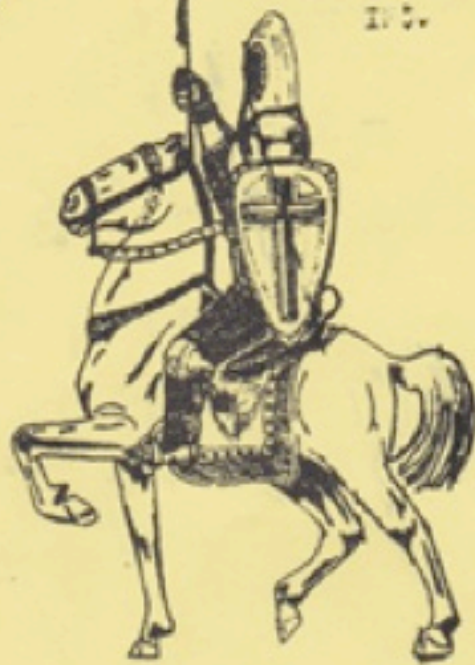


Christian Training Center



**CHRISTIAN TRAINING CENTER, INC.
THE CHARISMATIC BIBLE INSTITUTE
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BOOK THIRTEEN

FAITH

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SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN GIFTS AND MINISTRIES

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DEDICATION

These books are purposely written and dedicated to the Layman, who desires to enter into a Teaching Ministry.

They are therefore written simply with the paragraphs broken up in order that teaching from these books can be made easy for the Teacher to read.

Our motto is stated in 2 Timothy 2:2, "And the things that thou has heard from me, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also".

The questions at the end of each lesson can be used by the Teacher to give tests to the students. We recommend the writing out of answers in order that the material may be implanted into the minds of the students. Any other type of questioning does not accomplish this purpose.

May the Lord, therefore, bless the truths presented in these studies.

Dr. Albert Grimes

Book 13: Faith
Lesson 1: Faith
Hebrews 11:1-3
By Dr. Albert Grimes

Faith then is actually seeing things that are invisible. Faith seen as a fact; what is not revealed to the senses. It rests on that fact, acts upon it, and is upheld by it in the face of all that seems to contradict it. Faith is real seeing by the inner spirit.

It is further described as being, in Hebrews 11:1, "...the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

It is quite clear that there are two kinds of seeing with the senses. What we understand by this is that as well as seeing with the eyes we also know things by the senses. This kind of seeing deals with material things.

Then there is an inner seeing of the invisible things, a seeing by faith which contradicts the senses. Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance..." In this sense faith is that which stands under a foundation. It is also the ground upon which one builds a hope.

Then it is related to a legal term, which would relate to the whole body of documents bearing on the ownership of a person's property, deposited in the place where public records are kept, and forming the evidence of ownership. That is why it is translated as being "Faith is the title deed of things hoped for".

We could also add this statement, that Faith is a divine assurance given by the Holy Spirit to the believer after he accepts Christ, which becomes the title deed which God puts in his hand or spirit, guaranteeing to him the possession of the things for which he trusted him.

"Faith is the evidence of things not seen". Faith then is a proof that certain things exist, or that by which invisible things are proved and we are convinced of their reality.

Both the words "substance" and "evidence" relate to the simple idea of assurance, a suggestion of influences operating to produce conviction. This conviction that comes then because of faith results in demonstration or action.

This is the reason why the Word of God makes the statement that it is possible for the just to live by faith. Hebrews 10:38, "Now the just shall live by faith".

Thus faith is the inner man seeing and understanding the things of God, and acting upon them.

So man sees in two senses. By faith the inner man sees the invisible things of God, and with his senses the outer man sees the material things of this universe.

When we learn to disregard what the senses reveal to us, and we accept and act upon what is revealed to us through faith, then we are believing according to Scripture. True believing then is accepting and acting upon what faith reveals.

Through faith man is able to know the invisible things of God, as revealed in His Word, and he is able to appropriate all that God has for him.

