

CHURCH OF CHRIST IN NATIONS (COCIN)

2ND QUARTER PRAYER AND FASTING WEEK.
FROM MONDAY 10TH - SUNDAY 16TH JUNE, 2024

THEME: The Place of Faith in Holy Living

TEXT: Hebrews 11:6

INTRODUCTION

Calvary greetings from Prayer and Revival Unit to all our leaders and all believers in Church of Christ in Nations.

Faith is one of the most important element and part of human existence. It remains the most vital weapon for conquering difficult situations in human existence. Faith is not limited to one particular group of persons or a religious body, but for all human beings.

Faith is;

- a. A total believe in a personality
- b. A total trust in a personality
- c. Being sure of things you hope for but yet to receive.

As a Church, Faith in Christ is the Life of the Church. For without Faith, it is impossible to please God. Pleasing God is holiness because it comes from a believing heart. In Mathew 3:17, 17:5, God said this is my son in whom I am well pleased. Doing the will of the father, obeying His instructions to us, it is pleasing to Him.

Christ rebuked His disciples severally for lack of Faith. Mathew 17:17,19-21. The place of Faith in Holy living is therefore the subject to be studied carefully.

It is Faith in Christ that gives birth to “Holy Living”.

Christ living in us is;

- Our Holy Living
- Our righteousness etc.

We are blessed with another quarter of prayer and Fasting with the theme “**The Place of Faith in Holy Living**”. We pray that there shall be moments of spiritual refreshment. May we also find grace even as we pray and fast for the Church, State and Nation.

Day 1: Monday 10th June, 2024

Topic: **What is Faith?**

Text: Hebrews 11:1,11:6

Introduction

The Bible definition of Faith found in Hebrews 11:1 is one of the most used in defining the meaning of Christian Faith in Christ Jesus.

- Having assurance of eternity
- The conviction of all Christ’s pronouncements will come to pass in the life of the believer-here in this life and in the life to come.

Faith is a total trust and believe in the personality of Jesus Christ (Christian Faith). In relation to Holy Living, Faith in God is pleasing God. Pleasing God is a life of obedient and our obedience to Him is our Holiness. This happens through;

- Believing in God through Christ-John 1:12; 14:6; Acts 4:12
- Trusting in God through Christ-Romans 15:13, Heb. 13:6-8
- Living in God through Christ-John 15:4-5; 1 John 4:13: We live in Him, move in Him and have our being in Him as Christians. This happens by Faith in Him. Acts 17:28.

Prayer Points

1. Thank God for all the men and women of Faith

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2. Thank God for the assurance of Salvation through Faith in Christ.
3. Ask God for more grace upon the Church.
4. Ask God for more understanding concerning Faith in Christ.

Day 2: Tuesday 11th June, 2024

Topic: Faith and Holiness

Text: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Introduction

Since Faith is having assurance of things hope for and the convictions of things not seen, it needs a total dependency upon God and a total surrendering to His Holy will. Those who trust and depend on Human being cannot have Faith in God. Vv 5-6-and so they cannot please God.

Holiness is being set apart by God for His own purpose through the sending of the Holy Spirit in the believer. Acts 1:8; Rev. 3:20. The Holy Spirit empowers the believer to be effective in His Christ-Like daily life. Eph. 1:4. The Holy Spirit comes to live in the believer and empowers him to do good works. Eph. 2:10.

Therefore, Faith and Holiness mean: Believing in God, trusting and depending on Him and receiving the Holy Spirit who empowers you for Ministry work. Christ's presence in us is the hope of glory. This gives us the true Holiness not legalistic holiness. Col. 1:27. Remember we are made Holy by the Holy one who lives in us. Heb. 2:11; col. 2:9.

Prayer Points

1. Thank God for men and women of true Faith in Christ.
2. Thank God for men and women who have truly surrendered their lives to Christ and who truly depend on Him for the Life of Holiness.
3. Ask God for Mercy and a genuine revival in His Church COCIN.
4. Ask God for forgiveness for all our failures.

5. Ask God for more understanding of this concept to His Church (The pastors and the membership).

Day 3: Wednesday 12th June, 2024

Topic: Faith and Doubt

Text: James 1:6-8

Introduction

Faith: Faith is seen as being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Doubt: Doubt is questioning the Truth, Lacking confidence in something, to be uncertain.

The reality is that, almost everyone experiences some kind of doubt at some point in their faith Journey. Doubt is natural, Faith is not the absence of doubt but rather, Faith keeps believing even in the midst of your doubts. Remember that Faith is more than seeing. Doubt has been a substance that keeps challenging the existence of Faith. Walking in the midst of doubt without given it a place or a second thought will always end a perfect Faith.

James 1:6-8 has cautioned us not to give doubt a place to become another stable mind in us. Have a mind of Faith and refuse to be blown by the power of doubt even though you felt it around.

