

Sample Student

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SGS 111 Principles of Faith

26 December 2005

Faith and Believing Defined

The most important aspect of this life is to please the Father. He is our source of life, righteousness, peace, and joy. There is no greater call than to live your life completely for Christ. I remember an experience I had a couple of years ago when I was seeking the Lord in the morning. I asked the Lord, "How can I bring pleasure to Your heart? What can I do to please You?" The answer came as quickly as the petition left my lips. The Lord led me to Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." I realized that as I walk in faith, I bring pleasure to Him. Why? Because we cannot fulfill His will on earth without faith. We cannot hit the mark for our lives without faith. It is impossible. If you desire to please the heart of the Father then you must have a heart of faith. It is true that our whole Christian life depends on faith. Therefore it is important that we understand this thought of faith, but also believing, for in the same verse it says that it also brings pleasure to His heart when we believe in who He is. We must believe in Him and know that He is able, that we may then receive His faith and do His will.

Faith Defined

Let us now consider faith. The best definition of faith is from Hebrews 11:1 where Paul says, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is a substance. In this verse faith is not a verb but rather a noun. It is something tangible. "Faith is a

substance – it is something that is tangible; you can feel it,” (Bailey 14). Therefore, faith is not an action, or something of our will, but it is a divine substance that can only come from God. Faith is not something that we can conjure up of our own will. It is truly a divine substance from the Lord – a gift (Ephesians 2:8). I remember many times hearing people say that you know when you have faith. I never understood how you could know when faith was in your heart. However, there was a time in my life when the Lord prompted me to pray for the healing of another woman. When I began praying for her, the Lord filled me with a supernatural faith, whereby I knew that my prayer was creative. I even saw a vision of what I was praying for taking place. I knew at that very moment the Lord was healing this woman. A few days later I found out that miraculously this woman was healed. She went to bed ill, and woke up healed. It was the same night the Lord prompted me to pray! Praise the Lord! He caused me to see that when you have His faith, you know that you have it!

God’s faith is creative. Even in the life of this woman, God’s faith was creative in causing her healing. But even in my own life, there was a creative work being done through the power of God that was upon me, causing me to pray according to His will, and knowing that what He was prompting me to pray by the Holy Spirit was coming to pass at that very moment. However, this is not the way God works all the time. There are times when we must walk in obedience without understanding everything by faith. This can be very difficult, especially when in your own human mind you feel incapable or weak. However, it is amazing how God can fill those areas in our life when we walk in obedience to His will, having faith in Him that what He has called us to do He will enable us to do it. If we walk in this faith, God will do a creative work in our life, whereby He will give us the ability and strength to do things we deemed impossible because, "...with God all things are possible" Matthew 19:26.

In my life, the Lord has caused me to have to walk in faith when He asked me to do something that in my own strength I felt inadequate. The Lord provided an opportunity for me to play the piano for a Chapel service. I felt completely inadequate to do this. Yet the Lord filled me with His faith, and though I didn't know how it was going to work out, I knew that He was with me. It was amazing how the Lord worked through that situation. I played and though I didn't play perfectly, the Lord did such a work in me. By His faith, He did a creative work in me, by giving me the ability to play the piano in a greater measure than I had before. My faith was increased so much. When you allow the Lord to stretch you, He will fill you with more of Him. I now can play the piano better than I could before! When He stretches your faith, it is only that He may give you more of His faith! Like it says in Psalm 81:10 "...open they mouth wide and I will fill it." It is only as we open our mouth, as we step out in Faith, He can fill us. It is He who gives us the gifts and abilities that we have, and it is only by faith that they will grow as we allow the Lord to stretch us and develop those gifts.

Therefore we see that faith is not from us. It is not something that we can make up. It is from God. The Lord gives us faith to do the things He desires us to do. It is this faith that causes us to become what God desires us to be, because faith is creative. Even in our own personal lives, God cannot change us unless we have faith in Him that He is able to change us. Faith is so very important, for without it not only will we not be able to do His will, but we cannot become all that He desires us to be. May we be those who have the faith of God in our hearts, believing in Him, that He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. Then shall we bring Him pleasure!

Believing Defined

Let us now consider the aspect of believing. Believing is much different from faith.

Faith, as we previously discussed, is a substance. It is something that divinely comes from God. However, believing is a verb or an action; it is something that we must do. Believing is a choice to accept what the Lord says and trust in Him or to reject Him in disbelief. Dr. Bailey says, "Believing is an action – a choice of accepting and having confidence in what the Lord says," (18). Therefore, believing is an attitude of heart that we all must have. It is through believing that faith can come into our hearts. Therefore, we see the importance of believing, because without believing we cannot have faith and without faith, we cannot please God.

It is important to understand that believing is not enough to cause a miracle to take place. Believing must be accompanied by faith, which brings a miracle to pass. Believing opens one's heart to the Lord that He may cause His faith to enter in. It is then by faith that things happen or are created. This is very clear in Mark 9:23-25 which says, "Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." In this portion of scripture we see how this man believed, but he still had a lack of faith. He knew that God was more than able to heal, but he lacked the faith to bring the healing to pass.

Therefore we see that it is only through a believing heart that we can receive Faith. If we believe all things are possible then God can give us the faith to see those things come to pass. This truth was also very evident when Jesus ministered in Nazareth and could not do many mighty miracles. In Matthew 13:58 it says, "And He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." Because of the unbelief in the hearts of those in Nazareth, faith could not flow, and therefore not many mighty works could be done. It is our unbelief that can hinder God from doing miracles, not only through us, but also in our own personal lives. May we not hinder the Lord because of "an evil heart of unbelief" (Hebrews 3:12). God is more than able to

complete the work that He has begun in us, if we are willing, and believing that He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

However, believing is not the only essential act on our part in bring a miracle to pass. We also must pray that God's faith might be cultivated in our hearts that the miracle may come to pass. Praying is an essential part to see God's will come to pass. Believing in what God has spoken to you is only the beginning. After this we must pray until God's perfect timing has come to pass, and then His faith will be cultivated in our hearts will bring to pass what God has spoken. This was true in the life of Elijah. He had prayed that God would shut the Heaven's from raining upon the earth. This happened and there was a three and a half year drought upon the Land. Then in God's timing, Elijah began to earnestly pray that God would open the Heavens and rain upon the earth. As he prayed Elijah told his servant to go seven times and look toward the sea to see if there were any clouds of rain. The seventh time the servant went there was a cloud and soon the rains poured upon the land. God's timing is so very important because He has a perfect timing for everything. We must patiently trust and believe in Him, allowing Him to finish that work in us for His glory.

Therefore, believing is a necessary for a miracle to take place. A believing heart is a soft, obedient heart that trusts in the Lord. Even though believing does not bring a miracle to pass, it is an essential part; for without a believing heart, faith cannot come into our heart, which is the conduit for a miracle can come to pass. Believing and faith are linked together because they both cause us to please the Lord and fulfill all of His good pleasure. May we be those who have a believing heart that never hinders the hand of God in our lives and seeks the Lord knowing that He will reward those who do so.

Works Cited

Bailey, Brian. Pillars of Faith. Waverly, New York: Zion Christian Publishers, 1995.

All scripture taken from King James Bible.