

**THE  
FAITH OF OUR  
FATHERS**

**Revd Ayo Odunayo**

## **The Faith of Our Fathers**

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### **Victory Publishing House**

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## **Dedication**

This book is dedicated to God and to all God's people who attended the annual All Believers Conference of the Victory International Ministries Inc., in Port Harcourt, Nigeria from 17th – 20th May, 2007.

You, being the first partakers of this message are the real inspiration behind this book.

## **Acknowledgements**

I am grateful to several people who have contributed in various ways to this work, starting from the entire members of the Victory International Ministries Inc., and the Chapel of Victory Int'l Churches worldwide who provide me the inspiration to commit my messages into writing and to the Pastors of this ministry who want more of my teachings in print and made available to the body of Christ.

I appreciate the tireless efforts of the following people who contributed in various ways towards the production; Mrs Comfort Idongesit Omotayo, Noah, Pastor Felicia Wikina Piagbo, Ms Stella Wordu, Pastor Francis Asiyambi, Ms Carol Esemokumoh and Master Folarin Odunayo.

Finally, to my wife and partner in ministry, Reverend Mrs. Yinka Odunayo who personally goes through and co- edits every book we publish, I say thanks.

May you all find grace and favor before the Lord continually and all the days of your lives, in Jesus name, Amen.

## Foreword

***That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises*** (Hebrews 6:12).

When we speak of our fathers in the faith, the list begins with men like Abraham, women like Sarah, down to contemporary modern day men and women, who follow God with all their hearts and are doing exploits by faith. God has these people in every generation, no matter how dark the situation.

These men and women are (or were) champions for God. Through God they did great things, fought and won great battles, and inherited the fulfillment of God's promises for their lives.

These men and women are/were mortals like we are. However, they had certain secrets that enabled them to do so much for God. Secrets like their covenant relationship with God, their attitude to what God says, their obedience to divine directives, their sacrifices etc.

It is because they related with God in certain ways that made it possible for God to use them so amazingly.

The good news is you too can relate with God so deeply, so passionately that before long, you will see God at work in you, like He was mightily at work in them. This book is about how that can be.

As you study, and digest the content of this book, the Holy Spirit will be at work in you, opening your eyes to see what God wants you to do.

As you act on whatever God says to you while reading this book, you will see the hand of God at work in you to do His good pleasure, taking you to great heights.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon this work wherever it goes.

Shalom.

**Bishop Francis Wale Oke**

Ibadan 2007

## Introduction

My heart's desire is to see every believer walk by faith, conquer by faith and enjoy the benefits of his redemption. I feel sad when I see Christians suffering in ignorance of what God has already done. I feel sad seeing Christians struggle where they didn't need to. My desire is that each and every one of you reading this book will live as overcomers, conquering, not by the faith of another man but by your own faith. That's why we are going to look at how our fathers overcame by their own faith.

***“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”. Heb. 11:1***

Faith is for living. It is not just a thought or an idea in the bible; it is the way of life for a Christian. God intends that each and every one of us should live by faith. Victorious living comes when you live by faith. A successful Christian gets success by faith; a victorious Christian becomes victorious by faith.

***“Now the just shall live by faith”. Heb. 10:38***

It means the only way that God expects you as a Christian to live and be successful is by faith. More than ever, now is the time to walk with God through the supernatural highway; and that highway is the highway of faith. The pathway of faith is the sure way to get God's attention, get your needs met, and to inherit the promise.

Heb. 6:12, says we should be followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promise. So if you want to inherit the promise, if you want God to meet your needs, if you want to overcome the problems of your life, if you want to conquer in life, you should be a follower of them who through faith and patience inherit the promise.



There's been so much confusion in the Christian walk that believers don't even understand what it means to walk by faith any longer. There is so much confusion out there that people come to Christ without knowing that God expects them to walk by faith. You can get results for your life if you know what faith is and if you know how to walk by faith. Living by faith should be a natural thing for you as a Christian. You can have your needs met by faith. That is why we are talking about the faith of our fathers, because our fathers got results through faith and patience, and if you want results; you want to overcome frustration, unemployment, lack of fruitfulness etc. it is only through faith. Make this declaration to someone around you that **“victory comes through faith”**.

For us to live a successful Christian life we need a change of mindset, we need to have a mindset of faith, we need to be full of faith, every believer needs to have this mindset: that he needs to walk by faith.

We need men and women who will stand in faith until the result comes; not people who fidget when they are faced with little challenges. No! That's not the way the bible says it should be, the bible says the just shall live by faith. God expects that we live daily by faith. And as you live by faith you will experience victory and success, in Jesus name.

**Rev Ayo Odunayo**

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **RUDIMENTS OF FAITH**

### **1.1 GET UNDERSTANDING**

***“By knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew”.***

***Proverbs 3:20***

Understanding brings light. It is the lack of understanding of the basics of what faith is, that makes a believer to grope in the darkness of unbelief and doubt. If you can grasp the rudiments, basics, ABC of what faith is, then you can move mountains, you can heal the sick, and nothing will be impossible where you are concerned.

***“... through knowledge shall the just be delivered”. Proverbs 11:9***

Faith is as simple as ABC. It is the normal way of life. It is the lack of knowledge of the simplicity of faith that brings fear, failure and defeat. You must seek to understand and when you have received understanding, your faith is increased and multiplied.

***“The heart of him that has understanding seeks knowledge ...” Proverbs 15:14***

***“... yea, a man of knowledge increases strength” Proverbs 24:5***

In the pages of this books are simple truths that will lift your faith up and give you boldness to stand in faith for whatever you need.

**What are the rudiments of faith?**

### **1.2 THE RUDIMENTS OF FAITH**

#### **(i) WHAT WE HOPE FOR IS GOING TO HAPPEN**

The New Living Translation of the Bible gives a very interesting and precise definition of what faith is.

***“Faith is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen”. Hebrews 11:1***

That is what faith simply is; being sure in your heart that God is going to do what you have asked of him. The traditional King James version of the same Heb. 11:1 says: ***“Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen”***.

Another way you can put it is this: “Faith is knowing that God will do what you have asked him to do”. In other words, you have not gotten it but you know that God will do what you have asked him. It is being persuaded, being sure in your heart that he will do it and you are waiting for Him.

Look at the example of Abraham in Rom 4:20, 21. He did not stagger at the promise but was strong in faith. He was fully persuaded; fully convinced that God was going to do as He had promised, even when it was more than 20 years after God gave him the promise; He was sure that God was able to perform what He had promised. In the same way I believe that God will do much more than what you have asked him. The first rudiment of faith is that God will do what we have asked him to do.

## **(ii) THE CURRENCY OF HEAVEN**

Faith is the currency of heaven by which we make an exchange for what we are looking for. On earth we use money, in Nigeria they use Naira, in the United State of America, they use US Dollars. In God's kingdom, faith is the currency.

You can't have a pair of shoes if you go to the market, except you make an exchange with the money in use in that locality. For you to get what you are asking God for, there has to be an exchange and what you use to get what you are looking for from heaven is FAITH.

Faith is the currency of heaven, if you want heaven to respond to you, what you take to God is your faith. When you take your faith to God, God releases to you what you are asking for.

***“For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now, the just shall live by faith: but if any man draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him”. Heb. 10:37, 38***

The second important rudiment of faith is that faith is the currency with which you get what you ask from God.

### **(iii) FAITH IS THE SUPERNATURAL SENSE**

Faith is the supernatural sense; the sixth sense by which a believer gets supernatural results. The natural man has five senses: touch, smell, taste, sight and hearing. But if you want to get a supernatural result, you need the supernatural sense which is the sixth sense and that sense is the sense of faith.

- Faith gets supernatural results. In Heb. 11:2 the Bible says ***“For by it the elders, they obtained a good w report”***.
- Faith never fails. Faith gets miracles.
- Faith pleases God ***“For without faith it is impossible to please God”***. Heb. 11:6

Is there a Christian without faith? The answer is NO! For God has dealt to every man the measure of faith (Romans 12:3). Are there Christians who do not live by faith? The answer is YES! Many Christians do not put their faith to work and therefore do not get results in their lives. A lot of believers live like every other person; they struggle like every other person, no difference. But when you begin to exercise your faith you begin to get supernatural

results. You can get out of trouble even if you and your friend got into trouble through the same way, only if you exercise your faith.

- Faith can change your life. When you begin to exercise your faith in God in different circumstances you will get testimonies. My desire for each and every one of you is that from today you will have testimonies of faith. By faith the elders obtained testimonies. You too shall get testimonies upon testimonies in your life in the name of Jesus! Your life cannot remain the same because the bible says whatever is born of God overcomes the world and this is the victory that overcomes the world even our faith. Because you are born of God you are destined to be triumphant, victorious, and an over comer. And how do you live the overcoming life? By Faith!

Stop treating issues like the natural person, start treating issues like the supernatural person that you are. You are not an ordinary man, you are a supernatural person. Make this confession: I am a supernatural man and I live by the supernatural, I live by faith. You can overcome the world; you can overcome troubles, sicknesses, and unemployment by faith. Whatever has confronted you before now you are going to have a turnaround in the name of Jesus God wants to raise supernatural men and women who experience daily testimonies.

Hear what the bible says in Psalm 68: 19 ***“Blessed be the Lord who daily loads us with benefits”.***

Every day of our lives shall be filled with benefits and testimonies. There is no man that lives by faith that does not experience daily benefits. As you walk with God and walk by faith you shall experience testimonies and benefits unlimited! Your destiny is changing from now, you will no

longer be an ordinary person but you will be a supernatural person!  
Victory is coming your way, Hallelujah!

Thanks be unto God who always makes us to triumph in every place. God has destined that as we walk with Him we walk with testimonies, that's our destiny. And this victory comes by faith.

So faith is for the supernatural because it is the supernatural sense.

#### (iv) **WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR**

Heb. 11:1 says ***“Faith is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen”.***

In other words, faith deals with what you are looking for; you don't need faith for what you already have. I don't need faith for the money that is already in my pocket, but I need faith for the one that I need. Faith has to deal with what you hope to ***have confident assurance that what we hope for ....***

For faith to happen there must be **hope**. Faith is the substance of things **hoped for**. Where there is no hope faith cannot operate. So if there is someone who is in a difficulty and you see that the person has lost hope for a solution, faith cannot operate.

#### (v) **FAITH BRINGS HOPE TO REALITY**

***Faith believes in God's ability and promises and acts.***

Faith is acting on what you believe. Faith is bringing your hope into reality; through your actions and your words.

Faith is recognized by what you do or say. When you are in faith, it can be seen by your actions and known by your words.