Faith then is the inner witness of the Holy Spirit to our inner man, regarding the things of God.

FAITH
BOOK 13
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 1

1. In a short paragraph define Faith.
2. Explain how faith is the title deed.
3. What does it mean, “The just shall live by faith?”
4. In what two senses does man see?
5. What is true believing?

Book 13: Faith
Lesson 2: The Different Measures of Faith
Ephesians 2:8, Romans 10:17, Romans 12:6, 1 Corinthians 12:9, Galatians 5:22
By Dr. Albert Grimes

The Doctrine of Faith has always been a confusing doctrine, so much has been taught regarding it that is wrong. Sometimes we have listened to servants of God, and we have been astounded at the element of faith in their ministries.

Now in most cases these same people have exhorted us to have the same kind of faith. And time and time again we have tried to reach those same heights of faith, only to fail. We cannot, and we are left in confusion. So the teaching on faith has become somewhat of a mystery to us.

The reason for such faith as we have described, and the fact that all believers do not have it, is made clear through the Word of God. This faith is the Gift of Faith, and like the rest of the Gifts it is given as the Spirit wills. 1 Corinthians 12:11, "...dividing to every man severally as he will". And this same Gift is only given to certain believers, not all believers. 1 Corinthians 12:9, "To another faith by the same Spirit..."

Before we study this Gift of Faith it would be well for us to understand the different measures of faith spoken of in the Scriptures.

Faith can be something that God gives to us as a gift. Then it can be something that God Himself measures to us. Then it can be something that we measure to ourselves. Then it can be something that is given to us as a gift of the Spirit. So there are measures of faith spoken of in the Word of God.

It has been suggested that all have a measure of faith. We use it in our every day life. But that kind of natural faith comes or is developed in us by experience. We learn to trust, or have faith in things and people, and so forth.

All have this kind of faith, even the unregenerated man, but before we can enter into the realm of faith spoken of in the Bible, we must first find Christ as Savior, and this takes a faith which is not natural faith, but it is the gift of God, and all men do not have it. 2 Thessalonians 3:2, "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith".

But all Christians do have faith. They have saving faith, or Salvation faith. So the first measure of faith is Salvation faith, or saving faith. Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God". The fact that it is not of ourselves proves the fact that natural faith that all men have is not enough. We must be given faith.

Now, as to when and how this faith is given, we do not know. The first move of the Holy Spirit is to enlighten. Hebrews 6:4, "...for those who were once enlightened..." (or illuminated), after which God opens our hearts. Acts 16:14, "...whose heart the Lord opened...". It may be at this point in conversion that faith is given, after which regeneration comes. So Salvation faith is a gift of God, and this faith opens to us the other measures of faith.

Then we are made to understand that the Spirit of God, by which every believer is born from above and who is the believer's life, is also called the Spirit of faith. 2 Corinthians 4:13, "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak".

The Word of God on which the believer feeds is also called the Word of Faith. Romans 10:8, "...that is, the word of faith, which we preach".

Because we have the Spirit of Faith, and the Word of Faith, faith is the very life principle of the Christian. For the just shall live by faith, or the just shall live by seeing things that are invisible. Romans 1:17, "...The just shall live by faith", also Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38.

If we as Christians would please God, we must have faith. If we would bring heaven's treasure within our reach, we must have faith. Hebrews 11:6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him".

THE AGE OF FAITH

We in the Day of Grace are now living in the Age of Faith. The coming of Christ marked the birth of a new era. Paul speaks of it as the coming of faith. Galatians 3:25, "But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster". It is true that in every age "the just shall live by faith". But in the Old Testament times faith was supported and stimulated by material helps, such as the Tabernacle with its furnishings, the priesthood, and other visual aids.

The Old Testament times were characterized by the picture book type of revelation. Just as a child starting school is first introduced to the picture book and the object lesson, so men in Old Testament times were enabled to know God through divinely painted pictures, divinely designed object lessons.

