

Theme: The Integrity of God's Word.

Introduction:

- We have been looking at the Word of God for the last two weeks. Week #1: Recognizing the Word, Receiving the Word, Releasing the Word. Week #2: The Word Works for those who work the Word. We looked at the enemy of the Word which we called "mental assent." We answered the question "How do I work the Word?" Faith, Confession, Action.
- The Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 5:7, "*We walk by faith and not by sight.*" So the question then becomes, "What do we have our faith in?" For the believer it is the Word of God. Then we come face to face with reality: "Do I really trust God's Word?"

I. Faith Is Essential to the Christian Life

A. Faith is how we receive from God.

1. Faith is confidence in who God is and in what He has said.
2. Double mindedness should not expect to receive from God. "*Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.*" (James 1:7-8, NLT)
3. Faith is how Abraham became the father of many nations. It is how he received from God. "*Therefore, [inheriting] the promise is the outcome of faith and depends [entirely] on faith,...*" (Romans 4:16, AMP)

B. Every Believer Is Required to have and Required to Walk in Faith. Watch this:

1. We are saved by faith. Eph 2:8 'saved by grace through faith'
2. We walk by faith. 2 Cor 5:7 "We walk by faith"
3. We pray in faith. James 5:15 "The prayer of faith shall"
4. We take up the shield of faith. Eph 6:16 "take up the shield of faith"
5. We live by faith. Hab 2:4; Ro. 2:17 "the just shall live by faith"
6. We are sanctified by faith. Acts 26:18 "we are sanctified by faith"
7. We overcome by faith. 1 John 5:4 "this is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith"
8. The whole message of Hebrews 11 is: *by faith, by faith, by faith, by faith.*
9. Faith is essential to the Christian life. Without it we get nothing from God.

C. Faith says the same things that God says.

1. When we do that we are agreeing with God.
2. "What can I say, that God has already said?" I am healed, I am His righteousness, I am a new creation, sin has no power over me. **Faith brings to me what God has provided for me!**
3. Faith is essential to the Christian life. But we must realize that the Word is essential to faith.

II. The Word is Essential To Faith

- A. The Bible opens heavens gates and destroys the gates of hell. The Word bring heavens provision and pulls down hellish strongholds.
1. FF Bosworth in his book *Christ the Healer* says this: *"Faith begins where the will of God is known."* And, *"It's God's Word that lets us know what to trust Him for."*
 2. When we know what we can trust God for, we open up to our lives a whole new realm of possibilities...a supernatural realm that is for us and not against us. When we know what we can trust God for, it is there that the power of God is released. The Word is essential to faith. I am talking about what the Word opens up to those who believe.
 3. Jesus said this: *"And I tell you, you are Peter [Greek, Petros—a large piece of rock], and on this rock [Greek, petra—a huge rock like Gibraltar] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it [or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it]."* (Matthew 16:18, AMP) What was Jesus saying? He is the Word of God. We have already established that in the last two weeks. ***What Jesus/God is telling us is that the powers of the infernal region shall not be able to stand against the Word!
- B. *"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* (Romans 10:17, NKJV)
1. Faith comes by hearing. We have to be told a message. The Word is essential to faith!
 2. The One speaking is God. His message is Christ/Jesus. *"If you have seen me you have seen the Father."*
 3. When we see who the Father is, and know how He feels about us and what His will towards us is. Our confidence skyrockets!
 4. His Word is essential to our faith! The Word leaps into action when it is believed!
 5. When we believe the Word we are believing Jesus. When we believe the Word we are believing God. We we 'believe' it makes God so happy: *"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6, NLT)
 6. So, if faith is essential to the Christian life and the Word is essential to faith. What is essential to the Word? The integrity of the Word.

III. Integrity Is Essential to the Word

- A. The integrity of the Word of God is essential to our faith. It really becomes the basis, or foundation on which our faith rests. God's Word is what gives birth to our faith. Again, it lets us know what we can trust Him for. The integrity of the Word gives us the assurance and confidence to believe. Without this doubt and unbelief reign.
1. That is why it is import to recognize the Word, two things to recognize:
 - a) **The Word is Jesus! God has literally linked Himself to His Word.

- b) **The Word is the God's will for us. It is what He wants us to trust Him for.
 - c) When God linked himself to His Word, He made himself a part of it.
 - d) Not only is He a part of it, He is the one who backs it up! "Are you getting this? No wonder the gates of hell will not prevail!"
 - (1) The Word is looking for someone to believe!
 - (2) The Word is looking for someone to act!
 - (3) The Word is looking for people to bring the Kingdom to earth!
2. When God found Abraham, the Word found Abraham. Gen 22:16-17 "*...I swear by my own name I will certainly bless you.*" God was backing up His own covenant with Abraham. Because of that Abraham had great confidence. In Gen 15, God cuts a covenant with Himself. "*For example, there was God's promise to Abraham. Since there was no one greater to swear by, God took an oath in his own name, saying:*" (Hebrews 6:13, NLT)
 3. Look at what is written of Abraham: "*Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping (Why? Because it was God who said it.)—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!"*" (Romans 4:18, NLT)
 - a) It was the integrity of the Word that gave him confidence to believe.
 - b) "*Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, "That's how many descendants you will have!" And Abraham's faith did not weaken, ... Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise (The Word). In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.*" (Romans 4:18-20, NLT)
 - c) Notice, his faith grew. Your faith grows as your confidence in God grows. Your confidence in God grows by knowing Him through the Word.
 4. All of heaven is back of His Word! God is back of His Word!
- B. God puts himself into His Word. "*Therefore, we never stop thanking God that when you received his message from us, you didn't think of our words as mere human ideas. You accepted what we said as the very word of God—which, of course, it is. And this word continues to work in you who believe.*" (1 Thessalonians 2:13, NLT) The
- C. When Mary heard the Word of the Lord for her and she asked, "How shall this be?" The angel filled her in on 'how' and closed with: "*For the word of God will never fail.*" (Luke 1:37, NLT) He was speaking of the Integrity of the Word. That is why she could say, let it be unto me according to your Word.
- D. To Joshua: "*Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.*" (Joshua 1:8, NLT)
1. "*I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his words more than daily food.*" (Job 23:12, NLT)

2. "But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night." (Psalm 1:2, NLT)

Conclusion:

- Faith is essential to the Christian life. And the Word is essential to faith. Integrity of the Word gives us confidence to believe!
- Invitation:
- Ministry
 - Sometime you just have to "Do it!" ""Master," Simon replied, "we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, I'll let the nets down again."" (Luke 5:5, NLT)