

Pillars of Faith: Tips for Building Strong Faith

By Seun Okikiola

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Introduction

On the 31st of December, 2011, at about 2:00PM, I was in the kitchen preparing my lunch while meditating on the events and achievements of the year, and dreaming of a better year ahead. It was less than a dozen hours into a new year. Suddenly, I heard a loud bang. It was as loud as a dynamite. I could feel the vibration of the foundation of my house.

Immediately, I rushed out to see what had just happened. As I approached the gate to get a better glimpse, I saw people running in a direction as they cried out with deep sorrow. I looked towards the direction people ran, and I beheld a large hip of rubble. A building under construction had just collapsed.

As I beheld the tragic sight, I recalled passing by the construction site a few days earlier and observing the frail looking pillars of this building under construction. The pillars were too weak to hold this duplex and that resulted in its collapse even before completion.

Unfortunately, at the time the building collapsed, there were a few construction workers at the site. One of the workers came out with a few bruises. Another worker had his leg amputated, while another was crushed to death. It was a tragic scene and a heavy loss.

However, as unpleasant as this incident may seem, it is a typical reflection of what happens to the faith of many believers today. Every believer's faith can be likened to a building. Just like a house has to be built, faith must be built. Just like pillars are required to support the building and keep it standing, certain things must be in place for a believer's faith to stand strong. These things are what I refer to as the pillars of faith.

The higher a building will rise, the stronger the pillars required. So also, the higher you intend to rise in life via faith, the stronger you must be as far as these pillars of faith are concerned. Just like the strength of the pillars of a building contributes to

the ability of the building to withstand destructive and violent wind storms, the strength of your pillars of faith contributes to the ability of your faith to withstand the tribulations, persecutions, trials, and pressures of this life.

In the unfortunate incident of the collapsed building, there were casualties. A life was lost, someone had an amputated leg, and another was badly injured. Just like the collapse of the building resulted in casualties, the collapse or failure of a person's faith can also result in casualties.

Destinies depend on your destiny. Some people will be unemployed or underemployed if you lack the faith to start that business. Some people will remain strugglers if you lack the faith to believe God for that ground breaking idea.

Some people will remain in sickness if you lack the faith for God's healing power. Some people will remain in the bondage of sin and end up going to hell if you lack enough faith to preach the gospel with the power of the Holy Spirit. That's why you cannot afford to have a faith that stands on weak pillars!

Just like the collapse of the building led to great loss of investment made by the owner, a failure of faith can result in great loss for a believer.

For instance, in Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar made a decree that everyone in his land must worship a golden image he built. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused because their faith in God was so strong. In Daniel 3:16-18, the bible says,

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

This was a statement of great faith. As a result of this faith, they were miraculously delivered, and ended up being promoted (Daniel 3:23-28, 30). If their faith was weak, they would have lost their lives and their place in Babylon.

Just like the pillars of a building are built, the pillars of faith must be built; and they must be built in partnership with the Holy Spirit because the Spirit of God is the custodian of all truth that pertains to the pillars of faith. John 16:13 says,

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth...

Even though I'll be sharing what the Spirit of God has revealed to me, you need the same Spirit in order to engage the revelations from this book in strengthening your faith.

Also, it is vital to note that these pillars of faith are classifications of several (scripture based) attributes that make up and build up faith. Just like a car with four wheels can be grounded in the absence of one wheel, a deficiency in one of the pillars of faith can ground a believer's faith and render it completely impotent.

The lack of knowledge on some of these pillars has exposed many believers to satanic attacks on their faith. They simply hold on to what they know about faith; yet their faith remains weak as a result of satanic attacks on the aspects of their faith which they are ignorant of. Their ignorance in these aspects of faith and their myopic view of faith, often times, makes their faith unable to deliver them from captivity.

Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

Isaiah 5:13

Friend, just like a balanced diet is essential for healthy growth and strength, a well rounded knowledge on faith is essential for your faith to grow into strong faith. I strongly believe that these pillars of faith, which have their roots in the Word of God, constitute a spiritually balanced diet that will aid your transition into the realm of strong faith.

As you read this book, I pray that you gain revelation that will fortify your inner man with strong faith, in Jesus Name. Amen!

Chapter One

Pillar of the Word

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

The first and primary pillar of faith is the Word of God. Faith entails an unshaken confidence in the ability of God, which is revealed to us via the Word of God. God's word is a perfect reflection of God.

The more you behold the Word of God, the more of God you know. The more of God you know, the more confident you are in God's ability. The more confident you are in God's ability, the stronger your faith becomes. And the stronger your faith becomes, the more victorious you become. In 1 John 5:4, the bible says,

...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Faith without God's word is fake. It is one thing to believe, it is another thing to have faith. The Word of God is what separates believe from faith. Faith is a summation of your believe and the Word; hence, faith is superior to believe.

If you want a car and you simply pray to God for a car, then that is believe. But if you want a car and you pray to God for a car based on what God's Word says about God's ability to provide a car, then that is faith. So God's Word is the foundation of faith.

In Romans 10:17, the bible talks about hearing twice. This is not by mistake. There are so many things that are heard, both with our physical ears and our spiritual ears.

Today everything and everyone is saying something. Even the stranger on the street can say something to you without seeing or noticing you, especially by his or her appearance. The events around us are saying something. The people we love are saying something. Our enemies are saying something. Our critics are saying something. Therefore, we hear so many things. Our mind is constantly bombarded by messages, many of which are ungodly.

However, out of all this messages, the only message that can result in faith is the message that is based on the Word of God. It is the things you hear, which have their root in the Word of God, that will result in faith. This is what Paul was saying in Romans 10:17.

KEY POINT

**FAITH ENTAILS AN UNSHAKEN CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF GOD,
WHICH IS REVEALED TO US VIA THE WORD OF GOD**

~**~

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Many of the things we hear diffuse faith. When you are constantly hearing things that relate to death, defeat, sorrow, calamity, failure, disgrace, shame, immorality, and so on, your faith will be fast extinguished.

But when you are constantly hearing God's word, anointed sermons, gospel songs, testimonies of God's faithfulness, teachings from the bible, and so on, your faith will be built up. That is because such things are according to the Word of God.

A typical illustration of this can be seen in Matthew 14:22-33, which says,

22 And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

23 And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

In this passage, Peter heard a word from Jesus, who is the Word of God in flesh (John 1:14). Faith was built up in Peter and he began to walk on water. But as he walked on water, he took his focus away from the (incarnate) Word of God and began to look at the violent wind. The wind was threatening, and it spoke words of fear into Peter's heart. Peter got a message of impossibility from the wind, even when a message of possibility had earlier come from God's Word. That instantly diluted his strong faith that made him to walk on water, and his faith became little faith.

Many believers today are sinking because they have become full of messages or words that have no root in the Word of God. By default, they are committed to

hearing things that are in alignment with every other thing except the Word of God.

If your faith must grow to become a great faith, you must develop the habit of silencing every word or message (especially in your heart) that is not according to the Word of God, and you must embark on an aggressive pursuit of words or messages that are in accordance with the word of God.

The Spoken and Written Word

Having established that faith is rooted in God's word, it is essential to note that the word of God to you could be spoken or written. The spoken word of God is what God communicates to your heart. The written word of God is what is written in the scriptures. Both the spoken and written word of God can produce great faith.

The spoken word of God can come to you via several means. God can speak to you via the audible voice, like he spoke to Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1-14) and Paul (Acts 9:3-16).

God can also speak to you in dreams like he spoke to Joseph (Matthew 2:19-20). He can speak to you via a vision, like he spoke to Peter (Acts 10:9-20). He can speak to you via prophecy, like he spoke to Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:1-7). And most importantly, He can speak to you via the inner voice of the Holy Spirit (John 16:13-15).

The written word of God is the bible. It is God's word, and carries the power of God. Hebrews 4:12 says,

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Even though the bible was written by men, it has its source from God. It was what God spoke, or what God laid in the hearts of men, that men wrote down (2 Timothy 3:16).

It is vital to note that both the spoken and written word of God carry equal power. As long as the spoken word is actually from God, it will deliver the same kind of result that the written word will deliver through faith.

How do you know, with certainty, when God is communicating with you via the spoken word?

By simply comparing what you hear with what is written. God is not an author of confusion. Whatever is said via the spoken word must be backed up in the written word of God, if it is actually from God. Once you are sure it is God speaking, and you are able to identify a scriptural anchor for what is being said, you can build your faith on it.

Friend, faith is a supernatural force. It commands the supernatural with the power of God; and the power of God is locked up in the word of God. Faith is the key via which you unlock that power of God from the scriptures, and release it into your situation. That's why the absence of God's word keep you at the level of believe, not faith. But the moment you engage God's word, you are automatically upgraded to the level of faith.

Have you ever noticed that you release energy when you speak? If you have not, try talking when you are physically exhausted. You will discover that talking causes energy to leave you.

This is a reflection of what happens when God speaks because you and I are made in God's image (Genesis 1:26). When God speaks, God's power is released. That

power is wrapped up in the Word of God, and your faith is what opens up the word for a release of God's power.

Friend, the Word of God is the vehicle for God's power. So if God is saying something to you via the spoken word or written word, engage your faith in releasing God's power in that word.

KEY POINT

FAITH IS THE KEY VIA WHICH YOU UNLOCK THAT POWER OF GOD FROM THE SCRIPTURES, AND RELEASE IT INTO YOUR SITUATION

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Processing the Word

Building faith will require that you process the word. Processing the word entails meditating on the word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit, in order to extract revelation. It is this revelation that fortifies your faith, and makes it stronger. 1 Corinthians 14:6 says,

Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

To profit means to increase, to improve, or to benefit. It is revelation from the Word that will profit your faith. If you want to become strong in faith, get committed to processing the Word of God to extract revelation from it.

Let me illustrate it using the food we eat. When you eat food, your digestive system processes it and extracts the nutrients in it. It is the nutrients that profit your body, and fortify it with energy and vitality.

The same is the case with the Word of God, which is spiritual food (Deuteronomy 8:3 and Job 23:12). When you meditate on the Word of God with the help of the Holy Spirit, you are engaging in a spiritual processing of the Word and you extract revelation. It is this revelation that fortifies your spirit man with faith, and builds your faith up until it becomes strong faith.

The stronger your faith, the greater the miracles it can deliver to you. The faith a person will need for healing from a headache cannot be compared to the faith the person will need for healing from cancer or HIV. If you are the type of person that has big dreams, you must have big faith to match your big dreams; otherwise, your dreams will remain dreams. That will not be your portion in Jesus Name!

