

Major Keys To Great Faith

Pastor Ken Birks

I. Introductory Remarks.

The Christian life is a life of faith. if we are to be successful as Christians we must learn to walk by faith, growing from faith to faith.

Romans 1:17 *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."*

The righteousness of God is walking in the revealed will of God. We see this when Jesus told John the Baptist that He must be baptized by John in order to fulfill all righteousness.

If we are to fulfill the will of God in our lives as the apostle Paul and countless others did in Biblical times, we must be a people of faith who are allowing God's righteousness to fill our souls as we go from faith to faith. There are times in our lives when we need an extra measure of faith to get us to the next level God wants to take us in order to reveal His will to us in a greater way.

- This happened to Abraham when God asked him to sacrifice his son, Isaac.
- It happened to Job when he lost everything including his health.
- It happened to Noah when he was asked to build the Ark.
- It happened to Joseph when he was thrown in prison.
- It happened to Moses when he led the children of Israel across the Red Sea.
- It happened to Joshua when He was told to circle Jericho for seven days.
- It happened to Elijah when he challenged the prophets of Baal.
- It happened to Daniel when he was put in the den with the lions.
- It happened to Stephen when he was being stoned to death.
- It happened to Paul during his many hardships and imprisonment.
- It happens to you and me at various times in our lives as well.

The heroes of our faith and their testimonies - Hebrews 11:28-40.

In this message I want to begin giving you seven keys to great faith. These are keys to faith these people all had working in their lives that enabled them to go from faith to faith when the natural circumstances of their lives seemed hopeless or totally contrary.

II. Major Keys To Great Faith.

Faith Key #1 - We Must Have A Thorough Understanding Of Submission And Authority.

Matthew 8:9-10 *"For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"*

The Bible is full of these kind of examples.

- Abraham's obedience to God when told to sacrifice Isaac - Genesis 22:2-3.
- Moses' obedience and submission to God's authority when told to stretch the Rod out over the Red Sea - Genesis 14:15-16.
- Elisha and the healing of Naaman - 2 Kings 5:9-19. Naaman was required to dip seven times in the Jordan River before receiving his healing from leprosy. He argued at first, but later gave in and was healed.
- Joshua was given specific instructions on how to take Jericho - Joshua 6:1-5.
- Peter and the Disciples were told to cast their nets in a specific place after fishing all night and catching nothing. As a result they caught a great many fish - Luke 5:4-6.

Obviously, the key here is being under Christ's authority and Lordship. Do we have a hearing ear to hear what He is speaking to us? What specific instructions is He giving you. This is not necessarily an everyday thing, but there are times in our lives when we need to hear some specific instructions from the Lord. Most of the time we are simply living in under authority and in submission to the commands and principles found in the God's Word.

Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

I am convinced that God is calling all of us at various times to new levels of faith, some of these levels require great faith other require a normal amount of faith. Where are you at now? Have you been at the same place for a long period of time? If so, God may be calling you to take a greater step of faith to experience

a new freshness in your walk with Him. Begin by coming under His authority and Lordship.

Faith Key #2 - We Must Worship The Lord With Reverence.

Matthew 8:1-3 *When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean." Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.*

The word worship here means to prostrate oneself in homage -- to reverence and adore. We see this again in the example of Joshua meeting the Commander of the Lord's Army.

Joshua 5:13-15 *And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, a Man stood opposite him with His sword drawn in His hand. And Joshua went to Him and said to Him, "Are You for us or for our adversaries?" So He said, "No, but as Commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped, and said to Him, "What does my Lord say to His servant?" Then the Commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy." And Joshua did so.*

Again, the word worship is to bow down, to prostrate in homage to royalty or God. Do reverence. Before God can speak the word of faith into our ears, we must have an attitude of worship and reverence towards Him. This puts us in a place of seriousness so that we can hear clearly what He wants to say to us.

Holy Ground - When you come to God, remove the carnal clutter, repent and get serious.

Faith Key #3 - Be Convinced Of Jesus' Ability And What You Believe.

Matthew 9:28 *And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord."*

We must be fully convinced that God is able to do what He has promised through Jesus Christ. Abraham was convinced of what God had spoken to him, so much so that he never wavered at the promise, but was fully convinced.

Romans 4:20-22 *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."*

Genesis 22:4-5 *Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."*

Genesis 22:8 *And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." And the two of them went together.*

God had spoken to Abraham through covenant that Isaac would be his heir. Abraham believed in the power of the covenant that God had established with him and was convinced of this and as a result great faith came forth. He is called the father of our faith. Are you convinced that God is able to perform on behalf of the New Covenant that was established through Jesus Christ?

Faith Key #4 - Press In spite Of The Obstacles.

- **The example of the Woman with a flow of blood - Luke 8:43-48.**

Luke 8:45-46 *And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng You and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' " But Jesus said, "Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me."*

This woman had to press into Jesus in spite of the obstacles she faced. The crowds were thronging or surrounding him so that it was nearly impossible to get to him, yet she pressed in in spite of the obstacle of the crowd. She did not lose heart.

There are many obstacles such as disillusionment, disappointments, worldly cares and distractions, and trials and tribulations that will try to cause us to lose heart and not press in.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 *We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...*

2 Corinthians 4:16 *Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.*

III. Concluding Remarks.

I am convinced that God is calling all of us at various times to new levels of faith, some of these levels require great faith other require a normal amount of faith. Where are you at now? Have you been at the same place for a long period of time? If so, God may be calling you to take a greater step of faith to experience a new freshness in your walk with Him.

Submit to His authority in a spirit of worship and adoration and be fully convinced of what He wants to do in your life and press in in spite of all obstacles and you shall experience the results of great faith.