You are commanded to love humans and do good to them whether they be loved ones or enemies.

SPIRITUAL MATTERS REQUIRE ALL MANNER OF PRAYER.

EARTHLY MATTERS REQUIRE RELEASING FAITH THROUGH WORDS THAT ARE OVERFLOWING FROM YOUR HEART.