In Joshua 1:8, God said to Joshua,

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

In other words, God was simply telling Joshua to speak the Word and meditate on the Word always. That will produce revelation, which will deliver prosperity and good success when acted upon. This is simply faith at work.

Also, in Psalm 1:1-3, the bible says,

1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

In this passage, the law is the word of God. How will meditation result in the kind of prosperity being talked about in verse 3 of Psalm 1? This can only happen by revelation, which is the by-product of meditation. Revelation is what will illuminate your path to success, enabling you to see it and walk in it. From today, I decree a release of revelation from God's word into your life in Jesus Name!

Promises and Instruction

The word of God comprises of promises and instructions. For every promise of God, there is an instruction from God. Attached to God's promises are instructions. Building your faith on the promise of God alone will result in dead faith.

If faith must come alive, you need to carefully seek out the instruction that is attached to the promise of God in the Word. The instructions in the word of God are meant to be acted on.

Let me illustrate this with an example from the bible.

Abraham was known as a man of great faith (Romans 4, Hebrews 11:8-19). However, when you carefully assess the Word of God to Abraham, you will see that it contained a promise and an instruction.

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:

2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 12:1-3

God promised to bless Abraham and make him a great nation. At the same time, God told him to leave his country, and his father's house. If Abraham failed to leave, the promise would not have materialized. Faith entails diligent obedience to divine instruction.

The problem with many believers is that they focus so much on the promises and forget the instructions attached to the promise. They memorize the promise, and go about quoting it, while they ignore the instructions that came with the promise. That is why their faith remains weak. You cannot build strong faith on the incomplete Word of God. If all you see when you read the scriptures are the promises of God, settle down and search for the instructions. If you still cannot find the instructions, ask the Holy Spirit to show you.

Sometimes, the word of God will just come to you as an instruction. A typical example is a situation in the passage below.

3 Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.

4 But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus.

5 Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him, No.

6 And he said unto them, Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes.

7 Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter, It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt his fisher's coat unto him, (for he was naked,) and did cast himself into the sea.

8 And the other disciples came in a little ship; (for they were not far from land, but as it were two hundred cubits,) dragging the net with fishes.

John 21:3-8

Here, there was no promise; only an instruction. Peter's obedience to the instruction, despite his earlier failed effort, was faith at work; and this resulted in a miraculous harvest.

Friend, when God's word comes to you as an instruction without a promise, it simply means that God is only keeping the promise for you to see it materialize after you have obeyed the instruction.

When God's word comes to you as a promise without an instruction, know that you must engage in a search for the instruction attached to the promise, if you really want to see the promise. Your obedience to God's instruction is the guaranty for the delivery of God's promise.

KEY POINT

FOR EVERY PROMISE OF GOD, THERE IS AN INSTRUCTION FROM GOD

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Faith from Anointed Sermons

God can also send His word to you via anointed sermons. An anointed sermon is a sermon that is gotten directly from the Holy Spirit, and delivered in the power of the Holy Spirit. If the sermon is from the preacher's intellect, and not from the Holy Spirit, there is no way it will be anointed and produce faith in the heart of the listener.

Paul was a man noted for heavily anointed teachings. A large portion of the New Testament was a product of Paul's anointed teachings. Today, hardly is there any full gospel church that would not make a reference to Paul's writings in a service.

However, Paul's secret was that he only preached what he had received from the Holy Spirit.

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you...

1 Corinthians 11:23

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures

1 Corinthians 15:3

For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:12

Paul was not like many preachers today who use their intellect and human wisdom to conjure sermons that end up being lifeless and void of power.

For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

1 Corinthians 1:17

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

1 Corinthians 2:13

You cannot stay under an anointed sermon and be void of faith. Faith comes alive because the power of God in the sermon gives supernatural life to faith.

No matter how dead a person's faith is, when a power packed sermon from the throne of grace is delivered, that person's faith resurrects and becomes capable of delivering the miraculous. Paul said,

4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

If your faith stands on the power of God, it will certainly be strong. Friend, it is the faith that stands on the power of God that can move mountains.

Let us see a typical illustration, from Paul's ministry, on how an anointed sermon preached by Paul led to faith that delivered a miracle for the listener.

8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

9 The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

10 Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

Acts 14:8-10

Here is a man who was crippled from birth. By simply listening to Paul's anointed sermon, faith arose and his long awaited healing came forth.

No matter how impossible that situation may seem to be, settle down with anointed sermons and teaching and you will see your faith grow into strong faith that is capable of delivering the miracle you desire. This is simply because an anointed sermon or teaching is a forerunner of the miraculous.

Chapter Two

Pillar of the Spirit

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:7-9

The Holy Spirit is fundamental in strong faith. Unfortunately, many believers engage the Holy Spirit in many aspects of their Christian walk, except faith. When you study the life of Stephen carefully, you will discover that he was full of the Holy Spirit and he was full of faith (Acts 6:3, 5). There is a positive correlation between the Holy Spirit and faith. You cannot be full of the Holy Spirit and be weak in faith.

That you were baptized in the Holy Spirit and you are speaking in tongues does not give you an automatic ticket to being full of the Holy Spirit. At the point of baptism, you are filled with the Holy Spirit just like it was for the disciples in Acts 2:4, and you speak in tongues. But it is one thing to be filled with the Holy Spirit and it is another thing to remain filled with the Holy Spirit.

On different occasions, the Spirit of God came upon King Saul.

And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.

1 Samuel 10:10

21 And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they prophesied likewise. And Saul sent messengers again the third time, and they prophesied also.

22 Then went he also to Ramah, and came to a great well that is in Sechu: and he asked and said, Where are Samuel and David? And one said, Behold, they be at Naioth in Ramah.

23 And he went thither to Naioth in Ramah: and the Spirit of God was upon him also, and he went on, and prophesied, until he came to Naioth in Ramah.

24 And he stripped off his clothes also, and prophesied before Samuel in like manner, and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Wherefore they say, Is Saul also among the prophets?

1 Samuel 19:21-24

When the Spirit of God came on King Saul, he began to prophesy. In Romans 12:6, the bible makes us to understand that prophecy and faith goes hand in hand. On both occasions, Saul prophesied so much that people wondered if he was a prophet. He was prophesying like the prophets because the Spirit of God that came upon him had elevated his level of faith to a level that matched that of the prophets.

But the fact that King Saul had such an experience did not mean that he retained that fullness of the Spirit, and the accompanying faith that comes with it. The same King Saul descended to the point where an evil spirit took him over (1 Samuel 16:14). There are many backslidden pastors who are not filled with the Holy Spirit and still speak in tongues because God's gifts are without repentance (Romans 11:29).

To remain full of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God has to be in complete command of your spirit, soul, and body on a daily basis. If you are not constantly and totally yielded to the Spirit, you can be baptized in the Holy Spirit but you cannot remain full of the Holy Spirit. And when you remain full of the Holy Spirit, you will find out that you are operating effortlessly in greater realms of faith.

When you study the life and ministry of the twelve disciples of Jesus, you will discover that before the Spirit came upon them, they were operating on weak faith

(Matthew 8:26, 14:31, 16:8). But when they became full of the Holy Spirit, they began to walk in mysterious realms of faith. Peter was catapulted to a realm of faith where he performed miracles by merely speaking (Acts 9:33-34, 40) and with his shadow (Acts 5:15). It takes strong faith to walk in such a realm.

KEY POINT

YOU CANNOT BE FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND BE WEAK IN FAITH

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Intermediation of Revelation by the Spirit

Revelation is a booster of faith. Nothing fuels your faith like revelation.

As a trained economist, I was taught that a bank plays an intermediation role in an economy. In other words, a bank serves as an intermediary between those who have surplus cash and those who have little or no cash. So those who have money deposit the money with the bank. And those who do not have money but need money to carry out a business transaction or to invest, go to the bank to borrow the surplus money that has been kept with the bank. This process is what we call financial intermediation.

The same way we have this process of financial intermediation, we also have something called “Revelation Intermediation”. It works exactly the same way financial intermediation works.

Just like the bank serves as the intermediary in financial intermediation, the Holy Spirit serves as an intermediary in revelation intermediation. Just like money is being transferred from those who have surplus to those who have little or no money, the Holy Spirit transfers revelation from the one who has surplus of it

(which is Jesus, who is revelation personified) to those who lack it or need it. Just like money (which is transferred in financial intermediation) is the currency we use to buy things in the natural realm, revelation (which is transferred in revelation intermediation) is the currency we use to acquire faith in the supernatural realm.

Now, how do I know that there is anything like revelation intermediation? What is the bible proof and truth that establishes this process of revelation intermediation?

In John 16:12-15, the bible says,

12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

So the Holy Spirit takes revelation from Jesus, and transmits it to you and I. When you know what Jesus knew, you can do what Jesus did. When you have a revelation of the mysteries that Jesus built His faith on, you will be able to build the kind of faith Jesus exhibited in the bible.

In John 14:12, Jesus said,

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

If you cannot walk in faith like Jesus did, how can you do the works that Jesus did, and even greater works? That is why you need the Holy Spirit to show you what Jesus knew so that you can do what Jesus did, and even more.

Ephesians 1:17 says,

[For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him

(Amplified Bible)

You cannot know God's mysteries and secrets and still operate on little faith.

Daniel 11:32b says,

but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Knowing the mysteries and the secrets of God is knowing God. In the natural realm, it is those who are physically strong that we refer to as strong. But in the supernatural, it is those who are strong in faith that are referred to as strong. That is because faith is the Commander-in-Chief of exploits.

Therefore, when you know God by virtue of the revelation of mysteries and secrets of God which are revealed by the Holy Spirit, you become strong in faith and exploits become your nature.

KEY POINT

FAITH IS THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF EXPLOITS

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The Gift of Faith

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Corinthians 12:6-11

Among the several gifts given by the Holy Spirit is the gift of faith. The gift of faith is given by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the body of Christ. If you need strong faith for the purpose of serving God, then you are a candidate for the gift of faith. If you need faith that can raise the dead, heal deadly diseases, cast out demons, and command the supernatural for the purpose and advancement of God's kingdom, then the gift of faith is right for you.

The gift of faith is not for personal profiting. It is not for you to put food on your table, or expensive clothes in your closet. It is not for you to get the latest cars or to command millions into your bank account. Rather, the gift of faith is for the profiting of the body of Christ. It is for ministerial service.