The coming of Christ changed all this. These "types and shadows" were fulfilled in Christ. The earthly priesthood, the temple, the animal sacrifices, the whole legal economy were all fulfilled in Christ, and thus discontinued, for Christ was the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believed. Romans 10:4, "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth".

All that man needs for time and eternity is found in Jesus Christ, for in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and we are complete in Him. Colossians 2:9,10, "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him..."

All of this supply, which is to be found in Christ, is available to faith. It is of faith, that it might be by grace, to the end that the promise might be sure to all the seed, Romans 4:16, "Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all".

Faith is available to all men. The poor may have it because it is free. The uneducated may have it, for it is simple. The socially downtrodden may have it, for it knows no boundaries of class and caste.

God has made the wealth of His mercy and grace and blessing available to simple faith so that all might have equal opportunity to secure it.

THREE KINDS OF FAITH IN THE BODY OF CHRIST

In the Body of Christ there are three kinds of faith. There is the faith that God measures to every man, and the faith which every measures to himself. Then there is the Gift of Faith which is given by the Holy Spirit.

The first kind of faith has to do with divinely ordained service in the Body of Christ. In this connection God has dealt to every man the measure of faith. Romans 12:3, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith".

God has set the members in the Body as it has pleased Him. 1 Corinthians 12:18, "But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him".

Each member is divinely gifted to function in that part of the Body to which God has appointed him. These gifts are sovereignly bestowed, God by the Holy Spirit dividing to every man severally as He will, 1 Corinthians 12:18, "But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will".

God has a place for every one of His children in the realm of service. As you faithfully live in the Word and walk in the Spirit, the divine intention will become evident in your life. Your particular gift will make room for you, Proverbs, 18:16, "A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men".

You will become familiar with God's purpose for your life in service, others will recognize the special ability which God has given you, and your life will be made happy in the service of the best of Masters.

Others will be blessed by your faithful exercise of the gift given you. Faith for your particular task will be generously given by God. Do not covet another man's place in the Body. It is not yours, nor will faith be given you for another man's work, and failure will only serve to discourage and defeat you.

But if we believe, and accept what God has given us to do, and move into it, surrender ourselves to it, then God will measure faith and our ministry will grow, and develop, as the measure of faith is increased. 1 Timothy 4:14,15, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery. 15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all".

This kind of faith activates power for service. The reason why some Christians do now grow in the operation of their ministry and gifts is because they do not move out into what God has already given them.

God is waiting for you and me to move out into operation. God then will begin to measure faith.

You cannot pray for this measure of faith. It does not come that way. You must move out first upon what you know to be the will of God for your life. Then, and then only, will this kind of faith be given, and you will minister according to the measure of faith.

How much jealousy and covetousness among God's people would be eliminated if we would give sincere attention to this simple and clear cut teaching on the question of service.

The second kind of faith is that which we measure to ourselves. We can personally determine the supply to ourselves. We can have it to a greater, or lesser degree. There is no secret as to how it may be secured. It flows into us as we are obedient to a clearly stated rule.

This faith comes by hearing and believing God's word.

Romans 10:13-17, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? 15 And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things... 17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God".

You cannot believe for something of which you have no knowledge.

BELIEVING THE REPORT

Faith is believing the report. That is Old Testament language. It is in substance however, repeated in the New Testament. 1 John 5:10,11, "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. 11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son".

Let us not as children of God miss any part of the "report" or the "record". Let us hear all the words of this life. Acts 5:20, "Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life".

Jesus said that he had come to give life more abundantly. John 10:10, "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly".

The nature and the extent of this life is revealed in the record. Don't miss any part of it. Do not be discouraged because you cannot reach perfection in a moment. Keep living in "the record", and appropriating its promises. There is no limit to what God can do for you. If ye continue in my word, you shall know the truth, and it shall set you free. John 8:31,32, "Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free".

The Lord made a former statement regarding this same thing in Matthew 4:4, "...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God".

One made this comment regarding some Christians, "If you were to feed your physical body as meagerly and as infrequently as you feed your soul on God's Word, how long would it be since we attended your funeral?" Many feed their bodies three hot meals a day, and their soul a cold lunch once a week.

