

Faith in Action Part 1

“1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. 2 For by it the elders obtained a good report. 3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. 4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh. 5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God. 6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. 7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith. 8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. 9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: 10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. 11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable. 13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. 17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: 19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” (Hebrews 11:1-19 KJV)

Hebrews 11:1 tells us the following: “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” In true faith there is complete trust and full hope and assurance on what we are waiting for. In sincere faith there is confidence in what has been said and promised by God even if we cannot see that thing in our eyes or it is incompatible to our senses. “2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.” (Hebrews 11:2 KJV) This is the criteria that the Lord is pleased with and the criteria that He used to commend His people. Those who have full confidence in God they will live their lives obediently knowing that their labor to live a life to please God is not in vain. Therefore on such people God put His trust and has confidence on them. Therefore you need from now on to start to obey God by obeying His Word that you read in the Bible and His voice to you.

“3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.” (Hebrews 11:3 KJV) When we know these facts and put it into practice knowing that God, the invisible, had created all things by His Word, and from Him come all the things that are in the world, then we can

have the sincere faith and live our lives to please God. Knowing these truths and put them into practice will protect us from the world’s temptation. We will not be enticed by worldly figures or people’s fame and power, because we would know that God is behind all things and from Him will come all what we need. **Therefore you need to build a healthy personal relationship with God, knowing clearly that the outcome of your life depend on how you faithfully maintain, keep, cherish and honor your relationship with God.**

“4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.” (Hebrews 11:4 KJV) Abel knew God in the right way and he honored and cherished that relationship. Abel recognized clearly that all what he had had been from God and therefore he did not fail to give God the best of the fat portion of his flock. Abel gave his firstfruits to God. Abel since he trusted in God he had the humble and the innocent heart who trusted in the Lord His God. Abel had a stable personality who did not need to fear or live in anxiety or doubt because he had a true faith and confident in the Lord that He is faithful and He will reward him for all his labor and hard work. **Those who have the faith of Abel are willing to give their lives, hearts and their firstfruits to God; in fact they are willing to give their best and everything they have to God.**

In contrary to Abel was his brother Cain who had a personality that did not trust God nor had confidence in the Lord. For Cain, worshipping God is a ritual thing. When he offered his sacrifice he did not offer it to honor God but just for the sake of the procedure and he did not give his firstfruits or his best to God. His jealousy and his anger against His brother were due to his lack of faith and confidence in the Lord. He was shaken when he saw somebody better than him. That led him to trust only himself, and being founding himself inadequate and less than his brother he found himself in front of only one way to win, and that way was to kill Abel and take him away from the scene. But that did not help him in his struggle because God who exists behind all things vindicated Abel because his faith commended him as righteous, for God saw his sacrifice when he gave his firstfruits as a reflection of the true and sincere faith that He had toward God. **Check yourself now by the Scripture, are you like Abel or you are like Cain and need to repent and amend your ways? Do you withhold your life, heart and firstfruits from God? Do you have envy and jealousy and use to fight with others who are better than you? Repent of all such and amend your ways so you will be saved.**

“5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” (Hebrews 11:5 KJV) Enoch did not experience death, for he had been taken from this life. Enoch lived a life that pleased God. The Word of God tells us that Enoch walked with God; that there was a friendship and intimacy with God. He agreed with God and shown faithfulness and holiness toward that relationship. *** You may say that is not a practical thing and it had happened only in the Bible that a man all of a sudden disappeared because God took him away. But be assured that the same thing will be happening when Jesus will come back to take us with Him to Heaven. When He will come we will be taken from this world. Suddenly we will disappear from the face of the earth and we will be taken by Jesus to be with Him and forever as had happened with Enoch. And you will have the same experience as Enoch if you make your mind today to live a life that pleases the Lord. * Therefore walk with the Lord, and move away from all evildoers and their wrong ways of life. Don’t imitate them or have a partnership with them. Do not do what they do so you will not suffer the harm they will suffer**

and the perilous end that they will have. * Instead walk with God and have a friendship with Jesus, obey His commands so you will find yourself with the Lord when He will come to take us.