Like I earlier mentioned, the gift of faith is given by the Holy Spirit. It is also operated by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:11). In other words, the fact that you have the gift of faith does not mean you have what it takes to operate on your own. You still need the Holy Spirit to fuel the gift in order to see it work.

When you possess the gift of faith, and the Holy Spirit wants to perform a miracle through you, you will automatically find yourself in a position of great faith. Even if you are naturally a “*doubting Thomas*”, you will find yourself experiencing a sudden surge of faith that will propel you to do or say something that will cause the miracle to happen.

At that moment, it is like the Holy Spirit takes the faith of Jesus and pumps it into you. You cannot have the faith of Jesus for a moment and impossibility will mean anything to you at that moment.

How can you get the gift of faith?

First, you need to desire it. And that desire must be from a heart of love, which is another pillar of faith that I will be discussing. Remember, the gift of faith is primarily for the body of Christ. You cannot serve the body of Christ with the gift of faith without genuine love. That is why the desire for the gift of faith, like any other gift, must stem from a heart of love.

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

1 Corinthian 12:31

1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

1 Corinthian 13:1-2

After you have desired the gift of faith, with a heart of love, you must ask God for it. Asking is what moves God to acting. When you ask, God acts in line with your request.

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Matthew 7:7-11

KEY POINT

ASKING IS WHAT MOVES GOD TO ACTING

~**~

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The Spirit of Wisdom

And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD

Isaiah 11:2

Revelation births faith. But faith is made complete by action. Until you act based on the revelation you have, faith remains dormant.

Wisdom is the right application of knowledge. It is knowing what to do per time, based on what you know per time. Because revelation is a divine understanding that comes from God, you need a wisdom that is divine in order to apply the revelation to produce results.

You cannot utilize carnal wisdom in the application of divine revelation and expect to have a supernatural result. For the supernatural to occur, you need to match a revelation that is divine with wisdom that is divine.

Friend, although revelation causes faith to come alive, the wrong application of the revelation can render faith impotent. That is why divine wisdom is a fundamental part of faith.

Revelation will give you understanding of the mysteries of God that are hidden in the Word. Divine wisdom will cause you to walk in these mysteries in order to become a living mystery to your generation.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Proverbs 4:7-9

One way to access divine wisdom is via the Holy Spirit, who manifests as the Spirit of wisdom. It is the same Holy Spirit, who illuminates you with revelation, that you must rely on in order to know how to gainfully engage what is revealed in order to command what is desired.

When the Spirit of Wisdom begins to find expression in you, it gives you the ability to [divinely] know what to do about a situation, and it empowers you to do it. The Spirit of Wisdom opens you up to what God will have you do in order to command a miracle and the same Spirit of Wisdom endues you with the grace to do it.

Show me a man or woman operating with the Spirit of Wisdom, and I will show you a man or woman operating in great faith. That's because great faith and the Spirit of Wisdom go hand-in-hand.

KEY POINT

**YOU CANNOT UTILIZE CARNAL WISDOM IN THE APPLICATION OF
DIVINE REVELATION AND EXPECT TO HAVE A SUPERNATURAL
RESULT**

~::~

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Chapter Three

Pillar of Holiness

*20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,
21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

Jude 20-21

Faith and holiness go hand in hand. Without holiness, faith is diffused of power. Holiness is what retains and preserves the potency of your faith. You cannot be an entertainer of sin and expect that your faith will command results.

Faith in God must be established in an environment of holiness. As a matter of fact, holiness is a booster of faith. In the Amplified Bible, Jude 20 says,

But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher]

...

(Amplified Bible)

It is faith that stems from a life of holiness that causes you to make progress and advance, even in the midst of fierce opposition from the enemy. It is holy faith that causes a person to continually rise higher and higher beyond human expectation.

Friend, faith is a product of holiness. You cannot be unholy and expect to possess faith. Holy faith is not for sinners. It is not for the lukewarm fellow who is perpetually in and out of sin. It is for those who are committed to a life of holiness.

Sin corrupts. It corrupts faith. It is a virus that cripples faith. You might have been a man or woman of great faith. But the entrance of sin can corrupt your faith,

grounding it and making it impotent. Sin deflates great faith. It extracts the life and power in faith.

KEY POINT

**HOLINESS IS WHAT RETAINS AND PRESERVES THE POTENCY OF
YOUR FAITH**

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What is Holiness?

For you to understand the place of holiness, as a pillar of faith, you must first understand what holiness is really all about. Many people have misconceptions about holiness, and that's why they are not walking in it.

Some folks think it is all about having pure thoughts. Some think it is behaving in a godly manner. Some think it is all about praying and fasting every regularly. But holiness is much more than these things.

If one is not careful, one can have pure thoughts, behave in a godly manner, engage in regular prayer and fasting, and still live an unholy life. Many of the things we use in defining holiness are simply the results of holiness, and not holiness itself.

You cannot operate in what you lack knowledge of. If you are limited in your understanding of holiness, you will be limited in your walk in holiness. So, what is Holiness? What is God's definition of holiness?

In Leviticus 11:44, God said,

For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

To be holy means to be sanctified. To be sanctified means to be set apart unto God. In other words, it is belonging to God totally. Man is a triune being, with a spirit, soul, and body. So to be holy entails God owning your spirit, soul and body.

When God owns your spirit, he dwells in it through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, who is the seal of your redemption and divine ownership (Ephesians 1:13).

The soul comprises of the mind, the will, and the emotion. When God owns your soul, he owns your mind, your will and your emotions. Therefore, when God owns your will, your will becomes subject to God's will. God's will becomes your will, just like Jesus said in Luke 22:42b,

...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

Until you get to the point where you can proclaim and walk in the reality of God's will superseding yours, you cannot walk in holiness. Until you get to the point where God gives you a command and you obey, even though it makes no sense to you, you cannot claim to operate in holiness. This is what it entails when God own your will.

When God owns your emotions, God's emotions become your emotions. What makes God happy makes you happy. What makes God angry makes you angry. You cannot be happy with what makes God sad and claim to be holy. You cannot entertain what God detests and claim to be holy. God detests sin. If a sinful act makes you happy, you are not holy.

The body, which is the third part of the triune nature of man, must be owned by God for you to be set apart unto God and be holy. When God owns your body, you become conscious of the fact that your body must be well kept for the owner. As a woman, you cannot expose your body and delight in wearing dangerously revealing clothes, and still claim to be holy.

You cannot turn your body and your dressing into instruments of temptation and claim to be holy. If you find it difficult to dress in a way that reflects God, it simply means you have not yielded your body to God. And if you have not yielded your body to God, you cannot claim to walk in holiness.

If your body is yielded to God, you would not engage your body in sexual immorality. In 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, the bible says,

15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

So, in a nutshell, holiness is the constant and conscious effort of totally yielding your spirit, soul, and body to God.

How can a person live this life of holiness?

In order to live a life of holiness, you must note that it is God that makes a person holy.

12 Then the LORD said to Moses,

13 "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.

Exodus 31:12-13 (NIV)

In the King James Version, Exodus 31:13 says,

Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.

Like I earlier said, to be holy means to be sanctified. And from Exodus 31:13, it is obvious that it is God that sanctifies us and makes us holy.

How does God sanctify us and make us holy?

Through His Word. In John 17:17, Jesus said to God,

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

A commitment to a daily intake of God's word sets the pace for God to sanctify you by giving you the power to consciously and consistently yield your spirit, soul, and body to Him. The more of the word of God you take in, the easier it becomes for you to obey God. The more of the word of God you take in, the more you will find yourself hating what God hates and loving what God loves.

Friend, this is what holiness is about and this is how we can walk in holiness.

The Seed of Faith and the Fertile Ground

In Proverbs 4:23, the bible says,

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

The bible says this because the heart (which is the mind) is the gateway to a person's life. It is the word of God that sanctifies the mind. When the mind is sanctified, it becomes a fertile ground for the seed of faith, which is the word of God.

Every part of God's word sanctifies you (John 15:3; 17:17, Ephesians 5:26). But not every part of God's word is a seed of faith for you. If you need financial prosperity, not every scripture will serve as the seed of faith for prosperity. Most likely, the seeds of faith will be those parts of the scriptures that say something about God's ability to prosper you.

If you want an orange tree, plant an orange seed. So also, if you want faith that will bring healing, get the seed of faith for healing from God's word.

When the seed of faith comes forth, it must be planted on a fertile ground. The ground is your heart, and the fertility of the ground connotes the purity of the heart. It is a potent seed that is planted on a fertile ground that will germinate. So also, it is the seed of faith that is planted in a pure heart that will germinate.

God's word is potent enough to move any mountain. When you draw your seed of faith from the word of God, that seed is God's word and it can NEVER fail. In Psalms 138:2, the bible says,

I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

If God honors His word above ALL His names, you can imagine the capacity of the seed of faith.

Also, in Isaiah 55:10-11, the bible says,

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.

The seed of faith, which is also the word of God, carries God's guaranty. If God guaranties something, you can place all your confidence in it because God's guaranty is superior to the guaranty of the most powerful governments or banks.

Remember, the seed of faith is the scripture or the scriptures that address the particular area of your life or the situation in which you need faith.

As potent and powerful as the seed of faith is, it often fails to deliver because it is planted on infertile grounds. You cannot have a corrupt and pervert mind and expect that the seed of faith will germinate and bring forth result. You cannot turn your mind into a breeding ground for unholy thoughts and expect the seed of faith to grow.

The seed of faith is pure, and it requires a pure heart to grow. This is why many folks engage God's word and yet their faith remains weak. The problem is not with the word of God; the problem is with their heart.

KEY POINT

IF YOU WANT FAITH THAT WILL BRING HEALING, GET THE SEED OF
FAITH FOR HEALING FROM GOD'S WORD

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In Matthew 13, Jesus gave an interesting parable on the sower.

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Matthew 13:3-8

Until the Word of God fell on good ground, it could not bring forth fruit. Until the seed of faith falls on a heart that is void on corruption, perversion, and sin, it cannot bring forth results.

You might be wondering if it is possible to live with a pure heart in this day and age. Friend, it is possible. Living with a pure heart does not mean that negative thoughts would not come to your mind from time to time. The devil will always attempt to throw an unholy and ungodly thought into your heart from time to time. It is when you entertain those negative thoughts that the heart becomes corrupt.

When those unholy thoughts surface, rather than entertaining them and pondering on them, you must cast them out of your mind IMMEDIATELY. Do not allow it for a second. The moment it drops into your mind, cast it out! 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 says,

*3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*

When unholy thoughts surface in my heart, I cast them out in the Name of Jesus Christ and they obey. Sometimes, some of those thoughts are stubborn. After I have casted them out, they seem not to go. In such situations, I begin to speak in tongues. By the time I do this for ten to twenty minutes, those thoughts will be uprooted from my mind.