This faith "cometh". You can keep it coming! It does not come by sitting around wishing and hoping. It comes by continuing in the Word.

If you want a drink of water, you must get to the source of supply. You must either go to the faucet yourself, or have the water brought to you. You will not get a drink by lamenting your thirst and wishing for something to be done. So in the realm of spiritual things, you can go to the Word yourself, or you have it brought to you by God's Bible preaching ministers. To keep "filled", one would do well to avail himself of both means.

As faith is fed upon the Word of God, and gets exercise in the arena of experience, it grows. Paul, commenting on the faith of the Thessalonians in his first letter to them, said, 1 Thessalonians 1:8, "...also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad..." In his second letter he again states that their faith groweth exceedingly. 2 Thessalonians 1:3, "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly..."

The extent of our faith will determine the measure to which we can experience and enjoy God and His blessings.

Faith is measurable. This is clearly indicated in the following references: “Little faith”, Luke 12:28; “weak in faith”, Romans 4:19; “strong in faith”, Romans 4:20; “growing faith”; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; “great faith”, Matthew 8:10; “rich faith”, James 2:5; “full of faith”, Acts 6:5; “perfect faith”, James 2:22, “unfeigned faith”, 1 Timothy 1:5; “shipwrecked faith”, 1 Timothy 1:19; “overcoming faith”, 1 John 5:4.

FAITH TO BE HEALED

One day as the Apostle Paul was ministering the Word of God at Lystra, before him “there sat a certain man, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked”. Now carefully note what is next said. Acts 4:9, “The same heard Paul speak...” Paul was ministering the faith-creating Word. As he spoke he “steadfastly beheld” the crippled man, and Acts 4:9, “...perceiving that he had faith to be healed, 10 said with a loud voice, stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked”. Acts 14:8-10.

Let us review this incident briefly. A crippled man listens to God’s servant preach the Word of God. Things are said that inform that man that he can be healed. He believes those things and so radiates his faith that Paul “perceiving” or seeing that the man had faith to be healed, encouraged him to act his faith and rise.

This the man did to the glory of God. He had healing faith, which had been created in his heart as he believed the Word of deliverance, which Paul preached.

ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH

Two blind men followed Jesus on one occasion, Matthew 9:27-30, “...crying, and saying, “Thou son of David, have mercy on us. 28 And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? And they said unto him, Yea, Lord. 29 Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. 30 And their eyes were opened...”

He did not say “according to My power be it unto you”. His power was not in question. No one who believes in the God of the Bible will question the fact that God’s power is limitless.

The question was “Believe ye that I am able to do this?” Their faith in His ability and willingness to give them sight was the key which unlocked the door of His power for them.

NO BOUNDARIES TO FAITH

On another occasion as Jesus descended from the Mount of Transfiguration, He beheld His disciples surrounded by “a great multitude”. One of the multitude approached Jesus, saying “Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit...I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out, and they could not”. Jesus’ reply to the man is very enlightening. “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you?”

The absence of faith was the thing which the Master deplored. When they brought the child to Jesus, the evil spirit in the boy “tare him”. Satan’s most vigorous demonstration is often witnessed just before the deliverance. “How long has this been going on?” inquired the Master. “Since he was a child,” replied the father, “and if thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us”.

Again Jesus made it clear that it was not a matter of His ability to “do anything”, but rather a matter of the man’s faith, for He replied, “If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”, Mark 9:14-29.

Jesus with these words removed all horizons and declared there were no boundaries to faith. Many mighty things have been attempted and accomplished as men have believed this inspiring statement.

With this promise gripping their hearts, men from the days of Abraham until this present hour have dared to do things extraordinary, even in the face of the criticism and scorn of many of their fellows.