***“A certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she***

***had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, when she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. 'I shall be whole'. And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague". Mark 5:25-29***

The woman with the issue of blood had hope for her healing. Her hope was in the Lord Jesus Christ. She believed that touching Jesus would bring her healing. She said to herself: For she said, "If I can touch his clothes, I shall be whole". Her hope turned into faith. She was confident that it would happen ... and she acted, she moved to do what she believed: "... ***came in the press behind, and touched his garment***". And her faith made her whole. "Straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up and she felt in her body that she was healed ..."

We can recognize her faith by the actions she took. She believed and she acted.

***"And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with palsy: and they sought means to bring him, and to lay him before him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee". Luke 5:17-20***

***“But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy), I say unto thee, Arise, take up thy couch and go into thine house. And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God”. Luke 5:24-25***

Faith does not give up because of obstacles, faith keeps going until all obstacles are removed and hope is realized. This paralyzed man and his friends were convinced that Jesus would heal him. They acted upon what they believed. There were obstacles on their way to bring the man before Jesus, but they refused to be stopped. Faith does not give up but overcomes obstacles on its way. The crowd could not stop them, they found another way to bring the man before Jesus; they took the roof top off and brought this man through to Jesus.

Jesus saw their faith and was moved by it. Your actions will show your faith whether real or unreal, whether strong or weak. When you believe, you must be courageous to act in line with what you believe and what you are expecting from the Lord.

This paralyzed man was able to bring his hope to reality because he surrounded himself with people who believed the same things with him. He must have demanded for them to take him to Jesus whatever it would cost because he was certain that Jesus would heal him. His friends believed with him and acted in the same spirit with him.

Don't surround yourself with people filled with unbelief.



Don't stay where all the words you hear are words of doubt and failure and defeat. You need an atmosphere of faith for faith to work.

What do you believe God for at this moment? You can overcome; you can get the promise; keep going.

***“Now the just shall live by faith ... but we are not of them that draw back unto perdition”*** Hebrews 10:38, 39

Is there a situation that needs change in your life? Keep hope alive because ... he that shall come shall come and will not delay.

Faith is confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen.

## CHAPTER TWO

### HOPE MAKES NOT ASHAMED

Faith needs hope to work and in other to understand the workings of faith you need to fully grasp the meaning and operations of hope.

***“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory God ... and hope makes not ashamed ...”*** Romans 5:1-5

#### 2.1 WHAT HOPE IS

Hope speaks of expectation, dreams, something ahead you seek or desire; heaven, a job, marriage, healing etc.

For example, I am saved and I have hope that when I die, I will go to heaven. I have hope for heaven and look forward to it.

There may be some of you, who have hope to get a job before the end of the year, some have hope to be married soon etc. Hope is what is ahead of you. Hope must never die because when hope dies, faith dies. When hope dies, you no longer have expectation for the future or for a solution to the problems or challenges facing you. The moment a man stops looking forward to something, he has no future any longer. Hope must always be alive. .... for where there is no hope, there can never be faith. The moment you give up, that's the end.

There are some people who died sick; not because the sickness was so severe that they could not come out of it, but because they gave up hope of recovery. This is the reason why medical doctors encourage their patients so that they don't give up hope to live but to fight on and keep strong to live and not to die.

When there is hope to live, you will live and not die. Amen. Never give up.

In Job 14:14 the bible uses a tree to illustrate the importance of hope.

***“For there is hope of a tree if it be cut down that it will sprout again and the tender branch thereof shall not cease, though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stump thereof die in the ground, yet through the scent of water it will bulb and bring forth like a plant”. Job 14:8-9***

In other words, as long as a plant still has its roots in the ground, there is hope that the tree will live again.

For you as a believer, as long as there is life in you, there is hope, Hallelujah! It doesn't matter what your present situation is, there is hope; hope that a change will come, and hope that you can still be lifted up. Amen.

Do you know what the bible says about the righteous? It says the righteous falls seven times and rises again. You will rise again!!! Amen.

Never give up hope. Faith needs hope for it to work.

***“... It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the Lord”.***

***Lamentations 3:26***

If you wait for the Lord, your miracle will come. And there is no shame in having hope.

***And hope does not make ashamed; Romans 5:5.***

I will never give up hope. I have hope for a better tomorrow.

## 2.2 THE BASIS OF HOPE

The believer's hope must have a strong foundation in Christ and in His word. When hope has no basis, and has nothing to hold on to, it fails.

A man who has no employment has no basis to hope to buy a car at the end of the month. The basis to make such a purchase must be based on availability of a source of income/fund. Where there is no basis to look forward to something, then hope has failed and faith cannot stand.

A believer's hope is in the Lord God and in His word.

***“Happy is he who has the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is the Lord his God”.*** Psalm 146:5

***“Remember thy word unto thy servant, upon which though has caused me to hope”. “My soul faints ... but I hope in thy word”.*** Psalm 119:49, 81

Abraham had hope in God and in God's promise. He refused to give up his hope. God became his hope and the scripture says in Romans 4:18 that ... ***“against hope, he believed in hope”.***

When you have Christ, you have hope.

***Christ in you the hope of glory”.*** Colossians 1:27

I have hope because I have Christ and I can never be ashamed because hope makes not ashamed.

*My hope is built on nothing else  
Than Jesus blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest fame  
But wholly lean on Jesus name.  
On Christ the solid rock I stand  
All other ground is sinking sand  
All other ground is sinking sand.*

## 2.3 KEEPING HOPE ALIVE

***“For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth and the stock thereof die in the ground; yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like plant”. Job 14:7-9***

It is important to note that for you to live by faith, you must keep hope alive. Even when the situation appears tough and difficult, keep your hope alive for God's supernatural intervention.

Look at that scripture in Job 14:14. For as long as the tree is alive and has her roots, there is hope for it. How much more you; there is hope for you!

Abraham in Romans chapter 4 verse 18, against hope, believed in hope. He refused to give up hope. He didn't even consider his body that was dead (i.e. no longer strong, it was weak and unproductive). He didn't consider the facts that by the natural (senses) he was no longer qualified to have a child. No. He kept his hope alive.

He also didn't consider the deadness of Sarah's womb. That Sarah had passed menopause and was no longer able to have a child. No he kept his hope alive.

## CHAPTER THREE

### THE OPERATION OF FAITH

***“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”.*** Hebrews 11:3

Faith helps us to understand the supernatural; how God operates; how he framed the world; how things which appear come into being. To experience continuous victory as a believer, you must walk continuously by faith. It is the supernatural highway, the way of success, the way of greatness.

If you study the Eleventh Chapter of the book of Hebrews, you will find out that, our fathers did many things by faith and through faith. They got many tangible and spectacular results in their lives by faith and through faith. ***For example in verse 7 it was “by faith that Noah, being warned of God of things not yet seen, moved in fear and prepared an Ark to the saving of his house through which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.***

And Abraham also in verse 8 – 10 by faith

***“... when he was called out to go to a place which should after receive for an inheritance, he obeyed and he went out, not knowing whither he went; by faith he sojourned in the land of promise as in a strange land, dwelling in tabernacles which Isaac and Jacob the heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked for a city which had foundations; whose builder and maker is God”. Through faith Sarah received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised. Therefore, sprang there even one and him as good as dead so many as the stars of the sky for multitude and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable”. Verses 11 – 12.***

All these people by faith, through faith experienced supernatural visitations. And if you also will experience supernatural visitations in your life, it has to be by faith and through faith. If you will live above the natural, if you will have testimonies, good reports like people of old, it has to be by faith and through faith.

In this chapter, I will share with you on the operations of faith, and how faith works.

### **3.1 FAITH IS OF THE HEART**

***“Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that things which were seen were not made from things which do appear” . Hebrews 11:3***

Faith helps us to understand the supernatural. It is faith that helps us to understand the way that God operates; it is through faith that we understand how God made the world. And faith is of the heart, and not of the head.

Faith makes us to understand that the supernatural is of the heart and not the head. The head looks for physical empirical evidence before he believes, but the heart believes even when the head is not in agreement with what the heart believes.

Head faith can be seen in the attitude of Thomas, Jesus' disciple, who refused to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead, even when his colleagues said that they had seen Jesus and touched him.

Thomas wanted tangible evidence that he could see by himself.

***“And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were his disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, we have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, except I shall see in his***

***hands the print of the nails, and thrust my hands into his side, I will not believe.*** John 20:20, 24 – 25

Jesus came back to prove to Thomas that he was indeed alive and it was only then that Thomas believed.

***“Then said he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side; and be not faithless, but believing. Then Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus said unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, though hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed”. John 20:27-29***

Now when Thomas came back, they told Thomas, “Jesus has been here, we saw Him, we touched his hands, He is risen from the dead”. But Thomas would not believe, and he said, “I will not believe until I touch him myself”.

Thomas' faith was head faith; the faith that only believes when you have seen it. And once you see it, you don't need faith any longer.

Thomas believed in Jesus, but he was not ready to believe in the evidence of the other disciples. Thomas was not ready to accept the testimony of the other disciples. This is the problem with many of us, until you begin to believe the testimony of the word of God and the testimony of what God has done in the lives of people, you will not be able to live by faith and to walk by faith

Faith is believing the testimony of the word of God, even when you have not seen it.

***“with the heart, man believes ...”*** Rom 10:10

For you to live by faith your heart is very important, you must disconnect your head. The head represents the reasoning faculty. The head helps us to look for tangible facts



but with the heart man believes. The heart believes the word but the head queries the word. Faith operates through the heart.

I want you to say this to yourself: "I believe in my heart what God says in His word". The heart believes and receives the evidence of His word. The heart says, if God has said it, then I believe it.

There is a song that says: *"God said it, I believe it, that settles it. (2ce).*

That is what the heart does; it receives the testimony of the word, believes it and shuts out the head.

Living by faith is of the heart. If you live by faith you need to change from head faith to heart faith. You need to force your head to play a smaller role in your life and let your heart believe the word and play a bigger role in your life. You've got to give place to your heart to play a bigger role in your life than the questions that come from the head. Your heart is key to the walk of faith. Your heart is very important for you to live successfully by faith. Say to yourself; "my heart is important for me to live by faith". So you need to cleanse your heart and you need to protect your heart.

The bible says in Romans 12:1-2 "Be ye transformed by the renewing of your heart". This is why it is very important the kind of music you listen to, the books you read, the places you go and messages you listen to. If you go to meetings and churches where all you hear is about witches, wizards that are pursuing or about those that want to kill you, I can tell you that all your life you will live in fear because all you hear will be about negative things that will happen to you and all your life you end up struggling and fighting enemies.

Your heart is important. What gets into your heart will either build faith in you or build fear in you. If you go to a place where they tell you that you are an overcomer and the

devil has no place in you, and that the seed of God is in you and therefore you can be successful in life, you'll see that you will become strong in faith and you will move around in life full of faith.

You must protect your heart because faith is of the heart.