Unholy thoughts are like weed. If the seed of faith takes root in your heart and you begin to entertain unholy thoughts, they will starve the seed of faith to death. It is your responsibility to keep your heart fertile for the seed of faith to germinate and produce fruits. When you do this, the fruits of faith will certain come forth; and the fruits of faith are miracles.

KEY POINT

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP YOUR HEART FERTILE FOR THE SEED OF FAITH TO GERMINATE AND PRODUCE FRUITS

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Obedience to God

Although I have shared on this in Chapter One, it is essential that I share on this same issue from the perspective of holiness.

Obedience to God is the seal of holiness and the trigger of faith. Obedience to divine instruction shows God that you are really separated unto Him, and at the same time, obedience to divine instruction activates your faith.

It is when you obey God that He knows that He is your Lord and master. Just like we test people, God tests us. If you say you belong to God, and you claim to be set apart unto Him, God will give you instructions to test you. Holiness will demand that you obey God.

When you take a very close look at the life of Moses in the bible, you will discover that Moses was always receiving instructions from God and obeying them. In fact, if you read the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Number, and Deuteronomy, you will find less of stories about Moses and more of instructions that Moses received from God and obeyed.

Moses' obedience to God was the seal of his holiness. That's why God could appear to Moses (Exodus 33:12-23). Hebrews 12:14 says,

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord

Your obedience to God is the proof that you belong to God. If you are truly walking in obedience to God, you will have nothing to do with sin.

Obedience to God is also the trigger of faith. When I say ‘trigger of faith’, think about the trigger of a gun. Until the trigger is pulled, nothing happens. The gun remains inactive. But the moment the trigger is pulled, the gun performs its duty.

Until you obey God, faith will not perform its duty. But the moment you obey God, faith emits miracles. Miracles are the bullet, your faith is the gun, and your obedience to God’s instruction is the trigger. Do you want to see miracles? If you do, then pull the trigger by walking in total obedience to God.

KEY POINT

OBEDIENCE TO GOD IS THE SEAL OF HOLINESS AND THE TRIGGER OF FAITH

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Righteousness and Faith

Understanding how righteousness and faith work hand in hand is very vital to our faith. However, we must understand what righteousness is, and how it defers from holiness.

Righteousness means a state of right standing with God. It is a state in which God looks at you and sees you the way he sees Jesus. Righteousness is not by works, because righteousness by works is likened to filthy rags in God’s sight (Isaiah 64:6).

30 What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.

31 But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.

32 Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;

Romans 9:30-32

Righteousness is a product of the impartation of God's righteousness into you, by virtue of the death of Jesus Christ. Righteousness is a product of the swap you had with Jesus, when Jesus took your place as a sinner and you took Jesus' place as the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says,

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

This righteousness is received by faith and not by works. Romans 4:2-7 says,

2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

When you receive and begin to walk in the righteousness of God, doing what is right in the sight of God becomes easy and stress free. You will just find yourself doing that which is right in the sight of God, without much struggle.

The beauty about this is that faith is right in God's sight. So the righteousness of God which you received will cause you to 'stress freely' walk in faith, leading to an increase in faith. Therefore, faith produces righteousness; and righteousness in turn increases faith.

Chapter Four

Pillar of Prayer

13 Is anyone among you afflicted (ill-treated, suffering evil)? He should pray. Is anyone glad at heart? He should sing praise [to God].

14 Is anyone among you sick? He should call in the church elders (the spiritual guides). And they should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Lord's name.

15 And the prayer [that is] of faith will save him who is sick, and the Lord will restore him; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

16 Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart]. The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

James 5:13-16 (Amplified Bible)

Faith is man's attempt to provoke the release of God's power. God wants to release His power. He is always ready to release His power. In some cases, God goes ahead to release His power even without your faith. In such cases, God releases His power because He seeks to glorify Himself. For instance, in John 11:1-45, Jesus raised Lazarus despite the lack of faith that the people and Lazarus' sisters had. Jesus did this to glorify God.

However, in many cases, God would not release His power until you provoke Him to do so. Nothing provokes God like the prayer of faith. When you go to God with your request which has faith attached to it, God will be moved to answer you.

We find a typical example of this in the case of a Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:22-28, which says,

22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

If God doesn't move, you can move God through the prayer of faith. Praise be to God for this!

I do not have to wait for many years to get God to release his power to turn my situation around, like the man at the pool of Bethesda in John 5:2-9. I can move God to release His power like the woman of Canaan did, by engaging in prayer.

KEY POINT

FAITH IS MAN'S ATTEMPT TO PROVOKE THE RELEASE OF GOD'S POWER

~**~

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The Prayer of Faith

In order to pray the prayer of faith, you must first understand what prayer is.

There are so many definitions of prayer that have been given. However, I will like to define prayer as the channel via which you approach God for a dialogue. Many times, we approach prayer as a monologue. We get into God's presence, pour out our heart to God, and then walk out on God. We never take out time to listen to what God has to say.

Imagine going into the office of the President or Prime Minister of your country.

After going through all the protocol, will you just spend all the time talking and then walk out once you are done? Of course not! Unfortunately, that is what many folks do with God. They engage in a five minutes quickie with God and dash out, instead of spending some time to hear what God has to say.

From personal experience, I have discovered that I hear God more during and after prayer, than I do at any other time. Some of the break-through and life changing instructions and promises I have received from God came during or after sessions of intense prayer. If I was in a hurry to leave God's presence, I might have missed what God was saying to me at those times.

And what do you do when it seems God is not speaking? Wait on God!

And I will wait upon the LORD, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him.

Isaiah 8:17

Sometimes it will seem as though you cannot find God. It will seem as though God is hidden away somewhere. You pray and you do not seem to hear or feel God in any way. It seems your prayer is not going beyond your roof.

If you find yourself in such a situation, all you need to do is wait on God until he speaks and you hear. Stay right there. Continue with the worship, thanksgiving, and prayer until something happens. Just be a waiter that waits on God.

The duty of the waiter in the restaurant is to wait on you and attend to your needs until you are satisfied. In some cases, they wait on you until you are done and you make your payment to them. This is the same attitude you must engage in your prayer life. Pray and seek God's face until God moves. If God doesn't speak or move, don't move. Just keep waiting on Him.

Now that we have an idea of what prayer is, what is the prayer of faith?

The prayer of faith is a prayer that has the seed of faith attached to it. The seed of faith are the scriptures that address your area of need. They are scriptures that reveal God's mind and will, as it relates to the specific area of your life in which you need a miracle. If you want a baby, one of your seeds of faith will be Deuteronomy 7:14, which says,

Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

When you pray the prayer of faith, your seed(s) of faith become your strong reason why God must intervene in your situation, as you dialogue with God in prayer. If you are trusting God for a miracle, I suggest that you arm yourself with at least three seeds of faith from the scriptures, and utilize them as your strong reasons when you engage in prayer.

In Isaiah 41:21, the bible says,

Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.

Your seeds of faith are your strong reasons which you must present as you pray the prayer of faith. Many times, your seeds of faith will be promises from God. As you pray the prayer of faith, draw out those seeds of faith. Quote them out loud. As you do so, you remind God of His promises and you silence the devil.

A prayer of faith is a show of confidence in God's word, which God is bound to honor.

Another vital fact about the prayer of faith is that it must align with God's specific will for your life. Praying a prayer of faith outside God's will diffuses the power in the prayer of faith. 1 John 5:14-15 says,

14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

15 And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

The union of a prayer of faith and the (specific) will of God is so dynamic and potent. Nothing can stop it.

There is the general will of God and the specific will of God. The general will of God is found in the written word of God.

The specific will of God is God's agenda for your life. It comprises of things such as the profession God wants you to pursue, the wife or husband God wants you to marry, the decision God wants you to take concerning an investment, and so on. These are things that are specific to you. That is why they are the specific will of God. The specific will of God is revealed by the spoken word of God.

The prayer of faith draws from the written word of God, while the specific will of God draws from the spoken word of God. When the prayer of faith aligns with the

specific will of God, it simply means that the written word of God is aligning with the spoken word of God. When that happens, no devil can stop a manifestation.

KEY POINT

THE PRAYER OF FAITH IS A PRAYER THAT HAS THE SEED OF FAITH ATTACHED TO IT

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The Earnest Prayer of the Righteous

In the Amplified Bible, James 5:16b says,

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

Until something happens, never stop praying. Some preachers say that faith entails praying for a thing only once. They claim that when you pray for a thing more than once, it's a sign of a lack of faith.

If you are already operating at the level of great faith, this may work for you. But if you are still growing in faith, you might have to bombard heaven with prayers until you get an answer. James 5:17-18 says,

17 Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Elijah was a great prophet of God; but he had to pray for rain more than once. Sometimes, your persistence in prayer is what causes God's power to be released.

There are different kinds of prayers. There is the prayer of thanksgiving, prayer of faith, prayer of intercession, prayer of agreement, prayer of dedication, and so on.

Persistence in prayer could involve you praying for the same thing using different kinds of prayer. If you need God to provide you with a job, you can pray a prayer of faith. After a while, you get someone and you pray a prayer of agreement on the same thing. After a while, you begin to pray a prayer of thanksgiving in expectation of the job God is going to provide. By so doing, you are persistent in prayer while praying different types of prayer for the same thing.

However, being persistent in prayer without being righteous amounts to an effort in futility. Friend, it is earnest prayer of the righteous that provokes a release of God's power; not the earnest prayer of the unrighteous.

To be righteous is to be in right standing with God. To be in right standing with God entails living your life in accordance with the will of God, both spoken and written. This is so crucial because the capacity of your faith is limited outside God's will.

One way via which many folks fail to live a life of righteousness is in their life pursuits. For instance, if God has told you that His will is for you to be in business, and you are in Politics, you are not in right standing with God. No matter how much faith you claim to have, you shouldn't expect any miracle to happen.

Also, if God's will is for you to do a job in a particular way, and you are doing it in another way, you are not in right standing with God. Hence, no matter how much you pray and how much faith you claim to possess, you shouldn't expect the wonders of faith to be made manifest.

Faith is the pipe with which you draw on God's miraculous power. However, if you are not positioned according to God's will, you cannot draw anything from God with your faith. If you are still dabbling with sin, faith cannot yield its precious fruits in your life.

The earnest prayer of the righteous man makes tremendous power available because the earnest prayer builds up faith, and his righteousness (right standing with God) enables him to draw tremendous power, making it available for miracles.

Praying in Tongues

Paul was a man of great faith. However, one major secret of Paul was that he spent a lot of time praying in the Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 14:18, Paul said,

I thank God that I speak in [strange] tongues (languages) more than any of you or all of you put together

(Amplified Bible)

In other words, if you combine the prayer in tongues that was done by all the members of the Church in Corinth, it could not match that of Paul. Little wonder Paul got to the level where God began to do special miracles through the hands of Paul (Acts 19:11).

One of the mysteries of praying in tongues is that it quenches all fear and doubt. It stirs up the giant in you, which is the Spirit of God. When the Spirit of God is arisen as you pray in tongues, there is an unusual boldness and faith that comes upon you.

When you study the kind of faith Paul operated in, you will realize that Paul's faith was completely void of doubt. In Acts 20:7-12, we find an interesting episode in Paul's ministry that illustrates this.

7 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

8 And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.

9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep sleep: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up dead.

10 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his life is in him.

11 When he therefore was come up again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.

12 And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted.

Acts 20:7-12

Spending quality time praying in the Spirit causes you to be in the Spirit. Paul was so much in the Spirit that when he embraced the dead body of Eutychus, he supernaturally knew that Eutychus will arise from the dead. He heard it from the Spirit because he had a live connection with the Spirit.

After Paul said that, he went on with his ministration without even giving a thought to the situation on ground. He was so certain that the dead man will rise, and the dead man rose. This is an unshaken faith.

Many folks in such a situation would definitely not be able to cope, or continue with such a ministration, as a result of the doubts and fear that the devil will throw at them. But Paul, who spent quality time praying in tongues, lived in the Spirit and not in the flesh; hence, all fear and doubt were naturally starved to death.

From personal experience, I have learnt to reserve some prayer requests that I have until I get to a point where the Spirit of God is stirred up within me via praying in tongues. If I need a miracle in a certain area, I don't just ask God casually. If I do, God will certainly hear. But my faith may be limited and incapable of receiving the answer.

So, I wait till my prayer time. Sometimes, I would have prayed in tongues for over thirty minutes before I begin to present those requests to God. At that point, I'm so charged up with faith that my requests go before God without an iota of doubt, and I see answers.

Mark 11:23-24 says,

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Friend, if your faith is weak at a time when you need great faith, do yourself the favor of investing quality time in praying in tongues. This will elevate you from your natural faith (which is weak) to a supernatural faith that is conferred by the Spirit of God.

Another mystery of praying in tongues is found in 1 Corinthians 14:2, which says,

For one who speaks in an [unknown] tongue speaks not to men but to God, for no one understands or catches his meaning, because in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the understanding]

(Amplified Bible)

When you pray in tongues, it is the Holy Spirit praying through you, as you pray to God. God the Father sees and hears you praying as you pray in tongues, but God the Holy Spirit is the one praying through you.

This is amazing!

It is so amazing because God the Holy Spirit knows exactly what you would say and how you would say it in order to move God the Father. The Holy Spirit knows the exact words that will turn God's full attention on you. The Holy Spirit knows the manner in which you will say it, that will make God vow to intervene in your situation. So the Holy Spirit utters these things through you as you pray, and things begin to take place in the realm of the spirit.

Although you might not understand the meaning of what you are saying (1 Corinthians 14:14), God the Father understands and responds to what you say in tongues by virtue of the utterance of the Holy Spirit.

Fasting and Faith

Fasting is a booster of faith. True fasting results in a faith that is strengthened.

A genuine fast focuses your attention of God. A genuine fast sets your attention on the almighty. Waiting on the Lord can be likened to a waiter who waits on you in a restaurant. The waiter's focus is on you. The waiter is very attentive to you. When you speak, the waiter pays careful attention. If you do not speak, the waiter must keep waiting. This is the same thing with fasting.

Fasting tunes your spirit man to God, waiting upon him. When that happens, especially when you are fasting concerning a certain situation, God will begin to speak. Divine revelations will begin to flow.

Isaiah 58:6-8 says,

6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

Among several things, light is symbolic of revelation. Therefore, fasting delivers revelation that will cause you to manifest the glory of God.

As you pick up these revelations and instructions, and execute them, miracles begin to occur.

Another thing fasting does is that it unlocks the power of God that is resident in you. Faith is the channel via which God's power is manifested. Anything that causes the power of God to be released in or through you is a booster of faith.

Fasting causes the power of God to be released; hence, it is a booster of faith.

In Luke 4:1, the bible makes us understand that Jesus was full of the Holy Ghost. However, until he went on a fast, he did not operate in the power of God. He was only full of the Holy Ghost.

*1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan,
and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,
2 Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did
eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.*

Luke 4:1-2

But after Jesus completed the fast, Luke 4:14 says,

*And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and
there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.*

Many Christians are full of the Holy Spirit; but only few are operating in the power of the Spirit. This situation is likened to having a coconut that is still in its husk. Until I take off the husk and crack the coconut, I cannot eat and enjoy the coconut.

The Holy Spirit is the container of God's power. But until you engage in fasting, the power of God cannot be released. This is the simple explanation of the reason why many Christians today are receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit, yet today's Church remains a shadow of the early Church when it comes to the demonstration of the Spirit and power.

KEY POINT

FASTING UNLOCKS THE POWER OF GOD THAT IS RESIDENT IN YOU

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Realizing Prophecies and Promises through Prayer

Often times, God gives us prophecies or promises. Sometimes he tells us directly. Sometimes, he sends his servants or prophets to us. Whichever way God decided to communicate a promise or prophesy to you, it is important that you know that those promises and prophecies would not drop on your laps so cheaply.

Very often, you will have to wage war in prayers for them to become a reality. In 1 Timothy 6:12, Paul said to Timothy,

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Timothy had a calling to eternal life; yet, without the good fight of faith, he would miss it.

Friend, waging war in prayer is the fight of faith you must engage in order to turn prophecies and promises into reality. Until you pray those promises and prophecies into reality, your faith may be starved of the life it needs to deliver what God has spoken. You need to call those prophecies and promises forth through prayer.

Why is this so essential?

Friend, this is very vital because the moment God gives you a prophesy or promise, the devil and his agents begin to plan on how to shortchange you of what God has spoken. They will fight violently to resist the fulfillment of what God has spoken concerning you.

In Matthew 11:12-13, Jesus said,

***12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.
13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John.***

In other words, before John the Baptist came on the scene, there were a lot of prophecies that had come forth.

The prophecies were to be fulfilled from the days of John the Baptist, whose assignment entailed preaching on the kingdom of heaven (see Matthew 3:1-2).

However, it was at that time when the prophecies were to start materializing that the violence began. The devil saw it and began to resist violently. That is why laying hold of what has been prophesied does not require gentleness. It does not require calmness. Rather, it requires violence in the place of prayer.

God promised the children of Israel the land of Canaan. Yet they had to pray, with a vow, in order to conquer their enemy and possess what God had promised them (Numbers 21:1-3).

Chapter Five

Pillar of Assurance

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 10:19-22

Show me a faith that lacks assurance and I will show you a faith that is bound to die. Assurance is the backbone of faith. What you are not sure of is bound to elude you.

When the natural (situation and circumstance) contradicts the super natural (God's word, promises, and prophecies), assurance is what keeps your faith strong enough to defy the natural and lay hold on supernatural.

When you have an assurance, you have confidence. It is a certainty in the ability of God to perform that which He has spoken. An assurance is an unshaken confidence in the ability of God. When you have the full assurance of faith, you become obsessed with the knowledge of God's competence and omnipotence. You take your focus away from the situation you might be going through, and you focus on the almightiness of God and His ability to turn around that situation.

Ephesians 3:20 says,

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us

When you possess assurance, you rejoice in the bigness of your God. Abraham is a good example of this. Romans 4:19-21 says,

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Abraham did not consider his physical state, or the womb of Sarah. Rather, he was fully persuaded that God will deliver on His promise. This is assurance actively at work.

Friend, it is important that I point out the fact that assurance will take you to the point where you are so focused on God and His ability, that you stick with God and your faith remains unwavering irrespective of the outcome of the situation you are faced with.

In other word, assurance terminates doubts. Doubt is a virus that kills faith and assurance is the anti-virus that renders doubt impotent and causes your faith not to waver.

KEY POINT

ASSURANCE TERMINATES DOUBT

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The Unshakable Faith

Assurance does not waver, and it makes your faith unshakable.

Assurance is an unwavering faith which places the ability of God to deal with a situation above the will of God to deal with a situation. In other words, assurance causes faith to be unwavering by rejoicing and boasting in the omnipotence of God while allowing the will of God to be done.

An excellent example of this can be found in Daniel 3. King Nebuchadnezzar had erected an image of gold. He invited leaders in kingdom for the dedication of the image, and an instruction was given for everyone present to bow down and worship the image. Those who did not would be thrown into a burning fiery furnace.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego were present, but they refused to bow down. When King Nebuchadnezzar approached them on this matter, they said,

16 O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Daniel 3:16-18

Friend, this is a statement of assurance and unshaken faith. Not even death could cause their faith to shake as a result of their assurance.

Friend, assurance places the ability of God above the will of God because of the knowledge of God's goodness. A man operating with an assurance of faith is

unwavering in faith because he is sure of the fact that God's decision not to answer his request is for good.

In other words, he lives with the knowledge of the fact that if God fails to grant his request, God did so because not granting the man's request is good for the man.

A legend of faith and my teacher in the school of faith always says, "*even if God stops answering my prayers, I will not stop following Him.*" [Paraphrased].

This is a statement that reflects an assurance of faith, which places the ability of God above the will of God. You cannot have such an assurance of faith and be shaken in faith. Never!

Your backbone plays a fundamental role in your ability to stand upright without shaking. So also, assurance plays a fundamental role in your ability to stand in faith without shaking. This is the reason why assurance is the backbone of faith.

The Evidence of the Unseen

Assurance is the bridge on which faith rides from the spiritual to the physical.

Hebrews 11:1 says,

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Faith always starts from the spiritual (the Word of God) and ends in the physical manifestation. Assurance is what will cause the man or woman of faith to lay hold on the evidence that will birth the miracle. The evidence is the proof of the miracle

you are having faith for. You cannot have an evidence for something you lack assurance of. Your assurance will certainly produce evidence, and then miracle.

For instance, if you are having faith for a car and your faith has gotten to the level of assurance, you will have no doubt that the car is coming. Then you will begin to gather evidence of the coming car by buying some car accessories even though you've not seen the car. Those car accessories are your evidence of the coming car.

In the Amplified Bible, Hebrews 11:1 says,

NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

(Amplified Bible)

Friend, evidence is tangible. It can be sensed. Evidence shows God that you have faith. It provokes the hand of God to move on your behalf. Although there are several evidences that can be engaged depending on the situation you find yourself and what you are having faith for, there is one evidence that surpasses all other evidences. That evidence is praise.

Praise is universal evidence because it can be applied to all situations. A woman who believes God for the fruit of the womb can engage praise as evidence. A brother who believes God for a car can engage praise as evidence. A graduate who believes God for a job can engage praise as evidence.

Celebrating the ability of God and the on-coming miracle via praise is evidence which clearly shows God your faith and provokes the release of the miracle you desire.

Friend, if the miracle is delaying, just keep praising God.

One of the reasons why praise is so powerful, and cannot be compared to other evidences you might think of, is the fact that God dwells in praise. No other evidence has God dwelling in it. Psalm 22:3 says,

But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

Because God dwells in praise, when you engage praise as the evidence of your faith, you are literally bringing God's presence down into your situation. All of a sudden, you will discover that your situation becomes God's situation, because God will begin to deal with the situation by himself.

A typical illustration of this is in 2 Chronicles 20, where Judah was besieged and about to be attacked by its enemy. King Jehoshaphat was afraid and sought the face of God concerning the matter. After he had sought the Lord and God assured him of divine backing, 2 Chronicles 20:18-24 says,

18 And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

19 And the Levites, of the children of the Kohathites, and of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the LORD God of Israel with a loud voice on high.

20 And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

21 And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.

22 And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

23 For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

24 And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

By virtue of their praise, God took the matter personal and the children of Judah didn't have to fight. God might have given you a promise that is yet to be fulfilled, even after holding on in faith for years. You might have even tried something in order to hasten the fulfillment of what God promised, and yet that promise of God is still pending.

If this is the case with you, stop engaging your own effort and start engaging praise. Praise God with all your heart. When the devil stirs doubt and you just feel like giving up hope for that promise of God, just look for a place where you can be alone and begin to praise God.

Your tears are evidences of doubt, which the devil is interested in. But your praise is the evidence of faith which God is interested in.

Another reason why praise is such a powerful evidence is that it silences the devil. If you have an asset and you are questioned about it, you bring out the evidence. That will make people believe.

However, in the world of faith, there are times when you show forth your evidences and devil will still question them via doubts. Praise is the only evidence that renders the devil powerless and unable to question further. When your mouth is full of praise, especially praises of God's ability to answer your prayer, it becomes easy to silence the devil (whose mouth is full of doubts) because the devil understands the omnipotence and almightiness of God.

KEY POINT

IF THE MIRACLE IS DELAYING, JUST KEEP PRAISING GOD

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Confession

Assurance is the mother of confession. Under normal circumstances, it is what you are sure of that you confess. In the school of faith, confession entails a declaration of the end result of faith. Romans 4:16-17 says,

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

17(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

The confession I am referring to here is not just any type of confession. Rather, it is the confession of faith. Many folks are confessing what they have no assurance of. That's why they keep confessing and nothing seems to be happening. It is the combination of confession and assurance that brings forth manifestation.

Confession without assurance amounts to vain and impotent words. But confession backed by assurance leads to a consistency in confession, which is very essential in the school of faith.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:10

You cannot confess faith today and confess doubt tomorrow, and expect miracles.

Why is confession so essential in the school of faith? Proverbs 18:21 says,

Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

If death and life are in the power of the tongue, it means you can create and destroy with the tongue. You can create miracles and destroy obstacles with your tongue. Hebrews 11:3 says,

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.

You are a replica of God because you were made in God's image and likeness. Genesis 1:26-27 says,

*26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

If God created the worlds with His word, you can create your world of miracles with your words (confession).

The Place of Hope

In 1 Peter 1:21, Apostle Peter talks about our faith and hope being in God. Friend, faith and hope go hand in hand. Hope is the preservative for faith. Sometimes our faith will be stretched for lengthy periods, like Abrahams faith was.

Sometimes, God may decide to delay your miracles for a while to test your faith.

In such situations, hope is an essential ingredient in keeping faith alive and strong.

1 Peter 1:6-7 says,

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

Friend, if you are going to go far in your walk with God, the trial of your faith is inevitable. Hope is what keeps faith strong through the trials.

Hope is a confident expectation of the miraculous. Hope sees the miracle in the realm of the spirit, while faith brings the miracle from the realm of the spirit into the realm of the physical. What you see is what you get. If your hope is dead, your spiritual sight of the long awaited miracle becomes blinded; hence, making it difficult for faith to lay hold of the miracle in the spiritual and manifest it in the physical.

Hope fuels assurance. The more you see it in the realm of the spirit, the more certain it become to you. The clearer your vision of the miraculous becomes, the greater the assurance you are able to posses. Hope keeps vision alive.

Many times, when God wants to do something miraculous in your life, he announces it to you first. One of the reasons why God does this is to birth a desire in us for what God is about to do. That desire is hope. As you desire it, you begin to see it happen with the eyes of your spirit man.

The moment you begin to engage the Word of God on the specific miracle you desire and expect from God, hope graduates to faith. Gradually, faith grows stronger and stronger until the miracle is delivered; and hope preserves faith, allowing it to stay alive. It is only a faith that is alive that can grow.

Hence, faith without hope is a faith that is bound to die prematurely.

KEY POINT

**FAITH WITHOUT HOPE IS A FAITH THAT IS BOUND TO DIE
PREMATURELY**

***~**

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Chapter Six

Pillar of Love

1 IF I [can] speak in the tongues of men and [even] of angels, but have not love (that reasoning, intentional, spiritual devotion such as is inspired by God's love for and in us), I am only a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2 And if I have prophetic powers (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), and understand all the secret truths and mysteries and possess all knowledge, and if I have [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but have not love (God's love in me) I am nothing (a useless nobody).

1 Corinthians 13:1-2 (Amplified Bible)

Love remains a fundamental but often overlooked ingredient of great faith. Without growing in love, you cannot grow in faith. In 1 John 4:8, the bible says,

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Sometimes, our faith fails to deliver because we are walking outside love. Walking in love attracts the attention of God because God is love. God cannot look at you, and see you walking in His love, and ignore you. It is impossible. That is simply because God is love.

Show me a man walking in God's love, and I will show you a man who can easily attract the attention of God. Show me a woman who has the love of God (agape love) as a life style, and I will show you a woman who can easily attract the presence of God.

The reason why many Christian gatherings and churches are void of God's presence and power is because they walk contrary to the love of God. They are full of envy, bitterness, malice, strife, hatred, and all other things that stand in contrast

to love. So when they call on God with faith, God does not answer because God is love.

Friend, love is a lubricant of faith. When you walk in God's love, your faith will certainly grow into great faith because it becomes easier for you to bring down God's power into any situation; no matter how impossible that situation may seem to be.

Having God's love and expressing it causes you to share a common nature with God.

When you see someone who shares a common nature with you, in a land filled with people who have a contrary nature to you, there is a high tendency that you will become attracted to that person. You get interested in the person, and you want to hear what the person is saying when he or she speaks. When the person asks for something and you can do it, you do it for the person.

Friend, this is the same way God acts when he sees someone who is walking in His love, in this world which is full of everything contrary to the love of God.

By virtue of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we have God's love in-planted in us.

And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:5

It is one thing to have God's love in-planted in you, and it is another thing to cultivate that love of God in you until you begin to walk in God's love. God is not interested in investing His love in you without the dividend of your walk in love; that will simply amount to being an unprofitable servant.

KEY POINT

LOVE IS A LUBRICANT OF FAITH

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The Great Commandment

34 But when the Pharisees had heard that he had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together.

35 Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked him a question, tempting him, and saying,

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Matthew 22:34-40

From what Jesus is saying here, we can see that the whole commandments and laws of God hang on one thing; love.

The great commandment emphasizes love for God, and love for our neighbors. Both are very crucial to faith. However, in this portion, I would like to zero in on the link between the love for God and faith.

Even though we have love for those around us, that love is expressed in different ways to different people. The way I express love to my mother is different from the way I express love to my friend. Definitely, the way I will express love to my wife

will be different from the way I will express love to my sister. So also, the way we express love to God is different from the way we express love to man.

In John 14:15, Jesus said,

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

In other words, the only way to show God that you love Him is by obeying His word and teaching. Walking in disobedience to the commandment and word of God is contrary to love (John 14:24). It is love that is expressed that will command a response.

Obeying God's word is an expression of love to God that certainly commands a response from God. What could that response be?

John 14:23 says,

Jesus answered, If a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home (abode, special dwelling place) with him.

(Amplified Bible)

When God the Father and God the Son make their abode with you, it simply means you have the God Head making its special dwelling place with you since the Holy Spirit already resides in you by virtue of your redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14).

Anyone who has this privilege should not have any difficulty walking or operating in great faith. This is so because as you open your mouth to ask, God is present right there with you and ready to manifest himself.

However, the direct link between your love and your faith is seen in James 2:17-26. This portion of the scripture says,

17 So also faith, if it does not have works (deeds and actions of obedience to back it up), by itself is destitute of power (inoperative, dead).

18 But someone will say [to you then], You [say you] have faith, and I have [good] works. Now you show me your [alleged] faith apart from any [good] works [if you can], and I by [good] works [of obedience] will show you my faith.

19 You believe that God is one; you do well. So do the demons believe and shudder [in terror and horror such as make a man's hair stand on end and contract the surface of his skin]!

20 Are you willing to be shown [proof], you foolish (unproductive, spiritually deficient) fellow, that faith apart from [good] works is inactive and ineffective and worthless?

21 Was not our forefather Abraham [shown to be] justified (made acceptable to God) by [his] works when he brought to the altar as an offering his [own] son Isaac?

22 You see that [his] faith was cooperating with his works, and [his] faith was completed and reached its supreme expression [when he implemented it] by [good] works.

23 And [so] the Scripture was fulfilled that says, Abraham believed in (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on) God, and this was accounted to him as righteousness (as conformity to God's will in thought and deed), and he was called God's friend.

24 You see that a man is justified (pronounced righteous before God) through what he does and not alone through faith [through works of obedience as well as by what he believes].

25 So also with Rahab the harlot — was she not shown to be justified (pronounced righteous before God) by [good] deeds when she took in the scouts (spies) and sent them away by a different route?

26 For as the human body apart from the spirit is lifeless, so faith apart from [its] works of obedience is also dead.

(Amplified Bible)

From this passage, we can see that the ‘works’ being referred to is obedience to the commandments and instructions of God. It is obedience to God’s word, spoken or written.

Since the love for God is expressed via obedience to God’s word, it can be reasonable concluded that faith without a love for God is dead. Faith without a genuine love for God is powerless faith, incapable of moving a stone (not to mention a mountain). Show me a man with a genuine love for God, and I will show you a candidate of great faith.

Bishop David Oyedepo remains one of the greatest teachers of faith in our time, and a living proof of raw bible faith. However, times without number, he would tell his audience that the secret of his exploits is his love for God.

Friend, you CANNOT have genuine love for God and not walk in great realms of faith. That is because the expressed love for God is the divine lubricant for faith. Just like the absence of oil in an auto mobile engine will cause the engine to knock and render the automobile as good as dead, the absence of a life style of ‘expressed love for God’ will cause faith to break down, rendering it powerless and as good as dead.

Compassion; a Provoker of Faith

Now that we have seen how the love of God propels faith, let us see how the love for our neighbors propels faith. Remember, Matthew 22:37-40 says,

37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38 This is the first and great commandment.

39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

For you to love your neighbor as yourself simply means wishing for your neighbor the things you will wish for yourself. By virtue of the love for your neighbors, when you see your brethren going through a situation that is unpleasant to you, something is stirred up within you. That thing is called 'compassion'.

Friend, compassion is born out of love for the brethren. Compassion infuses in you a burning desire to help someone suffering or going through hard times. If you do not love your neighbors as yourself, you can never have compassion.

Compassion is so powerful that it provokes faith for miracles. So, genuine love for people gives birth to compassion, and compassion stirs faith for miracles. When you understand this and walk in the reality of it, there is no limit to the kind of miracle that God can perform through you.

If you study the life of Jesus very closely, you will discover that compassion was a major key to a number of the miracles He performed. Compassion is the ignition of faith for the miraculous.

Let us see a few examples of this, in the life and ministry of Jesus.

Healing the Sick

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Matthew 14:14

Feeding over Four Thousand People with Seven Loaves and Few Fishes

32 Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

33 And his disciples say unto him, Whence should we have so much bread in the wilderness, as to fill so great a multitude?

34 And Jesus saith unto them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven, and a few little fishes.

35 And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

36 And he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude.

37 And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets full.

38 And they that did eat were four thousand men, beside women and children.

Matthew 15:32-38

Healing of Two Blind Men

29 And as they departed from Jericho, a great multitude followed him.

30 And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

31 And the multitude rebuked them, because they should hold their peace: but they cried the more, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.

32 And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you?

33 They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened.

34 So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

Matthew 20:29-34

Healing a Leper

40 And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Mark 1:40-41

Raising the Dead

12 Now when he came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

13 And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

14 And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

15 And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.

Luke 7:12-15

Friend, from these passages of the scripture, we find one thing common among these different miracles that Jesus performed. That thing is compassion.

Compassion is sympathy for the suffering of others, with a desire to help. Like I said earlier, compassion is born out of love. If you cannot love others, and you are full of self, compassion will remain a stranger to you. And if compassion is a stranger to you, it becomes difficult for you to walk in faith that commands miracles.

For a miracle to take place through you, your faith and the faith of the receiver of the miracle is very crucial. If you have faith and the intending recipients of the

miracle lack faith, no miracle will occur. That's why Jesus could not do much in his own town.

54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Matthew 13:54-58

On the other hand, if the intending recipients of the miracle have faith and you are the one lacking faith, nothing will happen.

But if you are ready to turn the tide so that your faith can grow to match or even surpass the faith of the intending recipient of the miracle, in order to produce a miracle, lean on compassion born out of genuine love. This will certainly work because 1 Corinthians 13:8 says that love never fails.

KEY POINT

**GENUINE LOVE FOR PEOPLE GIVES BIRTH TO COMPASSION, AND
COMPASSION STIRS FAITH FOR MIRACLES**

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Chapter Seven

Pillar of Testimonies

And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

1 John 4:14

Today, the Church (body of Christ) remains a formidable force on earth. Irrespective of what you may find in many Churches today, no one can deny the power of God and the miracles that many Churches are experiencing today. That is because Jesus had vowed to build His Church on the testimony of Peter concerning Jesus (Matthew 16:18).

However, testimonies remain a vital and undisputable instrument that Jesus utilized and still utilizes in carrying out this agenda.

When you study the emergence of the church very closely, you will find out that testimonies were used as an instrument for birthing faith, which is the force behind the emergence and growth of a glorious church.

Jesus lived his life with and worked with disciples. It was the testimonies of these disciples, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, which birthed faith in the hearts of those who later on joined the disciples and together became the body of Christ.

Just like the testimonies of God's goodness can birth faith (at its basic level) for salvation, testimonies can also birth faith (at its advanced level, also referred to as Great Faith) for miracles. Revelations 12:11 says,

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony...

The Book of Testimonies

The bible is divided into testaments; the Old Testament and the New Testament. The word “Testament” also means testimonies. Hence, the bible is the book of testimonies. The bible is full of testimonies of God’s greatness and wondrous works in the life of His people.

If you need faith for a miracle in a situation you find yourself in, and you cannot lay hold of a testimony from someone who overcame the same situation by the miraculous intervention of God, all you need to do is to search the bible.

Once you are able to lay hold of any part of the bible where God intervened in a situation similar to yours, spend some time meditating of how God intervened.

After spending enough time meditating on the testimony in the bible, and faith has built up in you, the next thing to do is to engage that testimony in praying the prayer of faith.

Isaiah 41:21-22 says,

21 Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.

22 Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.

A bible testimony of God’s intervention, in a situation similar to what you are going through, is a strong reason that you can present to the King of Kings in prayer. Tell God that if He could solve a similar situation thousands of years ago, as recorded in the bible, He can solve your situation NOW because He said “I am the LORD, I change not” (Malachi 3:6).

This is how you engage the book of testimonies in praying the prayer of faith.

As Far as Your Eyes Can See

*14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:
15 For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*

Genesis 13:14-15

Your faith is tied to what you are able to see, both with your physical eyes and spiritual eyes. What you cannot see, you cannot have faith for. And what you cannot have faith for, you cannot lay hold of. This was the reason why God had to make Abraham see.

What you can see (either physically or spiritually) aids your faith. If I had been a chronic doubter of the ability of a human being to swim, I will begin to have faith in the ability of a human being to swim once I go to the pool and find some folks swimming. Instantly, my doubt is cleared.

As a young boy growing up, my mother always emphasized the importance of exposure; and she ensured I got it whenever she felt there was an opportunity to get one. Such exposures opened my eyes to greater realms of possibility, and stretched the capacity of my heart to believe in certain possibilities.

Friend, testimonies are a God ordained channel of exposure into the ability of God. Testimonies are spiritual exposures that can generate great faith because they open the spiritual eyes of man to spiritual possibilities.

If a man is in so much debt that he is at the brink of filing for bankruptcy, his faith for supernatural blessings from God can suddenly rise once he hears the testimony of how God took another man from absolute bankruptcy to an overflowing level of financial prosperity.

If a person with cancer is at the point of giving up on the possibility of getting healed, and suddenly the person begins to watch a testimony (in form of a documentary) on how God delivered another person from the same cancerous disease, there is no limit to the level to which faith can rise for that person with cancer.

Friend, this is the inestimable power of testimonies and their ability to fortify us with strong faith.

KEY POINT

**YOUR FAITH IS TIED TO WHAT YOU ARE ABLE TO SEE, BOTH WITH
YOUR PHYSICAL EYES AND SPIRITUAL EYES**

~::~

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Wonders of Testimonies

Testimonies are an exposure to the wonders of God. A typical example of the wonders of testimonies, from the bible, can be seen in the case of the woman with the issue of blood.

25 And there was a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years,

26 And who had endured much suffering under [the hands of] many physicians and had spent all that she had, and was no better but instead grew worse.

27 She had heard the reports concerning Jesus, and she came up behind Him in the throng and touched His garment,

28 For she kept saying, If I only touch His garments, I shall be restored to health.

29 And immediately her flow of blood was dried up at the source, and [suddenly] she felt in her body that she was healed of her [distressing] ailment.

30 And Jesus, recognizing in Himself that the power proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around immediately in the crowd and said, Who touched My clothes?

31 And the disciples kept saying to Him, You see the crowd pressing hard around You from all sides, and You ask, Who touched Me?

32 Still He kept looking around to see her who had done it.

33 But the woman, knowing what had been done for her, though alarmed and frightened and trembling, fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

34 And He said to her, Daughter, your faith (your trust and confidence in Me, springing from faith in God) has restored you to health. Go in(into) peace and be continually healed and freed from your [distressing bodily] disease.

Mark 5:25-34 (Amplified Bible)

From verse 27 of the above passage, we find that she had heard reports concerning Jesus. Those reports are testimonies. She had heard testimonies of the healing power of Jesus. These testimonies she heard had opened the eyes of her spirit to the possibility of receiving her healing. This built up great faith in her (verse 34), which she used to command her miracle of healing.

Until God began to reveal the wonders of testimonies, I never really appreciated them. In fact, I sometimes thought it was just a story telling session in church services.

Sometime ago, I came across a book from one of my mentors in ministry. The book contained only testimonies of miracles that people had received from his ministry over the years. The testimonies were mind blowing testimonies that serve as living proofs of the omnipotence of God. I never really appreciated that book until the moment God began to reveal the wonders of testimonies to me.

Such materials allow you to focus on testimonies that directly relate to the situation you find yourself. If you are in need of a child, you can focus on testimonies of women who were barren, some for over two decades, and God came through for them. You cannot read and meditate on five to six of such powerful testimonies and not be charged with faith.

When the devil comes with doubt and fear, you can remind the devil of how God worked miracles for others and how God will do yours very soon. As you continue to search out and digest testimonies of miracles that are similar to the miracles you desire, you find yourself becoming pregnant with faith and expectation. Before you know it, you will deliver that long awaited miracle!

Friend, this process is similar to the reproduction miracle that Jacob experienced while he was with Laban (Genesis 30:25-43). Jacob wanted spotted flocks, and he simply placed something spotted in front of the unspotted flocks so that they can give birth to spotted flocks.

