

## Faith ...

***“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” (Hebrew 11:1)***

To live and achieve good things you need power and resources as a back up to do that. People they commonly depend on what they see around them; they use their senses to measure the things available at their hands. But that is not faith in God! Faith in God is to be certain of things even we do not see.

We see around us great things; high mountains, big falls, great seas and oceans, and sky with all the stars and galaxies. Those are great objects but God is greater than all; He is Almighty God. He is the one who created all those things. Therefore our faith should not be based on what we see but on the unseen, the Great Almighty God, The Creator of heaven and earth. ***“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)*** Therefore to live victoriously and to do great things we need to have faith in God who can do great things for us. To every one of us God has given a measure of faith and by this faith we live not depending on the physical things that we see. What we see is temporary, non-sufficient, of limited power, and after all is inadequate. Therefore we follow what God’s word says, ***“We live by faith not by sight.” (2 Corinthians 5:7)***

The Lord God gave us His One and only Son the Lord Jesus Christ, ***“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)*** Christ came to save us. He suffered and died for our sins on the cross. HE died for us to give us eternal life and to live a life and live it to the full. Therefore, ***“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrew 12:2)*** Faith is to fix our eyes on Jesus. Our faith will grow if we fix our eyes on Jesus and not on difficulties, trials, or unfavorable circumstances; because if we look and concentrate on such things our faith will be weakened and cannot stand in those events and we will sink down. But when we fix our eyes on Jesus the author and the perfecter of our faith we will be lifted up and would be able to overcome trials and achieve great things for God in our lives.

Against faith is doubt that will undermine our faith and hinder us from receiving God’s blessings. One time the Lord was walking on the water and Peter asked Him. ***“Lord, if it’s you, ” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.” “Come,” He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walk on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus reached out His hand and caught Him, “You of little faith,” He said, “Why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:28-31)*** Although it is impossible to walk on the water but Peter was able to do it because the Lord had said it to Him. But when

he looked to the wind, he was afraid and he started to sink down. The wind made him doubt, and doubt weakened his faith and lead him to fall, but thanks be to the Lord He was there to help him. Therefore when we fix our eyes on Jesus and on His power we are lifted up, but when we focus on other things we will fall down.

Faith is to trust God and to be certain of what we do not see. We need to trust God and His word even if you do not see. Let us read this event in the Bible that speaks about what happened after Jesus resurrection from the death and His appearance to His disciples. ***“Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the LORD!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails where, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it.” A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” Thomas said to Him, “My LORD and my God.” Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed: blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:24-29)*** Yes, that is true, ***“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”*** Doubts tears faith and makes us unable to receive God’s blessings.

When anyone pray and ask God for something he should not doubt. The word of God it tells us the following about the one who ask God for something and still there is doubt in his heart, ***“But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt because he who doubt is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double minded man, unstable in all he does.” (James 1:6-8)*** Doubt in the mind of man blocks God’s blessings to him. Our faith would be strengthened on relying confidently on the word of God that we listen. ***“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” (Romans 10:17)*** Therefore we read the Bible and listen to the word of God so that our faith will be supported and build up.

***My dear and beloved:*** We can ask the Lord, ***“Increase our faith,”*** and we can tell Him, ***“I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”*** God can do great things; miracles, healing, wonders and things we never think or imagine but we need to have faith to receive, ***“For nothing is impossible with God.” (Luke 1:37)*** As we agree to pray

***My prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and raised from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord increase my faith in you and in your word, I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief. Help me overcome doubts so I can receive what you have promised me. Thank you Lord, this is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.