***“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings: let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4:20-23***

### **3.2 FAITH OPERATES BY THE WORD**

***“Through faith we understand that the world was framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear”. Hebrews 11:3***

Here we are God's faith in operation through the word. He framed the world by the word. Faith operates through the word.

### **FAITH COMES AND GROWS BY THE WORD**

We also know that Faith operates by the word. Faith comes and grows by the word. God has ordained it that faith comes by the word and faith grows by the word. Faith comes by the hearing of the word.

In Rom 10, we see that the first encounter of faith comes at the hearing of the gospel of Jesus. The gospel of Jesus Christ gives faith for salvation. So when a man hears the gospel, he receives faith for salvation. In Rom 10:8 *“for what saith thee, the word is near thee even in your mouth and in your heart even the word of faith which we preach”*.

So the gospel that we preach is also called the word of faith. When a man hears the gospel, he hears the word of faith, and when he believes, verse 9 says: ***“and if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God raised from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”***

For the scriptures says: “whosoever believes on Him shall not be ashamed for there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call on Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”.

Faith comes at the new birth. Whenever someone receives Jesus Christ as his Lord and personal Savior; faith enters into his life. This is the experience of being born again. So if you are born again, you are born again by faith because you received the gospel, you receive the word of God and faith for salvation. Eph 2:8 tells us how a man can be saved: it says: ***“We are saved by grace through faith ...”***

Nobody can be saved except through faith. We receive Jesus by faith. When somebody comes out and says I want to receive Jesus as my Lord and personal savior that is a step of faith. Because you have not seen him yet you believe Him. When you come out and say I want the blood of Jesus to wash my sins away; that is a step of faith.

Everyone that is born again, everyone that has received Jesus Christ as his Lord and personal savior has faith.

***“For by grace are you saved through faith; ...”*** Ephesians 2:8

Never say I have no faith, you have a measure of faith. Your responsibility is to grow your faith; and faith grows by the word.

***“... according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith”***. Rom 12:3

God has given to every man the measure of faith. The faith you need to get started in life has already been given to you. I'm trying to lay a foundation for you to understand that you have received the measure of faith. Every one of you who has received Jesus as His Lord and Savior has faith. You have received him by faith. You received faith at the new birth.

Faith comes by the word and also grows by the Word. You need to grow your faith and increase your faith through the word of God.

From the faith for salvation; allow your faith to grow so that you can also receive not only salvation but healing, miracles employment, open doors happiness etc. You have faith but you have a personal responsibility to grow your faith.

You need to work on yourself in order to grow your faith. Faith operates by the Word. Never say I have no faith because you have a measure of faith.

## **FAITH AND HEARING**

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

Faith comes from hearing and hearing the Word. That means that hearing the word of God plays an important role in your life for your faith to operate. For you to live by faith, what you hear is important. If you hear faith filled words you will be filled with words of faith. If you hear fear filled words you will be filled with words of fear. What you hear will determine your success and victory in life. So you have the responsibility to put yourself in the right place to hear the right words and the right words are the words of faith.

Take time in the word to grow your faith. Faith grows as you hear His word, as you hear His promises; as you hear testimonies of God's goodness from others. Your response in faith or in fear is as a result of what you hear. Position yourself to hear

faith-filled words, testimonies and possibilities. Locate yourself where faith-filled words are always spoken.

***Faith is operated by the spoken word***

I want you to understand that the power to create has been released into your tongue. The bible says that life and death are in the power of the tongue.

***“Thou shall decree a thing and it shall be established unto you. Thou shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea and it shall be so”.***

Nothing is impossible to him that believes.

Faith operates by what we say. When you speak words of faith into impossibilities, they become possibilities (Heb 11:3). The Bible says by faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God. How did God create the world? By the spoken Word. The life of faith is through speaking faith-filled words to the circumstances of life that confront you. You have a creative tongue and have been empowered to make creative decrees.

***“A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth ...Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof”.*** Proverbs 18:20-21

Your mouth is an instrument of creation. Use it to create what you desire. We are co-creators with God. First we know that when God created man the bible says he created man in his own image and likeness.

In Proverbs 18:21 the bible says: “Life and death are in the power of the tongue”. When God created man he put power in his tongue. Your tongue has creative power; the power of life and death.

Many people have been destroyed by what their parents said concerning them. That's the reason why parents should bless their children. If you look into the scriptures you will see examples of parents calling their children to bless them; that is the creative power of the tongue. When parents say it will be well with you, you shall not fail, you will not be destroyed, your education is blessed, etc. You will begin to see these things operate in your life. When an ordinary man has creative power in his tongue what about the supernatural man? You have much more creative power. The enemy cannot stop what comes out of your tongue. You can create life and a great future for yourself with your tongue. The bible says that they that love it will eat the fruit thereof. You have a choice, to either create life or death.

Faith operates by the spoken Word. The Bible says that God made the world that we see by the spoken Word. "By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God". You have been empowered also by God to make decree.

In Job 22 you will understand that your coming to Jesus made a difference in your life. So we must take advantage of who we are and begin to change circumstances around our lives.

Begin to create a glorious future for your life. Speak about your tomorrow, today.

***"If thou return to the Almighty, thou shall be built up, thou shall put iniquity far from your tabernacles then shall you lay up gold like dust (that means the door of prosperity is opened to you, when you return to the Lord and I know that you will make it, you will prosper and lay up gold). Job. 22:23***

When you return to the Lord, the favor of God becomes your portion.

***"Yea, the Almighty shall be your defense; thou shall have plenty of silver. Thou shall say your prayer unto Him, he shall hear thee". Job. 22:25***

Faith is the confident assurance that what I prayed for will be answered. It says when thou return to the Lord, thou shall make thy prayer to the Lord and He shall answer you. How many people believe that word? Faith is believing the word of God that what God has said, is true as He has said it. It also says when you return to the Almighty, you will say your prayers to Him and He will answer. Whatever it is that you are seeking the face of the Lord for, He will answer you. The answers are conveyed unto you from heaven this season in the name of Jesus, Amen!

***“Thou shall also decree a thing and it shall be established unto you and the light shall shine upon thy ways ...”*** Job. 22:28

In this season, the light shall shine upon thy ways, and whatever darkness the enemy has put upon your path way, they shall be turned to light in Jesus name, Amen.

Look at it, verse 28 says ***“thou shall also decree a thing ...”*** To make a decree means to make an unchangeable pronouncement, the pronouncement of the King that cannot but be carried out.

Usually, the pronouncement of a king (a decree) cannot be stopped by any man. Unless the King makes another decree, that decree cannot be changed. Once a decree is issued, it is impossible for it not to be fulfilled. A decree can only be nullified by another decree.

God has given you the empowerment, authority to make a decree. When you make a decree that decree shall be established, because the creative power has been put into your mouth and when you make a proclamation, a decree based on God's word, you have the assurance that the decree cannot fail.

Your faith is based on the promise of the Almighty that has the backing of God. Even when you have to wait for the fulfillment, you wait patiently because you know that

the word of God cannot fail, because you know that God will not allow His word to fall on the ground. You wait because you know that this decree shall be established; so you wait patiently and with great expectations.

Let us use the example of Jesus on how decrees are made:

***“And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany He was hungry and seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, He came happily that He might find anything thereon. And when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for the time of figs was not yet”.*** Mark 11:12-14

This shows the humanity in Jesus; that when He was on the earth He was hungry just like you do. He had expectations just like you do. He was fully a man just like you! Here was Jesus seeing a fig tree and desiring to get some fruits from it. Just like you get married and you want to have a baby; you finish school and you want to have a job; you are married and you want to see peace in your home; you see opportunities and you move towards them. Jesus saw an opportunity on the fig tree and He went close.

When you see an opportunity, a man of faith will move close. You don't allow opportunities to pass you by; you move close and take advantage of them. But when Jesus got there, the bible says that Jesus was disappointed with what he saw. This is part of life! When Jesus did not find fruits He spoke to the tree, He made a decree.

Mark 11:14 ***“and Jesus answered and said unto it no man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever and His disciples heard it”.*** That was a decree.

The bible says life and death are in the power of the tongue and those that love it will eat the fruit thereof. You also have the capacity of life and death in your mouth, in your words.

***“And thou shall decree a thing and it shall be established ...”*** Job 22:28



Jesus made a decree, and He made it openly. The bible says His disciples heard it: However, nothing happened immediately to that tree when Jesus made that decree; nothing, absolutely nothing. That tree still looked as fresh as it was.

Do you understand this? That when Jesus made a decree, nothing happened immediately. There are times you think you must get instant results and when nothing happens you get discouraged. Here is Jesus, the master of faith, He said to the tree, you are cursed and nobody is going to eat from you forever. And His disciples heard Him. I am sure they looked at the tree and then looked at themselves and then at Jesus; but Jesus didn't look at them. He didn't care because He understood the principles of faith.

It doesn't matter whether something happens immediately in the physical. Something has already happened in the realm of the unseen. Something has happened in the spiritual and it will manifest in the physical later.

God's word doesn't fall to the ground, it doesn't matter how long it takes, it will be fulfilled. The bible says in Heb 10:37 "He that shall come shall come, He shall not tarry". The promise will come, the blessings will come. Even if you haven't seen it now, eventually it will come. This is the operation of faith. Faith believes that as I have said so it shall be; and then you go your way.

Faith says: I know it is well with my business; father I decree life to this business in the name of Jesus. As long as you believe it, you can go to bed! It doesn't matter whether people are looking at you or not you know that "you shall decree a thing and it shall be established".

The disciples of Jesus must have been wondering perhaps they were afraid for Jesus; for the first time, they were afraid for Jesus! This is perhaps because they saw this as

an embarrassment. Like some of us, when your pastor speaks to a situation and there is no immediate change, we may wonder loudly saying: Our G.O said it but we don't know, He should not have said it openly oh! Can't He call that woman and pray for her secretly? Why did

Jesus not say it quietly? Why did Jesus not say it quietly?

If there is any body that is afraid for you, tell him not to be afraid for you because you are operating by the principle of the word. If God said it, I believe it and that settles it. I may not see it now but I see it coming, I may not experience it now but I know its coming. The bible says in Heb 10:37 “He that shall come shall come, He shall not tarry” that whatsoever you desire when you pray believe you receive and you shall have it. I may not have it now but I know I have received it and I know it is coming my way. Faith believes and received the word and you have it.

Let's go back to the fig tree and see what happened next.

Mark 11:15 ***“and they went to Jerusalem ...”*** Jesus made the decree and He went His way.

If you are a Pastor, the word is in your mouth, pronounce the word and go your way, whether the cripple rises up immediately or not. Your responsibility is to make the decree and go your way. Hallelujah! When we decree that there will be seed in your womb, we make the decree and we go our way. The word will be fulfilled. When we command the cancer to die in your body, we make the decree, we go our way. That cancer will die!