Some great men that experience doubts in their Faith are;

1. **Thomas:** He became known as doubting Thomas because he wrestled with the truth that Jesus rose from the dead.
2. **Elijah:** He prophesied drought, fed by ravens, challenged the prophet of Baal, prayed and fire consumed men, prophesied rain, yet he doubted God and praying for death when queen Jezebel threatened his life.
3. **Simon Peter:** One of the disciples with boldness but when Jesus was arrested, he denied Christ.

4. ***John the Baptist:*** The famous wilderness preacher who prepared the way for the coming of the Lord, baptized him. But later on, doubted Christ if he was the one sent or they should wait for another.
5. ***Abraham and Sarah:*** Doubted God if He will still give them a child as He promised, that's why they laughed at Him.

Overcoming Doubt

1. Use the Word: Jesus uses the word to answer Satan when He was tempted for forty night/Days in the wilderness. Satan wanted to challenge His identity as the son of God.
2. Approach the Storm as a child of the kingdom: Know who you are in Christ Jesus.
3. Always come to mind the miracle of God: Remember that He's God of yesterday, today and forever; Therefore, He will still do it again.

Prayer Points

1. Pray for God to help our unbelief
2. Pray for God to uproot doubts in our lives
3. Pray for the Church to move in the midst of fears and doubts.

Day 4: Thursday 13th June, 2024
Topic: Praying in Faith
Text: Mathew 21:22, Hebrews 11:6

Introduction

To pray in Faith means to approach God in Prayer with complete trust and confidence in His power, Wisdom and goodness, acknowledging Jesus role as our mediator, intercessor and divine Savior. It is an expression of our believe in God's ability to hear our Prayers, answer them and intervene in our lives according to His divine plan.

Praying in Faith involves several key components;

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1. *Trust in God's character and Jesus' deity:* Praying in Faith means that believing that God is who He says He is-loving, merciful, all knowing and all powerful and recognizing Jesus Christ as the only way to the father. Jesus Himself thought us to trust in the Fathers Love and provision as He said in Mathew 7:11.
2. *Faith in Jesus' atoning death and glorious resurrection:* To Pray in Faith, we must in the redemptive work of Jesus on the Cross for the forgiveness of our sins, and His triumphant resurrection that defeated death. He took away every shame, curse, affliction that was meant for us and declared "It is finished". Praying and believing that He has overcome all for your sake.
3. *Aligning with God's Will:* Praying in Faith involves seeking God's will for our lives and submitting to it. Jesus provided a perfect example of this in the garden of Gethsemane, when He prayed, "Not as I will, but as you will" (Mathew 26:39). When we align our desires with His, our prayers become more effective and powerful.
4. *Expectancy and Hope:* When we pray in Faith, we expect that God will hear our prayers and respond to them through Jesus Christ, who intercede for us. In John 14:13-14. Jesus said "*What ever you ask in my name, this I will do*".
5. *Persistence and Patience:* Praying in Faith involves persisting in prayer even when the answer seems delayed or when we are faced with challenges. Like the parable of the widow in Luke 18:1-8.
6. *Humility and surrender:* Praying in Faith requires that we humbly acknowledge our dependence on God and surrender our desires and plans to Him as stated in Heb. 4:16.

Prayer Point

1. Pray that God should help us to be rooted in faith that can move mountains.
2. Satan has always taken advantage of us because we do not understand the finish work of Christ on the cross. Pray that God should remove the ignorance that has crippled our Faith.

3. Pray for humility and total surrender to the will of God.

Day 5: Friday 14th June, 2024
Topic: **The Weapon of Faith**
Text: Ephesians 6:16

Introduction

“In addition to all this, take up the **Shield of Faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the Evil one.” Basically, in this context, Faith is likened to a weapon of warfare. We all know when weapon is mention, battle comes to mind. When an individual is in possession of a sophisticated weapon and can operate it well, that person is set for victory. Apostle Paul here specifically call Faith as shield. The shield particularly is a weapon of protection. In contemporary language, shield can be referred to as bullet proof. Today, many people who are well to do buy bullet proof cars, cloths, doors and even houses just to ensure they are secured. Many individuals and Nations brag in their weapons. But for us who are in Christ “The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds, casting down imaginations...” (II Cor. 10:3-5).

Readiness for battle with the weapon of Faith

Evidently, the scripture in several places has given us assurance of security in God through Faith. Every Christian must be war conscious, because even if you are ready or not, the enemies are strategically planning your attack. Therefore, below are steps to help you get ready.

1. **Preparing the weapon (Jude 1:20):** Faith being referred to as the weapon must be serviced frequently. Jude 1:20 says “Building up yourselves on your most holy Faith, Praying in the Holy Ghost”. Here fellowship and the personality of the Holy Spirit are instrumental in servicing your Faith.
2. **Identifying the Enemy (Eph. 6:12):** You cannot go into a battle with an enemy you don’t know. Knowing the weakness and strength of the enemy is very key. Worthy of note is that our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, the powers of this dark world and

spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph. 6:12). Please do not waste time fighting your neighbor, relative or colleague who is said to be a witch.

