



The Person – Lesson 4

A Lifestyle of Faith

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Read Hebrews 12; Genesis 12; Genesis 15

Faith must become a lifestyle for believers. The word of God is clear that without faith it is impossible to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). As a leader, God will call you to step out of your comfort zone and launch into the deep; go or do some things that may not be familiar. A leader should lead others by example, walking and living by faith according to the word of God.

In the Bible, Abraham was the Father of faith because he was willing to leave everything that was familiar, and his obedience was counted as righteous unto God. When you become a believer God gives you a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). Then it becomes your responsibility to build and practice using that faith. You can increase your faith in many ways:

- 1. Faith comes by hearing the word of God.** Just like you feed your physical body three or four times a day to sustain energy and life, the same is true for your spiritual body. Jesus said, *"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."* (Matthew 4:4, ESV) Therefore, the more you hear and read the Word, you are building yourself up and increasing your faith (Romans 10:17). Your faith grows every time you hear the Word of God.
- 2. Faith is built when you transform your mind.** Your mind can only be transformed by renewing it in the Word of God (Romans 12:2). As you read and study the Word you will begin to think differently. As your faith increases, you will begin to say what God says about situations because you have been renewing your mind. Your thoughts and actions will begin to line up with the Word of God, and the more this happened, the greater the transformation of your mind.

- 3. Speaking the word of God increases faith.** Back in the beginning of time, God spoke everything into existence (Genesis 1). As a child of God, you have that same ability to speak things forth by faith. The word of God is clear that when you have faith in God, you can have whatsoever you say (Matthew 11:22-23). Therefore, it is important that you speak forth the promises of God in His Word because they have the creative ability to form your circumstances and future.

- 4. Faith comes from intimacy with God.** It's impossible to have true faith without sharing intimacy with God. What is this intimacy? It is a closeness to the Lord that comes from yearning after Him. This kind of intimacy is a close personal bond, a communion. It comes when we desire the Lord more than anything else in this life. Because Enoch walked intimately with God, he was a man of faith (Hebrews 11:5).

- 5. Faith is developed over time.** When you plant a seed in the ground, over time it will begin to grow as you water it and give it sunlight. The same is true for developing faith. It will increase over time as you read the Word, transform your way of thinking, speak forth God's promises, and establish an intimate relationship with Him. Faith is a process.

- 6. Tests and trials will increase your faith.** Know that whatever struggles you go through in life, God will use them to increase your faith and trust in Him. These trials will develop your faith in God and cause you to be patient in the process. These circumstances will bring you to a place of maturity where your faith is not shaken (James 1:2-4). God does not want leaders who are like thermometers, with their emotions always going up and down. They allow their situations to determine their faith. God wants leaders who are like thermostats, with a faith that is sure and steady on the Word, regardless of circumstances. They are not moved by their tests and trials.

- 7. Faith can come through impartation.** The Bible is full of examples of spiritual gifts being imparted or given to others (Romans 1:11). By faith, the Apostle Paul laid handkerchiefs or aprons on the sick and the healing virtue from them healed diseases (Acts 19:11-12). You can receive an impartation just from being around a man or a woman of faith. You can also receive an impartation of faith when hands are laid upon you (2 Timothy 1:6).

Conclusion:

Faith in God must be the foundation of every believer's lifestyle in order to please Him (Hebrews 11:6). *Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?* 2 Corinthians 13:5, NIV

Reflect:

Rate your faith using 1 through 3; 1 being "low", 2 being "average", and 3 being "above average". Share your results.

- How often do you speak the word of God over your situations? What are you saying? *I believed; therefore I have spoken.* 2 Corinthians 4:13, NIV
- How often do you doubt God's promises for your life? Are you fully confident of God's promises in His Word? *[B]eing fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.* Romans 4:21, NIV