There is no force that can withstand the word, because life and death are in the power of the word.

In verse 20 (of Mark 11) we read that the following day

***In the morning, as they passed by they saw the fig tree dried up from the root.***

We saw in Job that there is hope of a tree as long as the root is not dead. But for this tree, a decree was made; therefore there was no more hope, it dried up from the roots. This is the power of a decree.

So you can see that though the miracle was not seen immediately, it actually happened because when the decree was made, something happened in the root. As the decree was made, the root died, and began to dry up.

Faith is saying, decree by declaring what you believe. ***“We believe, therefore we speak”***. 2 Cor. 4:13.

There are some situations that take a process for the miracle to manifest. That's why you should be patient and wait and believe God and keep holding unto the word until the manifestation of that which you believe God for.

Mark 11:20 – the bible says that Peter remembered and called unto him and said ***Master the fig tree which you cursed has withered away.***

That means Jesus didn't even care, and was not watching to see whether the tree had died or not. He knew the tree died yesterday (when he cursed it) and hence was not desperate to see the manifestation. The moment he made the decree he knew that it was done. The following day he wasn't trying to see if it was dead; it wasn't any concern for him. That's the way to walk by faith.

You know God has heard it, you know it has been done, you keep rejoicing because you know it will surely come to pass.

His disciples were watching out, perhaps wondering that nothing would happen but God honored Jesus' decree and they saw it. Whatever it is that people are watching

out for, they will see your testimony. Before long they will see your testimony, that situation they saw wither off will become alive again. Both your friends and your enemies will see the word of God fulfilled in your life.

Jesus said to his disciples in the next verse, that they should have faith in God. I pronounce every unrighteous situation in your life and in your family dead in the name of Jesus. I pronounce every difficulty to be removed in the name of Jesus. Have faith in God.

### **3.3 FRAME YOUR WORLD BY FAITH**

***“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”***. Hebrews 11:3

God has released the power to make decree, to use the spoken word into your hearts.

In Hebrew 11:3, the bible says that “by faith we understand that the worlds were framed”. To frame means to shape, to put together, to put some contours some arrangements around. The worlds were formed by the word of God. This means that God expects us to frame our world also by words.

You can frame your world. You can decide how your future will be. You can frame your family and decree words around it. You can decide the direction you want to go. You can frame your ministry. You can frame your business. You can frame your education. You can frame your future. You can frame your life.

God wants you to frame your tomorrow – there is a process to framing. You have a responsibility to frame your world. The power to frame the world is in your hands. You must arise to become men and women of faith. You can determine how your future can be by the word of God. When your future is framed; the devil can only attack but he can't succeed.

You can frame your business and you can frame your happiness by the words you speak. Frame the success of your life, children, business, career by speaking faith filled words into your future. The bible says you will decree a thing and it shall be established.

Speak faith filled words to your happiness, your joy, your marriage. Speak concerning your life, it shall be well with you, speak open doors into your life. I want you to speak concerning your marriage, your husband, your wife saying I will not fail. I want you to speak concerning your education, career. Make a decree concerning your life.

Speak life into your future.

### ***The Superiority of the Unseen***

The physical is governed and controlled by the spiritual; the natural by the supernatural; the seen by the unseen. The physical is governed by the spiritual that is why the bible says that God framed the world by his word. The spiritual govern the physical. When Jesus spoke to the tree and said it was done, it was finished. And eventually it came into the physical realm.

The air you breathe exists in the unseen realm. Whether you see it or not, it exist. The air is made up of oxygen, nitrogen and several other particles. They are there whether you see them or not. Similarly, all things that are seen first exist in the realm of the unseen. Faith brings them to the realm where they are seen.

You may not see or feel what you believe God for but they exist. Faith believes that what you ask for already exists in God's realm.

***“For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he said shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith”.*** Mark 11:23

## **FAITH STARTS IN THE UNSEEN REALM**

God conceived in His heart what He wanted; He saw it in the spirit; He then framed it with words and decreed it; then it manifested in the physical.

God saw everything he wanted to create and by faith, through the spoken word, he brought them into the realm that everyone could see them. In the realm of the unseen, decree what you want to be done. In the realm of the unseen, kick away any block that the enemy has put before you. You should speak to every tree that God has not planted to die. You have to speak to your future.

You can frame your world, your marriage, your business, your womb, your healing, etc., just as God framed the world that we see.

### **3. 4 KEYS TO FRAMING YOUR WORLD**

#### **1. Receive the promises in your heart**

You must first receive God's promises in your heart just as Abraham and Sarah received God's promise to have a child.

***“And the Lord visited Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him”.***

Genesis 21:1, 2

God's promise is a seed which you sow into your heart. Let the word and promises of God fill your heart. Don't allow fear-filled words, doubts to fill the heart.

***“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”.*** Colossians 3:16

Fill your heart with His promises, for out of the abundance of the heart, your future is spoken.

## **2. Let the promise take root in your heart and get a clear picture of the promise**

Meditate on God's promise and God's possibilities. Kick off unbelief; make a declaration: "I know that what I hope for is going to happen". God saw the light before he asked the light to be. You need to have a clear picture of your world; by prayer and meditation; by asking and receiving. See it in your heart. It is possible.

## **3. Frame your world with words in line with what you see in the heart**

God saw the light in the supernatural and framed it with words bringing it into the physical realm. He saw the earth productive and said "let it bring forth grass, seed fruit ..." Everything God framed was received and he saw them in the physical ... that it was good; that it was in line with what He saw in the spirit.

***"And God saw everything that he made, (framed them with God's, commanded them to be), and behold, it was good".*** Genesis 1:31

Elijah in I Kings 18:1, 41-44; received the word from the Lord, that God will send rain and instantly, Elijah became pregnant with that word. He framed it, proclaimed it and when there seemed to be nothing happening, he refused to be moved by negative reports and testimonies.

Rise up and frame your world.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### EXPLOITS OF FAITH

Great men, heroes of faith recorded Hebrews chapter 11 made great exploits, shook nations and did what others called impossible; they did it all by faith.

In Hebrews chapter 11, you find great exploits of faith by these men of like passion, men like you and I, men who were born in the same circumstances as you were born. Men who are not different from you in any reason at all, but because they choose to believe God and to stand in faith, changed their generation, impacted the lives of people, they overthrew kingdoms. Wao! If they did it, you can do it. Listen to me; we are not looking elsewhere for people who will do great exploits. You are God's workman. He has given birth to you – for exploits of faith.

What ordinary men have done in the Bible days, you too can do. Hallelujah! Men who were fishermen, who were illiterates, through whose hands, the sick were healed, dead raised and kingdoms were turned upside down; how much more you. Just as they did great things, you too can do great things. They lived by faith and as long as you walk by faith and confront situations and circumstances you will have the same testimonies of faith.

***... all what shall I more say for time will fail me to tell of ...*** Heb 11:32;

There were so many more before them and we can continue. Your name can be among them. What shall I say more for time will fail me to say of Nornu and Joe and Francis and Chioma, and Gbenga and you too; who through faith subdued kingdoms. If they subdued kingdoms then you can subdue kingdoms, and you will subdue kingdoms in the name of Jesus.

***Who wrought faith through righteousness;*** and if they wrought righteousness by faith, you will wrought righteousness by faith.

***Who through faith, obtained promises.*** This means there is no promise you cannot have. Through faith they got promises. Through faith all the promises are delivered into your hands.

They stopped the mouth of lions, they quenched the violence of fire, and they escaped the edge of the sword. Oh I see you escape from all the evil plans of the wicked one. I



see you escape from accidents, death and all the gatherings of the kingdom of darkness. By faith they escaped from the edge of the sword, I also see you escape the edge of the enemy's sword.

Out of darkness, they came strong, they became valiant in fight, they turned to flight all the armies of the aliens, and women received their dead back to live.

How did it all happen? By faith.

Faith is a very important part of our lives because victory only comes by faith and success in life comes also by faith. The Christian walk is a walk of faith; those who do not walk by faith do not make impact in their generation. For you to make a difference in your generation, you must step out in boldness and live by faith.

We have said that faith is having confidence that what you hope for is going to happen; having conviction that what God has promised he is going to do; taking a bold step in line with what you believe, etc. In other words, because you know that God will not fail, you are not afraid to take steps in the direction of what you have asked for. That's what faith is all about.

Faith without action is dead. Faith is behaving in line with what you believe. Taking actions in line with the promise of God, because you are convinced that God never fails.

We have seen these examples; of our fathers who walked and lived by faith. Men who were courageous to do things that some other people were afraid to do; and when they took those courageous steps they had results and testimonies. That's why Heb 11:2 says by it (faith) the elders obtained a good report. They lived by faith.

We are also going to make history as we begin to step out in faith. Nothing will be able to stop us; rather we will pull down strongholds, overthrow kingdoms and darkness and obtain healings and deliverances. We shall leave indelible marks in our generation.

I want us to look at some of these elders in Heb. 11:4 how they walked by faith and obtained testimonies, and how you too can follow their examples and get the same results and testimonies that they got in their lives.

## 4.1 ABEL and his offering of faith

***“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain by which he obtained witness that he was righteous. God testifying of his gifts and by it, he being dead yet speaketh”.*** Hebrews 11:4

Abel gave his offering to God by faith. Faith is for living and everything we do must be done by faith. Abel understood that faith is for living and that anything you have to do with God, for God, has got to be by faith. He therefore gave his offering by faith for “anything that is done outside of faith is sin”.

Giving of offering must be done by faith. You need to know that your offering is as important as any other thing you do in life. You need to stop throwing your offering at God, give it in faith, in expectation of his blessings.

Faith is expectation that God will respond favorably to us.

When Abel gave his offering to God, he was trusting that God would receive his offering and respond favorably to him. That's what faith is all about. When you come before God with an offering, you come with a heart of faith, believing that your offering will be acceptable unto God.

In the case of Cain, I believe he threw his offering at God; he took it for granted that anything he gave was acceptable, but God rejected his offering and accepted the offering of Abel who offered his offering in faith.

We must give to God by faith, trusting Him to receive whatever we bring and to respond appropriately to our offerings. From today, as you begin to bring offerings of faith to God, God will respond to you as He responded to Abel.

God will always respond to a man that gives to Him by faith. Faith is an expectation; expecting that God will receive what you bring and respond back to you. Therefore, anything you give to God; whether offering of money, time or service, you must give it to God by faith, believing that, that offering will be accepted and will receive a response from God.

God will respond to you, He will respond to your offerings. We must give to him by faith trusting that He will respond appropriately to our offerings.

