

FL106 From Faith to Faith

Faith comes by hearing and hearing comes by the Word of God [Ro. 10:17] An entire generation heard the Word yet failed to enter the Promise Land [Nu. 14:22-23]. The writer of Hebrews declares that Israel heard but couldn't enter because they didn't mix faith with what they had heard [Heb. 4:2].

This is worth repeating: Faith comes by hearing the Word, but you must mix faith with what you hear, otherwise you cannot believe what you heard. That is, you must have some faith before you can believe the Word that brings faith. The following parable should help make this clear.

Before rural water, most homes got water from cisterns and shallow water wells. This was also before rural electricity. Sitting atop these cisterns and wells were hand-operated water pumps. You would hang a bucket on the pump's spout and pump the water by moving the pump handle up and down.

But I left something out. You had to have some water to prime these pumps. That is, you had to pour a little water into the pump before it would pull any water up from the well. However, after priming the pump, each downward push of the pump handle pulled water up from the well and into the bucket.

The operation of these pumps is like the operation of faith. Even as you need a little water to get more water, you need a little faith to get more faith. You can borrow a little water for a water pump, but you cannot borrow a little faith for your faith pump.

A Measure of Faith

Every human being enters this world having an innate "measure of faith" that primes their faith pumps: "For I say, ... to every man that is among you, ... God hath dealt to every man the (a) measure of faith" [Ro. 12:3]. ["The measure" should be "a measure" [G3358].

The Greek rendition of this word "measure" means "a limited portion." God embeds a measured portion of His Word within the soul of every newborn baby. This is the Word that gives each of us the faith that primes the faith pump. This measure is in your Bible, but it's also written on the tables of your heart.

In the following text, the Hebrew meanings of the words in bold print [symbols] explain how God gives every child his or her basic measure of faith.

We begin with nostrils. The Hebrew meaning is the nose or face. However, the Hebrew word appears as other English words, two of which are anger and wrath. These two words express emotions, i.e., passions.

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed** into his **nostrils** the **breath of life**; and man became a living soul [Ge 2:7].*

The word **breathed** means "to puff" and the word **breath** means "a puff." Thus, God "puffed a puff" of His breath into the passions of this body of dust.

"Breath of life" describes the puff that caused man to become a living soul. And, because our subject is a "measure of faith," this phrase relates to the doctrine that primes our faith pump.

This doctrine is the "Ten Commandments." God breathed the Ten Commandments into the man's passions, and you received your copy from father Adam. (In Bible Numerology, the number 10 represents a measure. See FL204 on this website.) Thus, the Ten Commandments gives each of us a "measure of faith" to prime our faith pumps.

From Source to Attitude

The Covenant of the Ten Commandments is the source of this measure. It comes "Standard Equipment" within the passions of every child. Even so, we need to know how the Commandments generate "a measure of faith." Let's read from John: "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" [1Jo 5:14-15].

Read that text again and notice that confidence [faith] comes by keeping the commandments and by doing the things that please God. The word "whatsoever" in 1Jo 5:15 is all-inclusive. This kind of faith is the uninhabited ability to believe.

Little children provide the best example of this faith. They can believe anything. A fat Santa can scoot up and down narrow chimneys and bunny rabbits can lay colored eggs. You name it, they can believe it. The only reason their faith doesn't become reality is because God didn't promise these fantasies in His Word.

The unbroken commandments within our hearts gave us this ability to believe. As we matured, however, we fell into sin. Sin is the transgression of the Law, i.e., the Ten Commandments [1Jo. 3:4].

But God restores our souls when He forgives our sins. We become as though we had never sinned. This enables us to believe God's promises. Yet this is not the faith that comes by hearing the Word of God [Ro. 10:17].

From Faith to Faith

Ro 1:17: *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from **faith** to **faith**: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

The 10 Commandments declare the righteousness of God. Break these and the conscience declares the unrighteousness of man. The man falls from righteousness into sin.

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However, repentance and forgiveness restores God's righteousness and the man is no longer a sinner. Man does not sin because he is a sinner; he is a sinner because he sins.

Having been forgiven, the spirit assumes the form it had before the "motions of sins" [Ro. 7:5] broke the 10 Commandments. He regains his ability to believe - God restores his innate "measure of faith."

Now the man can "go from" his innate faith "to the faith" that comes from the spoken and written Word. Thus, the man reveals God's righteousness a second time as he goes "from faith — to faith." To prevent confusion, let's call these faiths, the 1st faith and the 2nd faith.

Consider this. Without the ability to believe, you must have the 1st faith before you can have the 2nd faith. This is like saying, you must have money before you can purchase food for your stomach or gas for your car.

Faith before the Cross

We began this lesson by discussing how Israel couldn't enter the Promised Land because they didn't mix faith with what they had heard [Nu 14:22-23]. They didn't have any faith to mix. Read what Moses said to Israel at the end of their 40 years in the wilderness:

De 29:4: *Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.*

Israel could not believe because they had no faith. They had no faith because the blood of bulls and goats could not purge their consciences of sin [Heb 10:4]. They had faith as children, but lost it when they sinned. Thus, they lost their 1st faith, so they had no 2nd faith.

You may wonder why Caleb and Joshua had hearts to believe. These were 2 of the 10 spies Moses sent to spy out the land of Canaan. God restored their 1st faith the same way He restored Abram's 1st faith.

Ro 4:11: *And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which [he had yet] being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:*

God restored faith to Abram and many others, especially the Old Testament prophets. They had sinned at puberty like everyone else. The only way they could have had the spirit of Christ in them was for God to impute righteousness to them

[1Pe 1:11]. The short answer to how these and other bible characters had faith via the word "impute." This is true of all who believe before and after the Cross.

Impute shows up as "charge" and "reckon" in Hebrew and Greek sources. Think of imputing as charging or crediting an account. The LORD imputed righteousness to Abram's account because he believed God could and would raise the dead [Heb. 11:17-19].

From what we have learned, a man is unrighteous if his heart condemns him; he is righteous if his heart does not condemn him. Thus, righteousness is a "condition" and not "a work." Righteous is what you are, and not what you do or have done.

Faith after the Cross

All but a few chosen disciples in the Church in the Wilderness served God with defiled consciences, not having access to the atoning blood of the Lamb. They were the LORD's servants; we are the Lord's friends [Joh. 15:15].

They served the letter of the law; we serve the spirit of the law. They followed 10 Commandments; we follow two Commandments:

Mr 12:30: *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment.*

Mr 12:31: *And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

Now, this study explains the immense power of your 1st faith.

1Jo 5:14-15: *"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight"*

1Jo 3:22: *And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*

1Jo 5:14-15: *And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*