37 And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chesnut tree; and piled white strakes in them, and made the white appear which was in the rods.

38 And he set the rods which he had piled before the flocks in the gutters in the watering troughs when the flocks came to drink, that they should conceive when they came to drink.

39 And the flocks conceived before the rods, and brought forth cattle ringstraked, speckled, and spotted.

40 And Jacob did separate the lambs, and set the faces of the flocks toward the ringstraked, and all the brown in the flock of Laban; and he put his own flocks by themselves, and put them not unto Laban's cattle.

41 And it came to pass, whensoever the stronger cattle did conceive, that Jacob laid the rods before the eyes of the cattle in the gutters, that they might conceive among the rods.

42 But when the cattle were feeble, he put them not in: so the feebler were Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's.

43 And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.

Genesis 30:37-43

Joseph ensured that the eyes of the flock were set on what he wanted them to reproduce. Just like this act is the wisdom of God (which is a mystery – 1 Corinthians 2:7), setting your eyes on testimonies of the kind miracles you desire is the wisdom of God for faith. Just like it worked for the woman with the issue of blood, it can work for you.

Friend, when you set your eyes on testimonies of miracles you desire, you have positioned yourself for the delivery of a testimony of a similar miracle. This is the wonder of testimonies!

If today's Church is able to possess a working knowledge of this truth, our services will be full of so much faith that God's power will flow in unusual dimensions.

Guarding Your Heart with Testimonies

In Proverbs 4:23, the bible says,

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Faith is a product of the heart. The seed of faith is sown in the heart. That seed of faith germinates and grows in the heart. Romans 10:10 says,

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

This is the reason why our heart (also referred to as the mind) must be guarded jealously. You cannot afford to allow anything that will strangle or stifle your faith to gain access into your mind.

Doubt and fear are arrows that the devil and his agents will surely throw at you. If you are engaged in a battle, the enemy would not just walk into your territory to fight you. Instead, the enemy will first send some missiles and bombs into your territory. The enemy will try to carefully target a few strategic locations in your territory, such that your defense system becomes paralyzed once the enemy succeeds in bringing these strategic locations down. If the enemy succeeds, he quickly rushes in.

Friend, this same battle strategy is what the devil and his agents engage against believers. In 1 Timothy 6:12, Paul said to Timothy,

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

There is a fight of faith. The enemy in that fight is the devil and his agents, who are in the business of resisting your access to blessings. Ephesians 6:12 says,

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

When the devil sees your faith, he will attack by throwing missiles of doubt and fear into your heart. If you succumb to such doubts and fear, you create an in-road for the devil to rush in and attack. Before you know it, the fear and doubt will

cause you to begin to do things that are contrary to God's will and command in order to get what faith will have ordinarily delivered.

However, if you succeed in resisting doubt and fear, your faith will remain strong and capable of delivering your long desired miracles.

Doubt is like a weed, and you must guard against it so jealously. Doubt deprives your faith of what it requires to be strong.

There are quite a number of ways to guard your heart. However, I will be focusing on how you can use testimonies to guard your heart. Like I earlier mentioned, faith is built in the heart because man believes with the heart (Romans 10:10). Strength of faith is drawn from the triumph of faith. You can draw your own strength of faith from another person's triumph of faith. Friend, this is the essence of testimonies.

KEY POINT

**WHEN THE DEVIL SEES YOUR FAITH, HE WILL ATTACK BY
THROWING MISSILES OF DOUBT AND FEAR INTO YOUR HEART**

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Testimonies are a weapon of defense. When you arm yourself with testimonies of miracles in areas of your life where you believe God for an intervention, and the devil comes knocking on the door of your heart with doubts, you can remind the devil of God's ability to perform the miracle you desire by simply reminding the devil of how God did the same miracle for others and how God will do yours very soon.

Testifiers are living proofs. No one doubts a proof. When you see something that looks like what you desire, your desire, expectation, and hope is rekindled. When a living proof of God's miraculous power comes forth, faith is sparked off.

Testimonies also bring hope. Testifiers are messengers of hope. Someone once defined hope as Having Only Positive Expectations. Hope is the antivirus for fear and doubt. You cannot be full of positive expectations and not be strong in faith because faith and hope work hand-in-hand. Proverbs 13:12 says,

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick...

In other words, the absence of hope brings the heart into the state of fear. The heart becomes sick when fear attacks it. If you need your hope revived, settle down with messengers of hope and draw faith from their testimonies.

Testimonies show you what others have done to get what you desire. When you listen to the testimony of those who have gotten the miracle you desire, wisdom demands that you pay careful attention to what they did to get what you desire.

Why would you want to re-invent the wheel, when you can ride on the wheel created by another person? When you do what a living proof did, you too can become a living proof. Unfortunately, many folks in church see testimony time as a story telling or bragging session in the church service. They miss out on the tested and proven revelations that are wrapped up in testimonies, while saving their attention for a sermon that may not have the revelation that will fortify their faith and deliver their miracle.

When you lay hold on something that is tested and proven, doubt and fear gives way. When you buy an electronic device from a store, and you see it successfully tested by the store attendant, you can take the device to your house with great assurance that when you do what the store attendant did, the electronic device will work the same way it worked in the hands of the store attendant.

This is the same way revelations from testimonies work. When someone has ridden on a revelation from the scripture in encountering the power of God which delivered a miracle similar to the miracle you desire, you also can take that same revelation and apply it to deliver your own miracle. Engaging revelation that is tested and proven starves your doubt and builds your faith.

KEY POINT

**ENGAGING REVELATION THAT IS TESTED AND PROVEN STARVES
YOUR DOUBT AND BUILDS YOUR FAITH**

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Final Words

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Every building has a foundation and a roof. Erecting pillars without a foundation is likened to building a castle in the air. The pillars must be seated on a foundation. The foundation upon which the pillars of faith must rest on is Jesus. Jesus is the author and genesis of faith. Outside Jesus, faith is an effort in futility.

In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said,

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Hearing and obeying the word of God is faith. Jesus is the rock of ages.

So trust in the Lord (commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him) forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock [the Rock of Ages].

Isaiah 26:4 (Amplified Bible)

The faith that will stand the storm of life is the faith that is built on Jesus, the everlasting rock. Faith is built on Jesus through salvation. Until a person is genuinely saved and born again, his/her faith is bound to crash.

Salvation is a product of the most basic level of faith. Ephesians 2:8-9 says,

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Haven been saved, it is on the platform of salvation that the most basic level of faith (which brought salvation) is grown into exceedingly great faith. The level of faith that brings salvation may not be able to raise the dead. But within the realm of salvation, the level of faith that lead to salvation can be developed into the level of faith that will raise the dead.

It is like one orange seed that is sown to produce an orange with many orange seeds in it. The basic level of faith will bring salvation, which contains all that it takes to enter into and experience greater level of faith.

Therefore, until you are genuinely saved, you cannot enjoy the tremendous benefits and treasures that are laid up in faith. Sin and faith can never co-exist because faith is of God and sin is of the devil.

Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

1 Corinthian 10:21

Like a locust that destroys vegetation, sin destroys faith. It renders faith null and void. It brings faith to a standstill and renders faith impotent. If you want to enjoy exceedingly great faith, you MUST live your life with a commitment to staying far away from sin.

Faith is holy (Jude 20), because it draws its life from the holy word of God; and you cannot dabble with unholy things and expect to possess genuine and exceedingly great faith. Anything that looks like faith, even in the midst of sin, can never be faith; it is fake and of the devil. An occultist who has sold his or her soul to the devil cannot perform a healing miracle and call that faith. That is pure magic. It is fake and it is bound to fail.

Just like Jesus is the author of faith, he is also the finisher of faith. If you start your journey of faith with Jesus and you lose track along the way, you will lose the full blessings of faith. Growing in faith will require you to stick with Jesus through thick and thin. You cannot be in and out of Christ and expect your faith to stand strong. You must be patient enough for Christ to finish that faith with the long desired miracle.

Many of us lack this patience, and begin to seek alternatives. Friend, great faith is built through trials. Because God wants your faith to become an exceedingly great faith, expect to have exceedingly great trials.

2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:2-4

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:7

Anyone can start a building. But I have discovered that it sometimes takes more time and resources to have an excellent finishing for a building, than it takes to simply raise the building up from its foundation. So also, it takes time for your faith to be tried with fire and come out full of divine potency.

Definitely, you cannot compare the results of someone who has just started in the journey of faith, with another person whose faith is still standing after several trials. These are two fellows in absolutely different frequencies of faith.

When Jesus is the finisher of your faith, it also means that the word of God in flesh is the final authority of your faith. In other words, whatever Jesus will not do remains undone.

Sometimes we have faith for certain things, and after doing all we know and can do based on the Word of God, nothing seems to be working because the Lord has not permitted it. At such junction, we must accept God's will and still stand strong in the Lord. Unfortunately, many folks begin to seek alternatives until their search drives them out of Christ.

At moments when you have done EVERYTHING you know how to do and you have applied ALL you know about faith, and nothing seems to be working, know with certainty that you are in the midst of a trial.

Your success lies in your ability to hold on to Christ, even when your faith seems to have failed woefully. Once you come out of that trial, expect your faith to command greater results than it previously did.

In 2 Samuel 12:15-20, we find an account where David had prayed and fasted for seven days for his child not to die. Even though God had made His pronouncement concerning the child, David had faith that God could reverse His pronouncement. God could have done so, like He did for Hezekiah in 2 Kings 20:1-6; but God did not. By the time the child died, David did not go about blaming God and feeling sad. 2 Samuel 12:19-20 says,

19 But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead: therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead.

20 Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the LORD, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat.

It was after this that God gave David another child, Solomon, who became David's successor.

Friend, I do not know what you might have lost as a result of the trial of faith. But one thing I know for sure is that you will definitely receive greater measure than the measure you have lost. I decree that this will be your testimony in the Name of Jesus!

I pray that the grace to survive every trial of faith will be poured out into your life right now in the Name of Jesus! I decree that everything that is causing your faith to remain stagnated will be destroyed in the Name of Jesus!

Your faith will grow to become unshakable and unstoppable! And the fruitfulness of your faith will be evident to the whole world via mysterious sign and wonders.

God Bless You!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Seun Okikiola is called by God to preach the Word of Righteousness to His generation. With a First Class Honors in economics from Covenant University, and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the prestigious Lagos Business School, Seun is a graduate of the Redeemed Christian Bible College (RCBC). Prior to his engagement in full time ministry, he worked with international financial institutions.

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