When it is offering time, it is not just a time on the program and it's not the pastor trying to extract from you, but its part of worship; it reveals your heart, it is time to activate your faith. When you bring your offering to God in worship by faith, it can open you up for great visitation from God. By your offerings, God can visit you and bring healing, prosperity to you, and change the hearts of people who were against you, just by your offering. God is capable of responding back to you in an appropriate manner

***Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice by faith. He offered to God a sacrificial offering***

A sacrifice is something that costs you, inconveniences you, brings pain to you, and I must tell you, it takes faith to inconvenience yourself and do something for God.

It takes faith to go the extra mile for God. It takes faith that God will bless you in return. When a man decides and chooses that he will go through pains in order to give God an offering, it's like saying God, I inconvenience myself, and I give this offering in faith and expect that you will return it back to me. God does not reject sacrifices that are given to him by faith. He responds back positively and appropriately.

Your offering may be your money, time, house, praise and worship. You must give God quality offering not the remnant or left over. God deserves the best and He wants the best. David said, I will not offer unto God that which cost me nothing. He wanted to give God an offering by sacrifice.

He needed a land to use for his offering and as a king he had the authority to possess any land he wanted, but rather he chose to pay for one. He approached one of his subjects who had a choice land that was appropriate for God's offering. David said to this man: *"I want to buy that piece of land; I want to make sacrifices to God"*. And the man said, why do you need to buy it, take it, you are the king. ***David said No! The offering of faith is the offering of sacrifice. I will not offer unto God that which cost me nothing.***

He paid for the land and offered sacrifices unto God and God responded instantly to that sacrifice of faith. We need to learn from this example. Many people offer gifts to God that they themselves cannot use; such as spoilt things, broken objects etc. No, give God an excellent offering – an offering off sacrifice.

Solomon, in 1st Kings Chapter 3 went before God to offer sacrifices and he kept on giving until he had slaughtered a thousand rams. He would not stop at anything; he was prepared to offer to God that which would cost him much.

Did Solomon touch God that day? Oh yes, he touched God because we read from that chapter that, the same night, God appeared to him and said: ***Solomon, ask me anything you want for I have seen your sacrifice, I have been touched by your sacrifice and your faith; ask me anything you want ...***

What an open cheque! When a man goes to God by faith and gives an offering of sacrifice by faith to God, God gives him an open cheque. It takes faith to give to God what you will ordinarily not give. It takes faith to give to God what will make you check whether what remains is sufficient for your personal needs.

It takes faith to commit your life, time, and energy to the things of God in such a way that other things in your life are destabilized.

For all your sacrifices of faith, all your steps and gifts to God, may heaven open to you, may heaven receive your gifts, sacrifices and recognize your faith. May heaven respond to you in Jesus name!

***Abel obtained witness, response, testimony from God for his faith***

***“... by which he obtained witness ..., God testifying of his gifts ...”*** Hebrews 11:4

God recognized the gift that Abel brought; it was a gift brought by faith and sacrifice. It was an offering of faith and sacrifice; and God called it an excellent sacrifice. If you want an excellent response from God, you have to give an excellent sacrifice. And when you take the steps that Abel took, God will respond like He responded to Abel. Similarly, when you take the steps that Solomon took, God will respond to you like He responded to Solomon.

If you want God to take you from where you are to the place where nothing will stop you, come on try and give an excellent sacrifice. Give it with faith and expectation, because faith speaks of expectation.

Our faith and sacrifices must be given to God by faith, in expectation that God will receive what we brought and then respond. Your offering must be deliberate and purposeful, must be an offering of faith saying, Lord I know this is what you gave me and I am conscious of it and I bring it back to you Lord.

How many of us can say to God when it is offering time, Lord it is what you gave me I'm bringing? No wonder things are not happening, when you don't bring an offering of faith and sacrifice how can prosperity come? How can you be lifted above the level that you are? It is when you consciously and deliberately give an offering of faith, an offering that can touch the heart of God like the offering of Abel, then; God can testify of your gift saying, I can recognize this gift. God can say; have you seen the gift that Sister Jane brought? In the same way that God testified of the gift of Abel, He will testify of your gifts when you bring your gift of sacrifice.

Abel the father of faith got a place in heaven because he brought an offering of faith and he gave an excellent sacrifice unto God, hallelujah! God will respond to every of your gifts in the name of Jesus. As you move out of your comfort zone, heaven will respond to your life. As you move by faith this year, doing things that you've never done before, taking bold and courageous steps for God, may God testify of your gifts and of your faith and sacrifices in the name of Jesus!

### ***Faith makes the dead to speak***

***“By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain by which he obtained witness that he was righteous. God testifying of his gifts and by it, he being dead yet speaketh”***. Hebrews 11:4

Faith makes dead situations to come alive. As you take steps of faith and make sacrifices in faith towards the Almighty, God will cause every deadness in your life to come alive. Come on; receive it now in the name of Jesus! Let deadness in your body receive life; let deadness in your family receive life; let deadness in your ministry receive life; let deadness in your finances receive life; let every area of your life that has been dead receive life now in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Faith makes deadness to come alive. I see you come alive this year in the name of Jesus. Abel changed the pattern of gifts and sacrifices, you can do the same.

## **4.2 ENOCH and his walk with God**

***“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God”***. Hebrews 11:5

Enoch had a testimony of faith. What is that testimony? He pleased God. Enoch pleased God so much so that God took him. It takes faith to please God, if you look at verse 6, the bible says for without faith it is impossible to please God. How can you please God? It's by faith. It takes you living by faith, putting your faith in the grace and ability of God for you to be able to please God.

***Faith is trusting God for divine grace and enablement***

There is a song that says "it's not by works of righteousness but by His grace alone". How can you be complete in Him? By His grace alone. For you to be able to please God and work in holiness and righteousness and purity of life, it takes faith – trust in divine grace and enablement.

It takes faith to be holy, righteous, and live honestly. It's by putting your trust in God daily and saying; Father, today I hold unto your hands to live righteous and holy for you; Father, today as I go to my work place, I hold on to your hands that I will shine, that I will not be embarrassed, that I will not join other people to defraud, I do it by faith, I put my trust and confidence in you. Amen.

It takes faith in God's grace and enablement to please Him. The faith is that God will help you to please Him, as you decide to please Him in all that you do.

***What happens to people who please Him?***

*He abides with them. He becomes one with them.* When Enoch pleased Him what did He do? He took him. He translated him. He became one with him.

Jesus said in John 8:29; ***And he that sent me is with me; the father has not left me alone for I always do those things that please Him.***

What happens to those who please Him? He abides with them. The opposite is true for those who don't please Him; they have no assurance of God's abiding presence.

How do you seek to please Him? It's a walk of faith; it's by holding on to Him everyday and saying Lord I want to please you today; God, as I go out of my house today, I need your strength so I can please you. Lord in everything I do, help me to please you. Lord in everything in my shop today let me please you; let me please you with the things that I say or do. Lord let me please you in my business today. As I sign contracts, make connections today, let me please you, for without faith it is impossible to please you.

***When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*** Prov. 16:7.

What does it mean to please God? How did Enoch please the Lord? In Gen 5:24 the bible says ***He walked with God and God took him.***

This means that what Enoch did that God classified as pleasing Him was that he walked with God. To please God therefore means to walk with God. You need to walk with God, so that you can please Him.

Walking with God requires faith. Walking with God is walking faithfully. Walking with God is walking righteously. Walking with God is walking in purity, in honesty, consistently and passionately. Sharing fellowship with God and being in communion with him.

Today, you just need to reach out to God and ask Him to give you faith to please him, to give you grace to walk with him and strength everyday to please him. When you walk with God, you will please Him and He will stick with you in every situation and will bring your enemies to be at peace with you.

#### **4.3 NOAH and his response to God**

***“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith”.*** Hebrews 11:7

Noah was a man of great faith. He did what he had not seen anybody do before. By faith he took bold and courageous steps in obedience to God's instructions. This is faith; taking bold and courageous actions; whether anyone had ever taken such actions before or not.

The first thing we recognize about Noah was that, God spoke to him and warned him of things to come. Faith is being ready to take hold of the things you have not seen, as long as God has spoken about them. A man of faith believes what God has spoken and runs with them.

Faith is receiving what God says even if no body has seen or heard of them before. If God has said it, you are ready to believe it and run with it.

### ***First step of faith of Noah was that he responded to the voice of God***

I believe that God is still looking for people who will hear his voice and believe it. It takes faith to put action to His voice, in prophesy, in word of wisdom, in word of knowledge etc. It takes faith to hear his voice in your heart and do as He says.

The problem with this generation is that many don't hear God any longer. Many are not prepared to know what God is saying in their situation. All that people are looking for is who to help them pray, who to link or connect them to breakthrough in life etc. This is not the way of faith.

Faith looks for God, listens to God and does what God is saying. Faith looks out for what God is saying in any situation and once God has spoken, it is done. The bible says ***once has God spoken; twice have I heard***. In other words, when God speaks once, you will hear it, and hear it and say yes! Baba has spoken and I will do no other than what He has spoken. God is looking for men and women that will hear him and move.

When God came to Noah He told him what he had never heard before. God said to him, I am going to open heaven and destroy the world with water. That was something that was literarily impossible, it had never happened before.

Noah never heard of a flood before, yet he believed God. Are you ready to believe God for things you never heard of before? God is going to release a flood of blessings, prosperity, and abundance upon your life. Like Noah, receive it, take it and proclaim it.

Noah did not have any experience or knowledge of the world being destroyed by water but because God had said it, he put his personal experience aside and believed God's word.

Faith is throwing your personal experience away and holding on to the voice of God.

I believe that God wants to begin to speak to some of you, about the things he wants to do in your life, about opportunities you should take. When God speaks to you, throw away the advice of men, your past experiences and hold on to the voice of God. This is because when you follow the voice of God, opportunities will turn to blessings in your life. I see changes come to your life as you take hold of the voice of God in this season. God will



speak to you, he will open doors for you, and as you follow on through the doors that God will open unto you, opportunities will turn to blessings, miracles will come your way – Hallelujah!

***Second step of faith of Noah was that he built for God what he had never seen before.***

Noah began to construct an ark though he had never seen one before. Here was something no man had ever constructed before; so huge as to contain all the samples of the animals on the earth. Noah invested his life and resources in what God asked him to do. He invested in the kingdom at his own costs.

Living by faith requires exploits into new territories, following divine instructions and guidance, and making personal investment in the things of the kingdom. There are divine ideas that heaven has in stock for you. I see God begin to direct you into such greater opportunities but you need to learn to recognize the voice of God. When you are unclear meet your pastors and leaders for counseling, so that you can be sure whether it is God that is speaking or not.

In 1 Sam Chapter 3, we have a clear example from Samuel, as a young man whom God was trying to speak to, but Samuel was not sure who was speaking to him.

Samuel did the right thing, he went to Eli, the Chief Priest and said, Daddy, I heard someone call me! And Eli asked him to go back to lay down; then Samuel heard the voice again and went back of Eli and said “I heard the voice again, it sounded this way”. And the man of God knew who was speaking to him and instructed the young man that “when you hear the voice again, say to him, “Master speak, your servant hears”.

I believe that God will begin to speak to you. In fact, God has always been speaking to you, but it is time for you to recognize and understand his voice. Many of us are frustrated because we have not recognized God speaking to us. There are businesses and opportunities that can step into if only you can recognize God's voice and leading and you can follow it, it will lead into prosperity.

If you can hear His voice and understand His moves, and take bold moves of faith, you can build security for yourself and for your family. This was what happened to Noah. The scripture says that what he did was to the saving of his household

***“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; Heb. 11:7***

Noah believed God, obeyed God, but the seed he was sowing, unknown to him, was the saving of his household.

When you take steps of faith; God asking you to do things for the church; go and join the choir, start sweeping the church, buy flowers, buy new sets of clothes for a brother or sister etc., when God speaks to you and you take actions, the result (benefit) is to the saving of your household.

As you take steps of faith this year, may they result in blessings and security for your family in the name of Jesus! May there be open doors to your life, open doors to your family and open doors to your children in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## CHAPTER FIVE

# DYNAMICS OF FAITH

**We** have seen what faith is; the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen; the conviction that God will do what we ask; believing and acting in line with what we believe.

We have also seen that faith is of the heart and that through faith we can frame our world; our lives and our future by the word of God. We have looked at examples of Abel, Enoch and Noah, men who chose to live by faith and got outstanding result; God testifying of them.

It is also very important for us to understand how we can activate our faith and live by faith day by day. This is what this chapter is all about. There are four keys to activating your faith and enjoying miracles everyday.

1. Have God's word for whatever you are seeking for
2. Believe the word and affirm it
3. Refuse Contrary evidence
4. Wait for the answer

### 5.1 HAVE GOD'S WORD FOR WHAT YOU NEED

***a) What gives you assurance for the things hoped for is when you are backed up by the word of God***

If there's a need in your life you need to search for a word from God that stands as a promise in that area of life. The word of God brings the assurance for whatever you are looking for. It gives you confidence that the need would be met. For example, when you need healing from sickness you take God's promise in 1 Pet 2:24 which says that we are healed by His stripes. This word gives us the confidence that when we are sick, we can be healed.

***This is the confidence we have in Him, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.*** I John 5:14

If we ask God for anything, and we have the word of God to support that which we ask, then God will do it for us; it will come to pass. God always back up His word. His word is the expression of His will in every situation and His word never fails.

***b) When you have God's word, you have Him as your guarantee for the performance of what you desire "The grass withers and the grass fades but the word of God will abide forever". Isaiah 40:8***

Heaven and earth will pass away but His word will abide forever. Heaven and earth shall pass away but not a dot of God's word will go unfulfilled. If God gives you a promise you can be sure that the promise will be fulfilled.

***God watches over His word to perform it. He carefully supervises the performance of His word***

If you need a miracle the first thing you need is a word that supports the miracle you are looking for; because your faith must be based on God's promise. It must be based on the guarantee of God's word.

If you want to prosper then you have to read the word to know where the promise of prosperity is. If you are oppressed by the devil and you want to be delivered then you can go to Isaiah 54:14 which says "Thou shall be far from oppression".

## **5.2 BELIEVE THE WORD AND ACT ON IT**

Believe God's word and affirm it (proclaim it). One thing is to have the scripture another is to believe it. You must believe what God has promised you.

***God's word is creative***

Heb. 11:3 says that the worlds we see were framed by the word of God.

The Word has creative power. It is dynamic in nature and can bring to life anything from nothing. The word quickens makes alive. The word is sharper than any two edged sword. The word is power. If it is a womb, the word of God can create a new womb for you. If what you need is a new kidney the word of God can create a new kidney for you. God's word can renew your tissues; can cleanse your blood; can give you a miracle, new life from the dead.

Do you need a wife? God's word can give you a wife. Do you need a job? God's word can create a job for you.

***“He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destruction. Psalm 107:20***

He sent his word and He brought healing, He sent His word and He brought deliverance. That same word can bring deliverance and healing to your body. There was a Centurion that met Jesus in Mark Chapter 5 seeking for the healing of his daughter. He asked Jesus to ***“send the word only and my servant shall be healed”***. It was by the word of God that the servant was healed. The word of God will create new life.

When Jesus got to the tomb of Lazarus in John Chapter Eleven, he met a dead situation. Lazarus had been dead for four days and he was already stinking. They had used a stone to cover the tomb. As far as man was concerned, the gate was closed. Nothing more could be done; Lazarus was dead, smelling, stinking etc; but Jesus said, ***“Roll away the stone”***. He sent His word to the dead and the dead came alive by His word.

You have to believe the word of God because the word of God is all you need for your miracle. It can bring the dead to life. The word of God is settled in heaven; God's word is settled forever! Amen.

For you to walk by faith you must receive the word and believe the word. In I Kings 18:1, Elijah the prophet had an encounter with God after more than 3 years of famine. God spoke to Elijah and gave him a word saying: ***“Go and show yourself to Ahab and I will send rain”***.

It was that word that gave Elijah the faith and confident assurance that there would be rain. If you are in a difficult situation, in a frustrating situation, go seek the face of God and get a word from Him. His word is a key to dynamic working faith. God said to Elijah ***“go and I will send rain.”***

Faith must be active and not dormant. Dormant faith is when someone says I believe, without acting on what he believes. Elijah went to confront Ahab, on the basis of the word he had received from God. He moved because he believed what he heard. God is looking for men and women that, at the hearing of His voice, they will act.

God said to Elijah, ***“God and I will send rain”***. And immediately, Elijah received boldness and he moved by faith. Elijah was certain that what he was hoping for would come. And he told King Ahab to bring all his prophets, to determine whose God was

the real God. All the boldness and confidence to do all that he was doing was based on the faith he had in the word of God.

God's word is settled forever; it will not fail but will prosper in everything it is sent to. Miracles cannot happen until people begin to act. Your life cannot change until you begin to act on God's promises for your life. Step out and make a change. If you hear the word and believe it you will need to take steps of faith in line with what you have heard and believed.

If God says that we will lay hands on the sick and they will recover, you can be sure that the sick will recover, if you lay your hands on them. If someone is sick in your house, pray for the person – that is faith in action. If someone is oppressed, the bible says you can cast out demons, you can lay hands and the devils will leave.

It is only those who act on the word of God that will have results. Elijah acted on the word, he confronted the prophets of Baal, and he slaughtered them. After the slaughter (1 Kings 18:41), he spoke to Ahab the King, based on the promise he had heard from god; ***“get thee up, eat and drink for there is a sound of abundance of rain”***. Elijah was affirming the word; he was proclaiming the word because he believed the word. He told the king to go and eat and rejoice because he was confident there would be abundance of rain.

At the time Elijah told the King about the sound of abundance of rain, there was no sound. Elijah heard it in the spirit. Faith is of the heart; and the spiritual controls the physical. If you believe it and you can see it in the spirit then you can proclaim it. God said it, Elijah believed it, and Elijah proclaimed it and Elijah got it.

Believe the word and act on it. Proclaim your faith in the word. Go move mountains, go change situations around your life; go let the people know that the sons of God have arisen.

The bible says in Rom 8:19 ***“That the whole world is groaning and they are waiting for the manifestations of the Sons of God”***.

Your neighbors are waiting to see the difference between you and them. They want to see the glory of God upon your life. They want to see the power of God flow through you. Go and manifest. Go and proclaim the glory of God. In Luke 1, Mary the mother of Jesus had an encounter with an angel, who brought God's word to her.

She received the Word and that word changed her life forever. When you receive the word, and believe, it will change your life and destiny.

In Luke 1:30 the angel said unto her,

***“fear not for thou has found favor with God and behold thou shall conceive in the womb and bring forth a son and you shall call His name Jesus”.***

In verse 32 we read;

***“That He shall be great and be called the son of the Most High and the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His father and He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom shall be no end”.***

Mary received a word from God and began to converse with God, trying to understand how it was going to be since she was a virgin. God told her the Holy Ghost was going to do it. That's why the faith we are talking about is a comprehensive faith. This faith is the type we understand.

When Mary understood it she said: ***“Behold the hand maid of the Lord, be it unto me according to your word”.***

When you receive the word and believe it, it will change your destiny. Mary received that word and she began to proclaim it to her life. Begin to proclaim the word of God upon your life. ***Lord let it be unto me according to your word.*** Living by faith means proclaiming the word.

Abraham in Gen 15; had an encounter with God. God told him to follow Him so that He could make him a blessing. Fifteen years later, Abraham and Sarah were still moving around and following the Lord but they had no child.

In verse 3, Abraham reminded God about the promise and in the following verse, God responded to him; the word of the Lord came back to him. God's word will surely return back to you. The word of prosperity will be release into your life; the word of multiplication and healing will be released into your life.

God's word came to Abraham saying: ***“This shall not be your heir. Ishmael shall not be your heir, but he that shall come out of your bowel shall be your heir”.***

And God said to him look up to the sky if you can count the stars so shall your seed be. And Abraham in Gen. 15:6: “... ***believed in the Lord and He counted it to him for righteousness***”. Abraham believed that promise.

In Gen 18:10, God said to Abraham “***I will certainly return unto you according to the time of life ...***”

God doesn't forget His promises no matter how long it might take. His word will never go unfulfilled. He will bring His word to pass in your life. God told Abraham that His wife Sarah would have a son. God had seen that Abraham and Sarah were past the age of child bearing yet He promised them that they would have a son. It does not matter how difficult a situation is; nothing is too difficult for God. Your responsibility is to believe his promise and to proclaim it.

At one time, Sarah laughed because it appeared strange that she would have a child at her old age. Even when you think it can not happen because your situation seems impossible, God can still make it happen, Amen. God is going to open up your case again. God will fulfill His Word concerning your life, Amen.

Sarah laughed and said; shall I have a child now that I am old. But God reaffirmed His word. In the same way His word will return to you. By His word you will celebrate in Jesus name, Amen.

### **5.3 REFUSE CONTRADICTING EVIDENCE**

When you have received the Word of God and you believe and proclaim it, the next step is to refuse to consider contradicting evidence. Refuse those things that are contradicting the Word of God for your life. For instance, situations that are saying something else compared to the promise of God for your life must be refused. Perhaps while believing God for your healing, your body might be telling you that she is weak. At this time, you need to keep standing on the promise and refuse to give in to the contrary evidence.

Perhaps, you are believing God for a baby and you might have not been pregnant as yet, you keep the promise ahead of you and refuse to give attention to that situation.

Faith is not of the head. Faith is the supernatural highway. Faith is of the heart and not of the natural senses. Your feeling and hearing is different from what faith is saying. In Rom. 4 you will see that it is all about faith. Your hearing, seeing, tasting, feeling,



touching may be different from what faith is saying. Refuse to follow your natural senses.

***“... even God, who quickens the dead and calls those things that are not as though they were”***. Romans 4:17

Abraham lined his faith with the word of God. He called those things that were not as though they were. God does not worry whether it is there or not. He brings them down from the spiritual and to the physical realm.

Romans 4, verse 19 it says: ***“and being not weak in faith he considered not his body now dead”***.

Abraham was about a hundred years old and Sarah his wife was Seventy Five. His body was considered too weak to produce a child. Even Sarah was no longer a sweet sixteen. She had passed the age that she could ever conceive a child. Their situation was dead, yet Abraham believed God and it was counted unto Him as righteousness.

Abraham refused to look at himself. He refused to look at his wife's circumstances. He spoke to himself daily, he spoke to his body daily, He spoke to his wife's body daily, and he kept their faith alive. He believed that his wife would still conceive and that they would have a son.

Don't focus on yourself; if you begin to consider and focus on yourself and your weaknesses, then your faith would go down. What you must consider is the promise of God. God is able, it doesn't matter what you feel or hear, and He will carry you through. Amen.

#### **5.4 GIVE PRAISE AND WAIT FOR THE ANSWER**

Give praise and worship to God; give Him thanks. As you praise God your miracle will come. Abraham staggered not at the promise but was strong in faith giving praise to the Lord.

***“He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God”***. Hebrews 4:20

To stagger means to shake, to take another direction. Don't stagger, it doesn't matter where others run to, make sure you don't stagger. God is able.

Abraham didn't stagger because he believed God never fails. Why should you stagger? Abraham was fully persuaded that He who has said it would surely be able to do it. He stood until the child came. Abraham was giving glory to God. He kept on praising Him. He was giving Him thanks.

Similarly, you should maintain your faith in God's promise through thanksgiving, continuous praise and celebration. Keep on giving glory to the Lord. Be positive in your confession as you wait for the fulfillment of the word in your life.

## CHAPTER SIX

### DIMENSIONS OF FAITH

#### 6.1 FAITH IS A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Faith is a relationship with God a relationship of trust; a son or daughter looking up to his or her father, trusting and believing in Him. David in faith said:

***“I will lift up my eyes unto the hills, from where comes my help? My help comes from the Lord ...”*** Psalm 121:1

David was speaking out of a personal relationship with God, a relationship of absolute trust, a relationship that gave him confidence that help would come from the Lord. Faith starts with knowing the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. Our heroes and fathers of faith knew God personally. Their acts of faith were borne out of personal relationships with God.

When God called Abraham in Genesis chapter 12, it was a calling into a personal relationship, a personal walk with God. A continuous life of victory through faith can only come when you maintain a continuous walk with God through a personal intimate relationship with Him.

#### 6.2 FAITH GOES AFTER THE INHERITANCE

***“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing where he went”.*** Hebrews 11:8

Abraham was called out for an inheritance, a blessing that was ahead. He obeyed and went, not knowing where and how he would get the inheritance. He went based solely on God's promise.

Faith gives you confidence to go after divine inheritances. A man that believes God will offer divine inheritances, divine promises. The bible says that Abraham obeyed even though he didn't know how it was going to come, but he went after the promise which was not an immediate inheritance but was an inheritance that was still ahead.

Faith in God is not just about what you get today, there are promises ahead, that you need to go after. Faith is about going after the promises of God that lie ahead of you.

God gave Abraham certain promises in Gen. 12:1-3. He asked Abraham to leave his father, his mother, his family and to follow Him to a place that He would show him. God promised to bless Abraham and to make him a great name, a great nation etc. Abraham didn't understand how far God was taking him but he was committed to going all the way. And he obeyed. Faith gives you the confidence to go after God's promises and to possess your possessions.

There are different kinds of inheritances, promises that you have in God; spiritual, physical, material etc. Your spiritual inheritance includes healing, deliverance, victory over the enemy, prosperity, peace etc. Faith goes after healing, deliverance, peace, prosperity etc. A man of faith will pursue the things that God has promised him, never giving up. We also have an eternal inheritance in God, a heavenly inheritance.

***"... In my father's house there are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also".***

John 14:2

### **Faith goes after heavenly inheritance.**

We have been born of God, not just for an earthly inheritance but primarily for an eternal inheritance. We have an eternal home, Amen. We have a place in heaven and we need to go after it by faith. Make sure that as you walk with God and that you are focused on making heaven. Let your faith be focused on meeting with Jesus and sitting on the right hand of the father. A life of faith is primarily for heaven.

Living by faith therefore is a total package which includes pursuing after your heavenly home, going after earthly prosperity and blessings, seeking divine healing, demonstrating victory over your enemy, etc. This is your inheritance. You have God's promise. You have been born of God and whatsoever is born of God overcomes the world. You are therefore an over comer and will overcome. Jesus has given you power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over all the powers of the enemy, therefore no weapon that is formed against you shall prosper. According to Psalms 1 verse 3, you are like a tree that is planted by the rivers of water that brings forth his fruit in his season; your leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever you do shall prosper.

Don't be afraid to go after God's promises for your life. Living by faith requires that you go after the promises of God for your life.

### **6.3 FAITH RETAINS THE PROMISE**

Hebrews 11 verse 9 also tells us that by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise. This means it takes faith to retain the promises of God. There are people that have received God's promises and lost them. They were blessed but lost the blessings. It takes faith to receive the promises and faith to keep the promise.

Abraham by faith stayed in the Promised Land. He retained the promise. The same works today. You retain God's blessing by your faith. After you have been blessed you need to abide in faith so that you can retain your inheritance. You will not lose your inheritance, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

When God places a blessing in your hands, that's not the end of the story. You must stay in your promise by faith. You retain your promise by faith. Abraham sojourned in the land of promise by faith; he kept trusting God that what God had given him would be retained.

#### **You can make a similar confession.**

*"I declare in the name of Jesus that what God has given me is mine and I will not lose them. Nobody can take from me what God has placed in my hands; I will retain them in Jesus name, Amen."*

You don't just receive the promises; you retain the promises by faith. You stand on the word keep confessing and believing and believing that the things God has blessed you with, no devil can take them away from you, no demon can take them from you.

Satan cannot take my inheritance, no way; sickness cannot take them from me. What God has given to me, I will enjoy them until I am fully satisfied, in Jesus name. Amen. Faith takes the promise, faith retains the promise, and faith stays in the land of promise.

The devil hates the believer. He does not want to see any believer enjoy God's promises. The moment he sees that the believer is doing well he begins to look for an opportunity to defraud him of his blessings, kick him out, tempt him out of his blessings; but by faith the believer can stay in his inheritance and retain his blessing.

If God has given you any blessing, you stay there by faith; Satan has no authority to take it away from you. They are yours forever, Amen. My prosperity is forever, my healing is forever, and my peace is forever, Amen! Faith, a continuous relationship with God, continuous reliance on his word, continuous trust in him is what retains God's blessings.

Don't be like the prodigal son in Luke chapter 15 who went away from his father and disconnected from his source after he got the inheritance. When he broke off his faith relationship, he lost his inheritance. He wasted it. For you to retain the promise, you have to retain the same relationship through which you got the promise. For you to abide in the land of promise and continue to enjoy the blessings and protection of God, you must maintain that connection, that faith through which you got it.

Unfortunately, when people are in trouble that's when you see them in church. That's when they draw close to the Lord. When they need a job, they are in church, when they need a husband they are in church, when they need a contract they are in church. The moment they get the contract, the contract distracts them; the job takes more of their heart, etc. They become too busy to maintain their faith and relationship with God.

When your faith is shifted, you can no longer obtain God's promises; you must stand in faith in order for you to retain them. You need to hold on to every blessing that God gives to you, whether healing, marriage, new job, promotion, pregnancy etc. Hold on to them through faith. Keep standing on the word and making confessions of your faith. Keep holding on; by faith promises are retained.

#### **6.4 FAITH RECEIVES STRENGTH FOR THE MIRACULOUS**

***“Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past age because she judged him faithful who had promised”***. Hebrews 11:11

It takes faith to receive God's miraculous interventions. It is not sufficient to believe God for simple things. Men of faith ask God for difficult things also. We need to step up our faith by going for miraculous interventions of God in our lives. Take bold steps, ask for the blind to see, the lame to walk, the barren to have children etc. ***Faith asks for bold miracles from God.***

Sarah, by faith received supernatural strength to conceive. To conceive is to become pregnant, pregnant with a baby; it also means to receive insight, to receive supernatural ideas etc. Faith draws the miraculous.

By faith Sarah's yoke of barrenness was broken. She took a bold step forward to receive strength from God that despite her age, she would carry a baby. Take your bold steps today and receive strength for miraculous happenings in your life. Men of faith stretch themselves in God.

I pray that God will give you strength to receive your long sought for miracles in Jesus name. I pray that God will release new insight and ideas into your life. I pray that you will conceive what you need to make progress in your life and that God will open your understanding to discover the path way to become outstanding in your generation, in Jesus name, Amen.

Sarah conceived to have a child. You can conceive ideas that will transform your life. May you receive strength to conceive. May you receive divine ideas that will move you forward. May you be blessed with supernatural insights that will make you outstanding in Jesus Name.

In this season of faith, may you receive supernatural faith by which, as you move along, things will open up to you. May the Lord release thoughts and ideas into your life that will change your destiny. May the Lord open your understanding, may the Lord help you to know what you need to do at the right time. May the Lord help you to know what you need to do when you are dealing with people in the name of Jesus.

Faith prepares you for miraculous interventions. Faith prepares you for signs and wonders. Faith prepares you for breakthroughs. Faith is trusting God and expecting his miracles. Faith waits for the miraculous. As God intervened in the case of Sarah as she put forth her faith, may the Lord intervene in your case in Jesus' name Amen.

May your womb be opened for children as Sarah's womb was opened, in Jesus name. May your womb conceive in the name of Jesus. It's time to stretch your faith like our fathers did. Go for what looks difficult and believe God for his miraculous intervention today. Without faith it is impossible to please God.

## 6.5 FAITH RELEASES THE PROPHETIC

***“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was a dying; blessed both the sons of Joseph...”*** Hebrews 11:20-21

When we bless we bless by faith, when we prophesy, we prophesy in faith. The prophetic has to do with speaking into the life and future of an individual, pronouncing blessings. This must be done by faith and in faith. When Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau and spoke about their future, it was an act of faith and everything he spoke concerning them came to pass. Similarly, when Jacob blessed Joseph's children, it was a step of faith and his prophetic pronouncements came to pass.

This same principle works for the church today. As your pastors and bishops and prophets prophesy over your life, they do it by faith. You cannot bless except in faith. Faith gives us an assurance that the blessings we pronounced will come to pass. You also need to operate by the same principle of the word to release the prophetic over your life, over your children, over your family, over your businesses etc.