“One Sunday morning,” a Pastor writes, “a godly brother, a member of the church of which I was Pastor, came into my office. Looking into my eyes with intense sincerity he said, ‘Pastor, you know that I am in charge of some very valuable horses. It is my job to look after them. One of those animals is very sick, and the

veterinary surgeon says he will die. Pastor, do you believe God will heal that horse?' 'I do!' So do I, I replied, and with that we joined our faith together and had prayer, and God healed the horse".

But you say, "I don't believe God will heal a horse". Well, in that case, if you have a sick horse, it will have to die.

The promise is not to those who do not believe, but to those who do believe. "All things are possible..." You are the one who establishes the boundaries of the "all things" in your life.

"All things" to some is much greater than "all things" to others. The extent of your faith will determine how far you will go in your definition of "all things". This brother, like John Wesley, had faith for the healing of his horse.

THE HIGHEST TYPE OF FAITH

The highest type of faith is faith in God's Word apart from any "helps". God has granted helps, so that such faith as we have may be supported and encouraged to grow.

For instance in the matter of healing for our bodies, we may "call the elders of the Church", who will anoint us with oil, and pray for our recovery. This has been a wonderful help to many. And those who call for the elders are obeying God's word. However, faith on a higher plane secures deliverance by direct personal faith in the promise of God's Word.

Knowing God's Word and being filled with the Spirit, the mature believer knows how to successfully "wrestle with principalities and powers", and come off the field "more than conquerors".

This high type of faith is illustrated in the healing of the centurion's servant, as recorded in Matthew 8:5-13. "...8...but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed...". Although the Scriptures do not directly say so, it is strongly to be suggested that the centurion had observed the Master's ministry prior to the presentation of his own need.

He no doubt had been in the crowds on previous occasions, and had been amazed at our Lord's exercise of authority. A word of command from Jesus' lips and the cripple walked, the invalid came off his cot, and the withered arm was stretched forth, and unclean spirits were cast out.

To this soldier such events spelled a strong military word, "authority". In his mind there was no doubt as to Jesus' mastery over sickness. When therefore his servant fell ill, being "grievously tormented", there was only one thing to do. Get to Jesus as soon as possible.

Upon finding the Lord, the centurion besought him, Matthew 8:6, "And saying, "Lord my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. 7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him".

The centurion's reply is a classic. It ought to be carefully studied, for Jesus puts it at the top of the list of faith responses spoken during His ministry. Matthew 8:8, "The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed".

Then the centurion proceeded to tell our Lord why he spoke as he did, Matthew 8:9, "For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it".

Being a soldier he understood the principle of authority. Being vested with the power to rule his men as given him by Rome, he only had to speak the word, and those men under him knew that it was the voice of Roman authority. His soldiers and servants moved at his command. He recognized this same principle of authority in the ministry of Jesus, but in the realm of spirit.

There was no need for Jesus to make the journey to the centurion's house. "The Word only" would accomplish the servant's healing.

A word of authority addressed to the evil thing which was afflicting his servant would be sufficient to effect the servant's deliverance, Matthew 8:10, "When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel". The professing religionists of that day did not have this kind of faith.

Thus every other instance of faith records faith as acting on a lower level. This soldier, without an Israelitish background, and an understanding of divine things such as was available to the Jews, had grasped the truth of Jesus' rightful authority ahead of those who should have known.

It has often been the case. Just as the writings of the scribes and the traditions of the elders made void true faith in Jesus' day, so in our day a multiplicity of religious rites, ceremonies, and humanistic teachings are destructive of faith in God's pure word.

Much to the surprise of some good church members, God is finding many "centurions" outside of professing Christendom who are responding to the "Word of faith", and putting to shame the Pharisaism and Sadduceeism of our day.

Matthew 8:13, "And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour".

UNIVERSAL PROVISION FOR ALL

The centurion had faith in Jesus' Word! Jesus' physical presence at the servant's side was not necessary. No laying on of hands, or anointing with oil, was needed. "Just the Word only".

Not everyone can receive this, but it is a goal to be reached. For although we do not have God's servants always on hand to pray for us and encourage us, nevertheless we do have always at hand God's Word.

Jesus no longer needs to speak an individual word of deliverance for each case. He made universal provision for all when on the cross of Calvary he cried, "It is finished!" There the work of deliverance was completed. Sin was borne. Sickness was dealt with. Satan was crushed.

As we trust and confess the word of truth, we experience the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection.

The "Word of Faith" is powerful to bring about deliverance from all our enemies. All your enemies were defeated at Calvary! "The blood of the Lamb" accomplished this. Thus we overcome "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony", Revelations 12:11.

"The blood of the Lamb" speaks of that which our Lord Jesus accomplished for us on the cross. "The word of our testimony" is our confession of personal participation in the benefits of the work of the cross.

We testify that what God's Word declares was accomplished by our Lord's death and resurrection is the very truth.

If God's word says that "Jesus died for our sins", then we believe and testify it to be so. God confirms the word of our testimony by giving us victory over sin.

The same applies to sickness, Satan, the world, and the flesh. You will overcome all these enemies as you believe they have been defeated by our champion, and testify the truth with your mouth.

Later on the same day in which the centurion's servant was healed, "When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils; and he cast out the spirits with his word..." (Margin "a word") Matthew 8:16.

His word is final and authoritative. His Word in the lips of faith, "shall accomplish that which He pleases", Isaiah 55:11.

OUR LORD'S CONTINUING MINISTRY

Although our Lord returned bodily to heaven, He nevertheless continued His ministry, and enlarged His ministry, after His ascension, Mark 16:19,20, "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following".

There is nothing in the New Testament to indicate that this divine arrangement has been set aside. To the contrary, where faith has claimed these promises, the same Lord stands ready to work with His preached Word and "perform" it.

Each Scripture received with a sincere and obedient heart produces its own "kind of faith". When the Gospel of Salvation is preached, men get "salvation faith". This was true of the Ephesians. Paul writing to them said, "In whom (Christ) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation...", Ephesians 1:13.

This is true today. Where the gospel of salvation is preached, men hear and believe, and are saved. This is the case also with every other truth. Every truth preached creates faith in the heart to believe that truth and

secure its particular blessing. Salvation truth brings salvation blessing. Healing truth brings healing blessing. Deeper life truth brings deeper life blessing.

Many have neglected whole departments of Scripture, and have shut out for themselves the blessings which could be theirs if such Scriptures were studied and believed.

Every Scriptural promise produces in the believer that which it promises. You will receive from God that for which you believe. If God has made a promise to you in His Word, then He is only waiting for you to believe it, whereupon He “will hasten his word to perform it”, Jeremiah 1:12.

There are “...given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these we might be partakers of the divine nature...”, 2 Peter 1:4.

Paul, giving an account of his stewardship to the Ephesian elders at Miletus, said, “...I kept back nothing that was profitable to you, but have shewed you, and have taught you...²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God”, Acts 20:20,27.

Many are being robbed of their inheritance because the whole will is not being honestly executed. The words of our Lord to the Emmaus travellers might well be repeated in many quarters today, “...O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken”, Luke 24:25.

What a tragedy to go through life without those things which God designed for our good and which Jesus Christ made available to us through His awful suffering at Calvary, and which the Holy Spirit stands ready to minister to us on the basis of faith.

SLIPS OF PAPER

Out of the last war comes a very humorous story that will help to illustrate what we have been trying to say. It is about an Oklahoma farmer, unable to read or write, who worked for nine months in a West Coast shipyard before discovering he was getting paid for the job. He did not find out that his contribution to the war effort was being rewarded until he told his foreman one day that he couldn't afford to work any longer because his wife, a waitress, had lost her job.

The foreman, remembering the man had received two promotions since starting work and had been earning a dollar an hour or more, was puzzled. He asked the Oklahoman what had become of his regular pay.

“What pay?” was his response. Questioning brought out that the worker had been receiving “little slips of paper” all along, but did not know that they were cheques. He nevertheless had kept them all, and was delighted when the foreman told him they were convertible into money. He deposited most of his accumulated funds in a bank, but also bought some war bonds and fixed it so his wife could “rest and buy herself some good-looking clothes”.

