



TCN

## FOUNDATION OF FAITH

### CLASS 4

#### WHAT IS FAITH?



#### Class Objective:

To understand Faith and how to live by Faith  
**Main Scripture Text:** Heb.10:38 – 11:1

#### Outline:

1. Faith is our Lifestyle
2. True Desires, Hope & faith.
3. How Faith Comes
4. Building and Sustaining your Faith.

#### 1. Faith is our lifestyle

*"Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]" - Hebrews 11:1 [AMP].*

Faith gives substance to our hope and evidence to what we cannot see. Faith is our firm assurance that what we hoped for is now ours (Mark 11: 24).

A believer is a new creature that is designed to live by faith. Faith is our way of life and not just something we refer to when in trouble and forget afterwards (Hebrews 10:38). Faith to a believer is not a crisis management tool but the engine that drives every area of his/her life. Faith is at the foundation of our Christian life (Ephesians 2:8; Galatians 2:20). We are created/birthered by faith and therefore we live by it and our sustenance is based on it. What begun in the Spirit cannot be made perfect in the flesh (Galatians 3:1-3). Our day to day choices are guided by faith in God and the integrity of His word; not just by what we see physically. The Just shall live his entire life by Faith.

Here are some fundamentals of Faith:

**God is the Source:** Faith starts by understanding that God is our source and has already provided all we require for life in Christ Jesus (2 Peter 1:3, Ephesians 1:3). That is why Hebrews 122 says, "Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith."

**It's for His will:** God works all things in accordance to His will and for His purpose. (Ephesians 1:11, Philippians 2:13). Faith is not to instruct God to do my will, its "His will be done on earth as it is in Heaven".

**It's by His Grace:** It is not going to be a function of our efforts, it is by His grace. We receive by Faith what God has provided by His Grace. "Grace Makes, Faith Takes" (Ephesians 2:8, Romans 4:16, Romans 5:2)

#### 2. True Desires, Hope and Faith

Since Faith is the substance of things hoped for, and hope is an expectation that what we **desire** will happen, let's examine the relationship between Desires, Hope and Faith.

##### Desires

God said He is committed to give us the desires of our hearts (Mark 11:24; John 15:7, Psalm 37:3-5). However, James 4:1-3 shows that there is a tendency to desire wrongly. So, to ensure our desires are aligned to His will, God works in us to produce what we should desire within us (Philippians 2:13). He does this through the work of the Holy Spirit renewing our mind with God's word and aligning our thoughts to His (Romans 12:2; Isaiah 55:8-9). As we abide in Him and His words abides in us, He produces in us, desires that He is committed to bring to pass (John 15: 7, Psalm 37:3-5). He is the author and finisher of our faith. (Hebrews: 12:2)

**Note:** There is a difference between the desire of the heart (which God grants) and the wishes of the head. A wish of the head tends to be transient (that is, temporary or changing) as it is a product of (or at least influenced by) what we see or hear or our present circumstances. As these change, our wishes also change. A true desire of the heart is lodged deep in your heart and hardly changes. It can get clearer with time and with more knowledge as we abide more in God.

##### Hope

Hope is a constant expectation that what we desire will happen. It is based on our knowledge of God, what He has done in the past and His promises to us. Hope

comes from God's word. (Romans 15:4; Lamentation 3:21-23). David encouraged himself in the Lord by hoping in the Lord (1 Samuel 30:6, Psalm 119: 114). Hope is based on the immutability of God's word (Hebrews 6: 16-18). It is a strong and trustworthy anchor to our soul. Just as the anchor keeps the ship calm and steady during the storm, hope keeps us through life challenges. (Romans 15:13, 5: 2-5)

Faith

While Hope is an expectation that God will do what He has promised to do in His word; Faith is an assurance that what God has promised is already done. Faith gives substance to our hope and evidence to what we cannot see.

3. How Faith Comes

We all have faith; as we have all been dealt the measure of faith (Hebrews 12:3). However, faith only becomes active in us through the revelation of God's word (Hebrews 4:2, Romans 10:17). This comes by the Holy Spirit that opens our eyes to see beyond the letters and ministers the life of God in His word (Ephesians 1:17-18). It is light shining out of darkness that makes us see clearly what God is saying specifically to us from His word. (2Corinthians 4:6; 2Corinthians 3:17-18; 1Corinthians 2:12). So, faith comes alive with a specific word of God to us on a specific matter for a specific purpose which is the Rhema of God. (Mark 5: 25-29; Mathew 14: 25-29).

4. Building and Exercising your Faith

- **Labour to enter into rest** through continuous meditation on the revealed word of God to you.
- This establishes faith in your heart and gets you to the state of full assurance, peace and rest in the Lord. (Hebrews 4:10-12, 2Corinthians10:4-6, Romans 4:19-21, Proverb 18:20).

- **Keep your focus on God's word.** As we keep meditating on God's promises to us, we are being changed from Glory to Glory according to the image we are beholding. Irrespective of what happens around us; let's keep our focus on His word (2 Corinthians 4: 17-18).
- **Keep praying in the Spirit.** Praying in tongues, singing praises and worshiping God help to build up our spiritual strength. When doubts, anxiety or fear start to creep in, engage in these to keep your Faith alive (Jude 1:20; 1 Corinthians 14:4; Romans 8:26-28).
- **Sow the word of God like a seed** on the earth declaring God's word to every situation (Matthew 17:20, Mark 11: 22-24, 2 Corinthians 4:13).
- **Express your victory continuously through joy,** thanksgiving and praises (1Peter 1: 8-9; Isaiah 12:3; Philippians 4:4-7; Romans 14:17; Psalm 67:3-7; Isaiah 54:1).
- **Keep walking in Love.** Faith works by Love. (1 Corinthians 13:13, Galatians 5:6; Romans 5:5; James 2:14-18)
- **Be Consistent, Diligent and Patient in the practice of the truth.** (Hebrews 6:11-15, Luke 18: 1; Galatians 6:9; James 1: 25)

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Class Activity

Spend the next 15 minutes meditating (reading and declaring the scripture as your current reality) a scripture you believe God has given you as the title deed for something you are hoping for.

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Foundation of Faith is a refresher course of The Covenant Nation (TCN), Lagos, Nigeria on the fundamentals of our Christian faith.