“6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6 KJV) In order to please God we need to have faith, the obedient faith that God would please with, the faith that will enable us to believe He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him in order to find out His will and do to please God. **Faith is willingness to suffer and persevere for God. Faith is willingness to tolerate loneliness to fulfill the plan of God.** From now start to develop your faith and start to seek God to find out His will and do it in order to please Him.

“7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” (Hebrews 11:7 KJV) God warned Noah about the end of the widespread evil that was so prevalent at the time of Noah. God was grieving and unhappy even to the point that He was regretting that He created man. Man had gone so wicked and lived a filthy life far away from God. The same as it is going now all around the world, the people becoming wilder and in enmity toward God. The Lord warned Noah that He was about to send a flood to finish all the wicked practices that was on earth, but He would preserve the righteous and those who were obeying God. **Noah when received God’s warning moved and acted in holy fear and that fear promoted him to take action, and this what faith generates and works in our lives. Holy fear is to fear God and to revere Him. In holy fear God would become all in all, over all the aspects of life and over mans’ plans, desires and over every decision in his life.** Noah’s faith in God and his moving with fear worked out for him to listen to God’s instruction and obeyed His commands to build the ark of God to save himself and his family. The ark was a long term life project that Noah invested all his life and all what he had to achieve that project. He was clear minded and was not distracted by all the temptations in the world, but he put his focus on God and what the Lord instructed him to do and perform. The entire world died by the flood except Noah and his family, therefore he ***“became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”***

Hebrews 11:8 tells us the following: ***“8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.”*** When God called Abraham He told him the following: ***“1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:” (Genesis 12:1 KJV)*** Abraham was requested to leave behind the things that he was comfortable with; his country, his people and his father’s house, and to move to area that he did not know. Abraham responded in such a way because he had a sincere faith toward God. Abraham did not say to God show me the place then I will see and decide, but he trusted God and obeyed Him. **Many when God is calling them they will bargain with God, they will ask God show me first then I will follow you, or they will tell God give me first this or that after that I will follow you. This is bargaining and not a genuine faith. Some they think about God as a big shopping mall and they use Him and tell Him give me that and give me this. Others they say to God give me that or this first then I will give you back. This is not a genuine faith.** Abraham believed God and obeyed to do before seeing or receiving, ***“2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.” (Hebrews 11:2 KJV)***

Abraham, ***“9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:” (Hebrews 11:9 KJV)*** Faith is willingness to suffer and persevere for God. Abraham left his comfortable place of living and was willing to suffer for God. **Faith is willingness to tolerate loneliness to fulfill the plan of God.** There was a great plan of God to raise a nation and people who will carry His name and His plan of salvation to the whole universe. Abraham was the first one who was called so that this plan of God would be fulfilled. That required of Abraham to leave the comfort zone and suffer for God in loneliness and isolation from the world and from the atmosphere of what he used to be and enjoy living.

Abraham had a true and real faith in God, ***“10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.” (Hebrews 11:10 KJV)*** Abraham was looking forward to receive the things of God, the Heavenly dwelling and the Heavenly city that would be coming from above. Abraham lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, He taught his children to obey God and to live their lives in order to fulfill the call of God. ***“14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. 16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.” (Hebrews 11:14-16 KJV)*** Those people were able to obey God and follow Him because they were not looking for worldly things and the treasure of this world, but they were looking for things of Heavenly value, for they were seeking Heavenly country. **True faith in God is not the ambition to live in a modern and advanced country.** Some people they think faith in God would give them the right to bargain with God and request Him to fulfill what they have decided and what they had chosen, but that is not true faith. **Sincere faith is to comply with God’s call and move forward after Him where He called you and asked you to move and to be. Genuine faith is not that God would follow what you want, but you will follow what He had asked you to do and to be.**