3. **Fight with Boldness:** No one who is not bold enough can face an enemy. The devil uses fear to intimidate his victim. The scripture says we are not given the spirit of fear but boldness (II Tim. 1:7), The issue of boldness is further stressed in Eph. 6:10 “Finally, be strong in the Lord...” In the O.T Each time Israel are going on a battle; the Prophet addresses them to make them strong.
4. **Fighting strategically:** The devil operates in schemes, therefore every believer must be skillful to fight. II Cor. 2:11 says we should not be ignorant of the devices of the devil.

You cannot afford to be a victim of this battle because God has put a strong weapon of FAITH in your hands. You have an impenetrable and unbeatable bullet proof. Isa. 54:17 “No weapon fashioned against you shall prosper...” Every child of God has defeated the world through Faith (I John 5:4).

Prayer Point

1. Pray that God will protect you and the Church from the flaming arrows of the devil.
2. Pray that God destroys the altars of Islam and witch doctors that are strongly encroaching the Church.
3. Pray for the Church not to remain ignorant of the devices of the Devil.

Day 6: Saturday 15th June, 2024

Topic: Levels of Faith

Text: I Thess. 3:10

Introduction

Faith has been categorized into levels biblically. The level of each mans Faith determines the result of impact made. On different occasions, we heard Jesus

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Himself naming FAITH as being little, less, weak, dead or great. This implies that Faith is not the same dependent on the user. No wonder Paul in I Thess. 3:10 says he long to see them so that he can supply what is lacking in their Faith.

Levels of Faith

There are many dimensions through which Faith of individuals can attain in Christianity. The grace of God severally is seen manifest on the live of believers as they commit themselves to God's service. Below are different levels of Faith expressed.

1. **Dead Faith/No Faith:** The condition to which a Faith is considered dead is the type of Faith that has no action (James 2:26). When you believe God on something but cannot substantiate it by taking action is equivalent to death. Now Faith is said to be 'No Faith' when ones believe is beclouded by fear (Mark 4:40). It is dangerous to allow fear zero your Faith.
2. **Weak Faith (Rom 14:1):** The weak Faith here implies an immature personality in the Faith, that is being inable to see things or less knowledgeable about what is simple.
3. **Little Faith (Matt. 6:30):** When Jesus was addressing trivial issues of what to eat and to wear, He considered people who worry on that as little Faith (Matt. 6:30). Here, little Faith means those who spend all their Faith on consumables.
4. **Small Faith (Matt. 17:30):** In Matt. 17:20, Jesus condemn little Faith but recommend small Faith. He liken small Faith to a mustard seed which is very small but grows to be big.
5. **Great Faith:** The persistence of the Canaanite woman begging Jesus to come to the aid of her daughter's demon possession gave birth to the term great Faith (Matt. 15:22-28). A man must be determined till he gets result. This is great Faith.

Roman 10:17-Faith comes by hearing the word. By this, it means the more you hear the word of God, the more your Faith grows to be great. Putting your Faith to action is what makes it great.

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Prayer point

1. Pray that God will increase your Faith to a great Faith for more exploit to populate heaven.
2. Pray for our members who have abandoned the Faith in pursuit of gods that cannot save.
3. Let the persistent fire of Prayer never quench in COCIN.

Day 7: Sunday 16th June, 2024
Topic: Faith and Works
Text: Ephesians 2:8-10

Introduction

Believers are not saved and set-free through human efforts, but by the Grace of God. Therefore, Salvation is not earned but is a gift-of-God through Christs sufferings, death and resurrection to mankind. Good works are the evidence of our salvation in Christ Jesus. These good works are carried out-by the holy Spirit who Lives in us. *Gal. 5:22.*

Your believe and Faith in Christ are the inner push of your personal submission and commitment to the relationship between you and Christ. This is what give birth to good works. *James saw Faith without works as dead. James 2:14-26.*

Faith brings works, good works done in Christ name is Faith expressing itself through Love. Gal. 5:6. Faith is seen in Works and works express Faith.

Prayer Point

1. Thank God for our salvation in Christ Jesus through Faith.
2. Thank God for the expression of this Faith for the Salvation of mankind (Unbelievers).
3. Ask God for more understanding of this concept.

4. Ask God for genuine Faith among believers.
5. Ask God to forgive us all our failures.

CONCLUSION

Faith without works is a dead Faith and equally works done not through Faith in Christ, God is not glorified. It is impossible to please God without genuine Faith in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, be warned that the “Place of Faith in Holy living is very key to our spiritual life as Church and individuals. There cannot be Holy Living without a genuine Faith in Christ. Heb. 11:6b. you must believe that God exist and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him. Christ is our righteousness and the righteousness of God. 2 Cor. 5:21. Rom 3:22; 5:1.

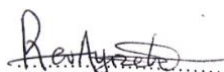
May the lessons learned during this blessed week, moves the Church forward to a higher level of Faith in Christ alone. Amen!

For Prayers and Counselling, you can reach us through our contacts stated below.

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