It is also by faith that you can receive the blessings, because what you don't receive, you cannot have; what you don't believe and receive cannot be yours. Living by faith is operating in the prophetic.

As believers who follow after the faith of our fathers, you must use your mouth to pronounce blessings, and bless in faith. Bless your children, bless your work, bless your household, bless all that belongs to you; prophesy over them and see the fulfillment of the prophetic in your life.

God has put in your mouth the power to create and you have the unction to frame your world; so go on and speak to your future, spouse, children, ministry, etc. Do not allow things to move on any how in your life. Speak to them by faith. Put a stop to the arrows of the enemy and to every unwelcome situation. Faith operates in the prophetic.

***“For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say (bless, prophesy, speak, and declare) unto this mountain ...”*** Mark 11:23

You have a responsibility to stop any thing in your life that you are not satisfied with, by speaking in faith.



If your life is going down, you have a responsibility to stop it. Like Jacob spoke concerning things to come, you have a responsibility to speak to your future concerning things to come; and by faith we have the confident assurance that the things we hope for will happen. Pronounce blessings upon your life and declare that you will arise and shine.

There is power in your mouth. The prophetic is in your mouth. You can speak concerning things to come; it's in your mouth. Faith speaks concerning the future, it releases the prophetic.

Right now by faith, I pronounce blessings upon your life. I declare that you will arise and you will shine in the name of Jesus Christ. By faith I speak concerning your family that there shall be peace in your family, there shall be peace in your home.

By faith I speak concerning your work and business that you will prosper in it, you will excel in it, in the name of Jesus. By faith I speak concerning all the things that you are involved with in the name of Jesus. By faith I pull down the power of the enemy over your life, over your finances, over your children, over the work of your hands in the name of Jesus.

You have the responsibility to speak to your life, family, job and as you prophesy and believe it so shall it be in the name of Jesus. God is saying that as you have spoken in my ears so shall it be. Do not allow things to go anyhow in your life; Stand up and speak if you are not happy with your life; if you are not happy with the way things are going in your office, if you are not happy the way things are going in your marriage, you have the responsibility to prophetically change them because by faith you can change the course of things in this world.

## 6.6 FAITH SEES INTO THE FUTURE

***“By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months by his parents, because they saw that he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the Kings commandment”.*** Hebrews 11:23

The parents of Moses were operating by faith and so they saw beyond the moment; they saw into the future.

Faith looks into the future; faith does not look at circumstances. When they looked at Moses they didn't see an ordinary child, they didn't see a boy born to be killed by the commandments of the king. They saw a proper a child.

Faith sees beyond what is happening. They saw they had gold in their hands and they were prepared to risk their lives for it. Our fathers looked into the future. They had great hopes, great expectations. That is what faith is. Faith does not limit itself to today's experience s, circumstances and size. Faith looks into a brighter future and goes for it.

Start today to look into the future and like the parents of Moses, see a proper child, a brighter life, a greater success and put all you have into achieving it. Faith moves with courage and confronts whatever tries to stop the future.

Moses' parents moved against the king's commandment. They would not allow anything to stop the future they had seen in Moses. Living by faith requires courage to move against every opposition that stands between you and what God has shown you. The righteous are as bold as the lion. The righteous are bold to confront.

The bible says you are to resist the devil and he will flee from you. As you confront, you will conquer. You are an overcomer, a conqueror, a winner.

## **6.7 FAITH MAKES CHOICE FOR GOD**

***“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season ...”*** Hebrews 11:24-26

Living by faith is a decision to be identified with God and with God's people. Living by faith is a choice to rather suffer affliction, if need be, rather than enjoy the pleasures of unrighteousness. That was the choice that Moses made. He gave off the honor of being called a prince, when he realized that he was born a Jew and not an Egyptian. He would not compromise his birth into God's family with the pleasures of man's honor and position.

This example of Moses give us clear understanding of another dimension of the walk of faith. It's about choice for God. Our fathers of faith were bold to stand on God's side in their walk of faith. It's the same calling we are called into. Walking in faith is about

drawing a clear line on whose side you are. You can't want to partake of unrighteousness and be on God's side.

A man of faith will refuse, like Moses, the enticements of men and the pleasures of sin and would rather seek to glorify God with his life and in his body. Moses choose rather to be reproached or embarrassed by men as a result of his choice to be on God's side than to be honored with riches, glory and positions in Egypt by remaining as Pharaoh's son

***“Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he had respect unto the recompense of reward”***. Hebrews 11:26

Following Christ and living the life of faith is a better deal than the pleasures a man can find outside Christ. The life of faith is greater riches than the life that does not please God.

Moses looked beyond the present circumstances of the children of Israel. He saw afar off by faith. He believed God for better days and therefore stepped out for God and stepped out of Egypt.

You too can choose to stand out for Him and give up temporary pleasures off sin and unrighteousness. Give up anything in your life that does not please God and take the bold step of walking with God, by faith, in spirit and in truth. Faith makes the choice for God.

## **6.8 FAITH IMPACTS THE LIFE OF OTHERS**

***“And what more shall I say? For time will fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also, and Samuel and of the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped lions ...”*** Hebrews 11:32-34

These fathers of faith did not live by faith for themselves alone. They impacted lives and generations by their faith. They left testimonies behind of how they overcame. Don't use your opportunities for personal gains alone. Seek for opportunities to affect humanity by your faith.

Peter's demonstration of his faith brought healing to the lame man at the gate of the temple, called beautiful. In faith Peter said to him:

***“... silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk” . Acts 3:6***

He didn't stop at the faith declaration; ***“he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength”***.

Faith impacts the life of others. Let your faith impact lives; let it bring salvation, healing and deliverance. Paul in Acts 14:8-10, acting in faith brought healing to a man that was a cripple from his mother's womb.

***“And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being cripple from his mother's womb. Who never had walked; the same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked”***.

You too can take mountains, you can heal the sick. Faith is active. It manifests in the things we do and do for others. Our ability to step out into people's situation to bring positive change will impact them positively. Faith is not just for you. Let your faith impact your generation.

***Arise and shine.***

## AN IMPORTANT STEP IN YOUR LIFE

Have you ever asked Jesus to come into your heart? Have you received God's forgiveness for your sins and made a decision to turn from your past life of sins to live a new life in Christ Jesus?

The most important step in a man's life is to receive Jesus as Lord and personal Savior and start to live a new life in Him. The bible says in John 3:3 ***that unless a man becomes born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.*** Being born again is what happens when you take this important step of receiving God's forgiveness and asking Jesus into your heart as Lord and Savior. Being born again is the result of the decision to turn fully and totally to follow the Lord in a personal and consistent walk of faith in Christ Jesus.

Before you drop this book, I invite you to take this important step if you have never done so before. Let Jesus in and give him first place in your life. This will open you up to a new relationship with God.

To take this important step, please pray this prayer with all sincerity:

*Lord Jesus I come to you today  
I am a sinner, I cannot help myself  
Forgive me my sins. Cleanse me with your precious blood. Deliver me from sin and Satan to serve the Living God Lord Jesus, I accept you as my Lord and Savior  
I commit my life to you to serve you all the days of my life. Thank you Jesus for saving me. Amen. Praise the Lord, I'm saved and born again.*

***For more information on this new relationship with God, please contact us at:***

**THE GARDEN OF JOY**

**Chapel of Victory Int'l Churches**

29 Victory Avenue,

Off Elekahia-Rumukalagbor Link Road Rivers State, Nigeria

Tel. +2348187312464

[E-mail:cvic\\_office@yahoo.com](mailto:cvic_office@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.cvichurch.com](http://www.cvichurch.com)

Facebook.com/BishopAyoOdunayo

Facebook.com/Cvichurch Twitter.com/RevOdunayo

**Other Books by the Author:**

☐Following the Shepherd  
☐Enjoying Covenant Blessings  
☐Beauty of Friendship  
☐Greater Blessings  
☐Walk through Romans  
☐90 Days of Refreshing  
☐Triumphant Living  
☐The Laughter of the Righteous  
☐Walk Through Titus  
☐The Man Child

**How To Reach Us**

Postal Address:

Victory Int'l Ministries Inc.

a.k.a The Chapel of Victory Int'l Churches

P. O. Box, 6983, Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Our website: [www.chapelofvictoryintl.com](http://www.chapelofvictoryintl.com)

Telephones: +2348187312464 +2349090732398;

+2349096264609

**CHURCH BRANCHES / CAMPUSES****HEADQUARTER CHURCH****Champions Cathedral**

#29 Victory Avenue,

Off Elekahia-Rumukalagbor Road, Rumukalagbor, Port Harcourt.

Rivers State, Nigeria.

+234 8187312464; +234 9090732398;

+234 9096264609 +234 8033127472

**Rumuodomaya Branch**

Km 12, Airport Road, By Gas Filling Plant,

Rumuodomaya, Port Harcourt.

+2348033126237

**Orochiri Branch** Ikwerre/English Language Church No. 6 Minijiri Street,

Orochiri, Port Harcourt.

+2348037604777; +2348056379081

**Mile 4 Branch**

Eyiah Lane, Off Ada-George Road, Rumuepirikom, Port Harcourt.

+2348100259979; +2348179829538

**Elelewon Branch** Plot 10, Akarakpo Lane, Off Location Road,  
Eledenwo, Port Harcourt.  
+2348037178034

**Rumuekini Branch**  
26 School Rad, Rumugbatanwa Family Hall Port-Harcourt.  
+2348035413193

**Yenegoa Branch**  
11 Toolda Road,  
By Bukka Swallow, Ekeki Yenegoa, Bayelsa State  
+2347057267660

**Benin Branch**  
Orhue Street,  
Opposite Continental Group of schools Aso Bus stop, Benin, Nigeria  
+2347066010723

**Abuloma Branch**  
No. 175 Abuloma Road, By Harmony Guest House, Port Harcourt.  
+2348182189844; +2348032765301

**Obigbo Branch**  
No. 2 Azubuike Road, Off Isaiah Eleto, Oyigbo Port-Harcourt  
+2347032394811; +2347019208317

**Kaani 1 Branch**  
Eeagbara Square, Gborkpara  
Kaani 1.  
+2348065179761; +2348039313669

**Rupokwu Branch**  
Market Road,  
Port Harcourt.  
+2348065179761, +2348033422205

**Igwruta Branch**  
Road 6, Omumhia New Layout Igwruta,  
Port-Harcourt  
+2347051928102,

**Ikorodu Branch**

247 Isawo Road,  
Iyana Muda Bus stop, Agric Ikorodu, Lagos State  
+2348033427127

**Abuja Branch**

Behind new Zuba Park,  
Near SDP Bridge, Agwandodo, Gwagwalada,  
Abuja, Nigeria  
+2348037524905