God had promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation but till this time he didn’t have even children from Sarah, but the true faith in God enabled him and his wife Sarah to continue to walk with God. And this is what the Word of God tells us, ***“11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.” (Hebrews 11:11 KJV)*** Sarah was able to bear children not because she went to doctors and took medicine or some intervention had been done for her. But her faith in God enabled her to conceive because she considered God faithful; she believed and considered that God will not let her wait in vain. It is not wrong to go to doctors and take medicine, but we should keep in our minds that God is faithful and He will not forget us and leave us without fulfilling what He had promised to us. **Life calls us to have faith in God; trials and hardships in life call us to consider that God is faithful and He will not leave us without fulfilling His full plan for us.** That very reason was the initiative for the starting of the multiplication and the increase in the descendants of Abraham and to be in number as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore: ***“12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.” (Hebrews 11:12)***

“17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy

seed be called:” (Hebrews 11:17-18) By faith Abraham was able to give to God the things that He asked of him, his only son Isaac that he love. Although through Isaac the promise would be fulfilled but Abraham believed and obeyed God knowing and believing that even he may loss Isaac, but God is able to bring Isaac back even from the dead, ***“19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.” (Hebrews 11:19 KJV)***

My dear and beloved: “6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6 KJV) Traditional and ritual practices cannot replace the sincere faith that the Lord wants us to live and have. Such faith will be translated into truthful deeds, gracious Christian characters and living in an obedient life unto God

“13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.” (Hebrews 11:13) God had promised Abraham that He will make him a great nation and his name great. But when Abraham died, only he had Isaac, and when Isaac died he had only Jacob and when Jacob died he had only the twelve patriarchs. They were not yet a great nation but they obeyed and believed God that a day will come that He will fulfill what He had said in His Word to them. **That is a genuine faith, that you continue to believe and obey even you have not yet really receive. Your faith would enable you to trust God fully and makes you convinced that God sure will achieve to you what He had promised you. Today God is calling you to come out from your doubts and your lack of trust in God. He is calling you to consider your ways of life and to be reformed and transformed according to the will of God. He is calling you to come out from sins, despondency, backsliding and laziness and commit your life and cause to God to walk with him and be obedient to His Word and do what He wants you to do.**

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the encouraging message that I received from you, for I know that you Jesus had died for my sins on the cross so I would enjoy a life and life to the full in your presence. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Repent and renounce from all your sins. Renounce all the idols, the traditional and the religious practices that linked to your old life. Repent of your lack of faith and lack of trust in God. Repent of your non willingness to give your life, your heart and your firstfruits to God. Repent of your envy, jealousy, lust, immoralities and the rest of your worldliness and the works of the flesh in your life. Repent of your non willingness to suffer for Christ and go along His will and the plan that He had for you. Repent of your non willingness to commit yourself to do the good works that God had prepared for you to do. Repent of your lack of prayers and lack of reading God’s Word in the Bible. Repent of your yoke with the non believers, with many friends, and with the Media, News and games. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins

Lord I commit myself to come out from all the following idols, traditional and religious practices that are against your will and your plan _____. Lord I commit my life and my cause into your hand. O Lord build me up and guide me and nurture me to have a true and genuine faith in order for me to live a life pleasant to you. O Lord restore me to what you had called me to move and to be. Lord I commit myself to do the following good works that you had showed me to do for you and to serve you _____, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord, thank you for all my Brothers and Sisters who repented from their sins and had committed their lives to serve you; to live by faith in you and to do the good works that you had prepared for them to do. Lord protect them and provide all their needs. Lord do wonders and miracles in their lives, solve their problems and continue to guide them so they will continue to serve you.

Lord help us as a church and guide us with your Holy Spirit to continue to proclaim your Word and your will to the people. Lord we commit ourselves to live by faith and follow the style of life that you ordained for us to follow. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come to take us. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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