

FAITH IS VITAL TO INTIMACY WITH GOD

■ FAITH IS VITAL TO A HAVING CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

- "BUT WHEN HE ASKS, HE MUST BELIEVE & NOT DOUBT, BECAUSE HE WHO DOUBTS 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."

- JAMES 1:6,7

- JAMES 2:21-26 ; HEBREWS 11:6

■ WHAT IS FAITH ?

- "NOW FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN. (NOW FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE.)

- HEBREWS 11:1

"Real faith is not hoping to get what you want, but accepting what God gives you."

- Adrian Rogers

" Faith is **knowing God**, and knowing that He is able to do what He says, and that He **will do it**."

- Henry Blackaby

* What God says in His word is the **truth** - not what you see or what you feel.

■ 3 STAGES OF FAITH:

1) LITTLE FAITH -- "I BELIEVE GOD CAN DO IT, BUT I'M NOT SURE HE WILL"

2) STRONG FAITH -- "I BELIEVE GOD CAN DO IT, AND I BELIEVE THAT HE WILL"

3) PERFECT FAITH -- "IT IS ALREADY DONE" (SUPERNATURAL FAITH)

■ WE HAVE NO FAITH OF OURSELVES -- IT IS ALL FROM GOD:

- "FOR IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED, THROUGH FAITH- AND THIS IS NOT FROM YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD."

--- EPHESIANS 2:8

- "THE APOSTLES SAID TO THE LORD, "INCREASE OUR FAITH". --- LUKE 17:5

- "LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR & PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH."

- HEBREWS 12:2

- PAUL HAD SUPERNATURAL FAITH & LOVE/ DEVOTION/ PASSION FOR GOD

- I TIMOTHY 1:14

- IT IS THE OBJECT OF OUR FAITH (JESUS) THAT BRINGS POWER TO OUR PRAYERS & OUR LIFE, NOT HOW MUCH FAITH WE HAVE:

- "HE REPLIED, "IF YOU HAVE FAITH AS SMALL AS A MUSTARD SEED, YOU CAN SAY TO THIS MULBERRY TREE, BE UPROOTED AND PLANTED IN THE SEA, AND IT WILL OBEY YOU."
- LUKE 17:6

- " HAVE FAITH IN GOD."
- MARK 11:22

- JESUS HAS POWER & AUTHORITY OVER EVERYTHING: - PSALM 24:1

- JOB 42:1,2 - I CHRON. 29:11-13 - MATT. 8:23-27 - MATT. 8:5-10 - LUKE 4:31-36

- POSSIBILITIES OF "BELIEVING PRAYER":

1. "BELIEVING BELIEVERS" CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS:

- "I TELL YOU THE TRUTH, IF ANYONE SAYS TO THIS MOUNTAIN, GO THROW YOURSELF INTO THE SEA, AND DOES NOT DOUBT IN HIS HEART BUT BELIEVES THAT WHAT HE SAYS WILL HAPPEN, IT WILL BE DONE FOR HIM. THEREFORE I TELL YOU, WHATEVER YOU ASK IN PRAYER (ACCORDING TO MY WILL), BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT, & IT WILL BE YOURS."
- MARK 11:23,24

(MOUNTAINS ARE THE INSURMOUNTABLE, IMPOSSIBLE THINGS IN OUR LIVES-- PROBLEMS, DIFFICULTIES, BAD HABITS, SIN,...)

* FOCUS ON GOD, THE MOUNTAIN-MOVER, NOT ON THE MOUNTAIN.

* YOU HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR FAITH IN GOD:

- LET YOUR ATTITUDE SHOW THAT YOU BELIEVE

- LET YOUR THOUGHTS SHOW THAT YOU BELIEVE

- LET YOUR ACTIONS SHOW THAT YOU BELIEVE (JAMES 2:21-26)

2. ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE:

- "IF YOU CAN ? SAID JESUS. EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE FOR HIM WHO BELIEVES."
- MARK 9:23,24

- "I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM (JESUS) WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH."
- PHILIPPIANS 4:13

- " IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER."
- MATTHEW 21:22

- YOU CANNOT PRAY & LIVE POWERFULLY BY FAITH UNLESS YOU KNOW GOD INTIMATELY & HAVE CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM.

- YOU NEED TO BE TUNED IN TO GOD AND HIS WILL IN ORDER TO PRAY AND LIVE POWERFULLY:

- **JAMES 5:16b** - YOU NEED TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD

- **JOHN 17:9-11, 20-23** - YOU NEED TO BE ONE WITH GOD

- “ AND I WILL DO WHATEVER YOU ASK IN MY NAME, SO THAT THE SON MAY BRING GLORY TO THE FATHER. YOU MAY ASK ME FOR ANYTHING IN MY NAME, AND I WILL DO IT.”
- **JOHN 14:13**

PRAYING IN JESUS NAME MEANS PRAYING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL & HIS HEART & HIS DESIRES, AND FOR THINGS HE PAID FOR AT THE CROSS.

- "THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US- WHATEVER WE ASK- WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM."
- **I JOHN 5:14,15**

- “ IN HIM AND THROUGH FAITH IN HIM (JESUS) WE MAY APPROACH GOD WITH FREEDOM AND CONFIDENCE.”
- **EPHESIANS 3:12**

- “THEREFORE, SINCE WE HAVE A GREAT HIGH PRIEST WHO HAS GONE THROUGH THE HEAVENS, JESUS THE SON OF GOD, LET US HOLD FIRMLY TO THE FAITH WE PROFESS... LET US THEN APPROACH THE THRONE OF GRACE WITH CONFIDENCE, SO THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND GRACE TO HELP US IN OUR TIME OF NEED.”
- **HEBREWS 4:14-16**

- “ WHAT I SAY, THAT WILL I BRING ABOUT; WHAT I PLAN, I WILL DO.”
ISAIAH 46:11 (GOD DOES WHAT HE SAYS HE'LL DO)

- PSALM 33:10,11 ; PROVERBS 21:30,31 ; PROVERBS 19:21

DO YOU LIVE BY SIGHT, BY SIGNS, BY SECURITY, BY FEELINGS, BY SENSES ?
OR DO YOU WALK WITH GOD BY FAITH THROUGH GOD'S GRACE ?
2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 (LIVE BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT)