

## Faith In Action Part 5

***“29 By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.” (Hebrews 11:29 KJV)***

That was amazing thing what God did to His people and enabled them to pass the sea on dry land. It happened in this way, let us read:

***“1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, that they turn and encamp before Pihahiroth, between Migdol and the sea, over against Baalzephon: before it shall ye encamp by the sea. 3 For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in. 4 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so. 5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us? 6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him: 7 And he took six hundred chosen chariots, and all the chariots of Egypt, and captains over every one of them. 8 And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand. 9 But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh, and his horsemen, and his army, and overtook them encamping by the sea, beside Pihahiroth, before Baalzephon.” (Exodus 14:1-9 KJV)*** It was planned by the Lord that He will harden the heart of Pharaoh and will make him change his mind and follow the Israelites and in this way God will destroy him and will get victory over him and the army of the Egyptians. The Lord had explained to Moses that he will caused Pharaoh to follow and pursue the Israelites with his army. Moses being a leader, God explained to him that such thing He will do so Moses will get encouraged and impart that to the people. **Certain times the Lord will allow such events to happen and to come across your life; His Word explained that and His will allow it to happen in order for your faith to be nurtured and strengthened.**

The faith of the Israelites was tested on reality and was put in the display: ***“10 And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.” (Exodus 14:10 KJV)*** It is a different matter when you hear about such an experience, from when you really pass through it. There is a difference between when you hear about it and give your opinion, from being there in reality in it. The Israelites were elated to leave Egypt but they were frightened when Pharaoh and his army pursued them. They expressed the following to Moses their leader:

***“11 And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt? 12 Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.” (Exodus 14:11-12 KJV)*** The real situation and the hazard that God allowed His people to pass through was so important in order that what is deep in their hearts and inside them will be exposed to God and to themselves in order to be corrected and dealt with properly. Their frantic response and their desire to be backslidden and going back

was a defect in their faith that needed to be strengthened and built up to be enabled to face further life events, hardships and dangers in order for them to inherit the promised land. **God in many situations allow certain trials in your life in order to correct you, to strengthen your faith and to build you up training you to overcome hardships and trials in life.**

Paul and Barnabas said to the disciples: ***“22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.” (Acts 14:22 KJV)*** **Tribulations God shall allow in your life to test your faith and to see what kind of person you are, and to correct your faith and remove from it that aspect that God is not pleased with.**

Moses as man of faith did the same as Paul and Barnabas did to strengthen the Israelites at the edge of the Red Sea; ***“13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. 14 The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.” (Exodus 14:13-14 KJV)*** In the same way the message for today is to encourage you:

- A. Fear ye not:** Do not be afraid, you are not alone God is with you.
- B. Stand still:** Do not be shaken and intimidated to quit or to go back. Stand firm! Build up your faith in God; this is the moment that you need to rely fully on God.
- C. See the salvation of the LORD:** You will see the deliverance of the Lord. You will witness what God would do to save you from the trouble that you are facing today.
- D. The Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.** Your enemies you will never see them again: God will remove them away; those who are troubling you, you will not see them again.
- E. The Lord shall fight for you:** You don't need to trouble yourself. And you don't need to fight, the Lord Himself will fight for you.
- F. Ye shall hold your peace:** You need only to be still. What had been entrusted to you to do that what you need to achieve, other things are not your responsibility, God will be the one to handle and deal with the rest of the situation.

***“15 And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: 16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.” (Exodus 14:15-16 KJV)*** That was God's final instruction to the Israelites, ***“go forward”***. What was ahead of them they needed to do and to walk in the way that God was opening for them. **The same is for you, when things are beyond your perspective and power, you just need to move on with God's instructions and finally you will find yourself on the safe side without any enemy. Do you think that you can divide the Red Sea if God will not do that to you? Do you think that you can defeat the big enemy if God will not do it to you?**

Now we will move to another episode of faith in action: ***“30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.” (Hebrews 11:30 KJV)***

It is so amazing that the people of God were able to get a city like Jericho with high walls and strong gates without fighting and without breaking even one stone. They did it only by faith unto God and they expressed that faith as obedience to God's commands. We will read and

study how the events went forth and how God's people receive the victory, so that you can apply these lessons in your life:

*"13 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? 14 And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant? 15 And the captain of the LORD's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so. 1 Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. 2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour. 3 And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. 4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. 5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him." (Joshua 5:13-6:5 KJV)* What are the lessons that we can learn from what we read from the Scripture:

**1. God had no respect to man:** When Joshua asked the commander of the army of the Lord *"Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?"* His answer was as the following: *"Nay"*. God's Word to Joshua was simple, *"Nay"*, Therefore Joshua understood that God will not favor him over his enemies if he is not obedient to the Lord. **God is with you as long as you are with him, but if you disobey and forsake Him, He will also forsake you**, as when the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded and what he said when he went out to meet Asa, *"2 And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."* (2 Chronicles 15:2 KJV)

**2. God observe Holiness:** When Joshua met the commander of God's army, who was Jesus Christ, and asked him *"What saith my Lord unto his servant? 15 And the captain of the LORD's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so."* At that time taking off the sandals was sign of holiness and reverence to the presence of God. **But the message does not teach us to take off sandals when we worship God as way of holiness as some believers do practice. But the message does teach us that holiness is before service or ministry.** The Lord before spoke His message to Joshua He wanted Joshua to realize that holiness is so important to God before a man is qualified and enabled to serve God. **The same for you now, God shall use you effectively and you will see great miracles when you live holy life.**

**3. Nothing is impossible with God:** *"1 Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in."* (Joshua 6:1 KJV) It was impossible for them as army to penetrate the city easily or in short time. But God promised them to give them the city, *"2 And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour."* (Joshua 6:2 KJV) **Keep abiding with God and His Word, and His promises will flow smoothly in your life.**

**4. God's ways are not your ways:** The following is what God commanded and His arrangement to make the walls of the city to fall down, *"3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in."* (Joshua 6:3-5 KJV) God did not ask them to use arsenal and machines to demolish the walls. God instead used their faith in Him to make them witness a great miracle of God. God said, *"8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isaiah 55: 8-9 KJV) **Certain times you might stumble with your own ways and your own understanding, and this will block your ability to learn new things from God and how to manage your life and solve big problems with simple measures:** *"5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* (Proverbs 3:5-6 KJV)

**5. God chose the foolish things to shame the wise; God chose the weak things to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are:** **God will use things that you might not be at all thinking or confident that they can be helpful:** *"18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence."* (1 Corinthians 1:18-29) **God will always do that so that no man in his effort or power can boast over the Almighty God.**

**6. The Authority of God's Word:** Joshua and the rest of the Israelites trusted in the Word that they received from God for victory. **God's Word had authority and will accomplish what ordained for it to accomplish:** *"10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."* (Isaiah 55:10-11 KJV)

7. *There are careful and timetable instructions from God's Word that you need to follow carefully in order for you to receive and enjoy the victory:* Joshua and the Israelites were bound with God's timetable instructions that finally brought the walls of Jericho down to the ground as you can read in the following: *"6 And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD. 7 And he said unto the people, Pass on, and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on before the ark of the LORD. 8 And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them. 9 And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. 10 And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout. 11 So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp. 12 And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. 13 And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. 14 And the second day they compassed the city once, and returned into the camp: so they did six days. 15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times. 16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city. 17 And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. 18 And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. 19 But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD. 20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city."* (Joshua 6:6-20 KJV) **Your faithfulness to respond to timely instructions and abide with them, will secure that those blocking walls will fall down ahead of you, and will secure to you to go forth and receive what God had promised to you in His word.**

**My Dear and Beloved:** Faith is needed for you for the following reasons:

1. To cross hardships and difficulties.
2. To deal with and overcome your enemies.
3. To reach safely your destination that God had ordained for you to reach.
4. To reach safely your destination and to conquer what God had ordained for you to conquer.

As you receive Christ as Savior and Lord over your life, then you need to put your faith into action and translate it to full trust and reliance on Him. Put your faith into action and translate

it into holiness, obedience to timely instructions, and full trust and reliance on God's Word and direction. Let us pray ...

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that encouraged me so much to go on in life overcoming hardships and trials, defeating my enemies and to reach safely to where you are called me to be. Lord thank you for all the teaching, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received from you.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of your lack of faith and your lack of trust in God. Repent of your disobedience and your non willingness to listen and abide with God's instructions and His Word. Repent of doing your own will and plan. Repent of your lack of holiness and your lack of separation and dedication unto God. Repent of your lack of prayers and lack of reading God's Word in the Bible. Repent of your lack of service and ministry unto God. Lord I repent and renounce the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord build up my faith on your Word and commands so I can reach and achieve what you ordained for me to achieve. Lord I put my faith into action by pursuing holiness, abiding with your instructions and obeying fully your Word and trusting you that you will be the one to open seas ahead of me and to make walls fall down and enable me to reach and conquer what you had ordained for me to receive. Lord I ask you to help me to overcome the following trial and this hardship in my life \_\_\_\_\_. Lord rescue me from the following enemies \_\_\_\_\_. Lord uphold me with your grace and sustain me with good health, strength, faith and perseverance to continue to go on in serving you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord, thank you for all my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and are willing to go forward in obedience to your Word and instructions and acting in faith in you. Lord solve their problems, strengthen them, deliver them from their trials and hardships. Lord uphold them with your grace, provide their needs in their lives and make them good testimony to others to follow you.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to go after you where you wants us to move and do. Lord we commit ourselves to follow your instructions, and abide with your Word. Lord sustain us and help us to overcome the following trial \_\_\_\_\_, and help us Lord to overcome our struggle with the following enemies \_\_\_\_\_. Lord we commit ourselves to teach your Word and to live in holiness and to implement what we received in the lives of our families, children, the members and the workers of the church. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need to go and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant new 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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