Amazed, are you, at a worker who regarded cheques as mere “slips of paper”? But some of us are doing that which is even more inexcusable. We are treating the “exceeding great and precious promises” of God as mere bits of non-negotiable paper, whereas their value exceeds that of money.

Now let us review what we have been teaching regarding faith. What is faith? Faith is the inner man seeing and understanding the things of God, and acting upon what he sees and knows.

The first kind of faith, that enables us to accept Christ, is Salvation faith. It is given as a gift, Ephesians 2:8.

Salvation Faith enables us then to enter into the three kinds of faith that are in the Body of Christ. There is the faith that God measures to every man, and the faith that every man measures to himself. Then there is the gift of faith which is given by the Spirit.

May we enter into all these measures of faith.

FAITH
BOOK 13
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 2

1. What are the four measures of faith?
2. How does natural faith come and who has it?
3. How did I receive faith for Salvation?
4. What is the life principle of the Christian and why?
5. How was faith in God stimulated in the Old Testament?
6. Explain why the earthly priesthood, the temple and animal sacrifices, were not needed or to be kept up after Christ died and rose again.
7. Write a short paragraph on the fact that “faith is available to all”.
8. How does faith grow in regards to our ministry?
9. Can you pray for this kind of faith? Why?
10. Can you measure faith and is there any limit to it?
11. What is the highest type of faith?
12. What did the centurion recognize in Jesus? Explain.
13. What universal provision has been made and how can we receive its benefits?
14. What does each department of the Word produce?

Book 13: Faith
Lesson 3: Circumstances and the Senses
Circumstances and Faith
Romans 4:19,21
By Dr. Albert Grimes

There are two types of Christians. Those who live entirely according to the senses, and circumstances and conditions affect their entire way of living. Then there are those who have learned to live by faith, and their lives are not affected by circumstances and conditions of symptoms.

In relation to the first group, those who live according to the senses, their whole life is beset by circumstances and conditions, and these affect their way of living. They become victims of circumstances and conditions. And because they are living according to the senses, what they see, smell, hear, taste, or touch influences their thinking and the making of decisions.

If we are Christians who live in the realm of our senses, we live by what we see, hear, smell, taste, or touch. We only believe in what we receive from the senses, and because our lives are dominated entirely by the senses, we are unable to believe the Word of God.

When we live according to the senses, we cannot contact God, we cannot have faith, we cannot walk in the Spirit.

THE TRIUNITY OF MAN

In order for us to more fully understand this teaching we must understand the three parts of man and how each part of man's triune being works.

The Scripture divides man in this sense. Hebrews 4:12, "...even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart". Man according to this Scripture is made up of soul and spirit, and body, intellect, and heart.

Adam was a spiritual man when God created him. His spirit nature completely controlled his entire being. The spirit is that part of man that contacts God. It is from the spirit that true worship comes. It is that part of man that receives the Word of God and makes it alive in us. It is also that part of man from which the manifestations of the Holy Spirit come forth.

It is also that part of man in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Ephesians 3:16,17, "...to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith..." It is this part of man that should be dominating his whole being, making him a spiritual man.

After Adam sinned, that spirit nature died, and thus he was separated from God and spiritual things. He became a man dominated by his senses, or the outer man or carnal nature. He was controlled by what the senses revealed to him, and in this way he became controlled by circumstances and conditions, and he made all his decisions through what the senses revealed.

This then was man's condition, living entirely according to what the senses revealed, cut off from all things that related to God, absolutely no contact with spiritual things. Nothing spiritual could affect his life.

It was because of this condition in man that made the New Birth necessary. In order for man to regain fellowship with God and understand and enjoy spiritual things, he must then be born again.

A new nature, a spirit nature, must be given man. So at the new birth a new man or nature is born in man. It is called the New Man, Ephesians 4:24, "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness". Colossians 3:10, "And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him".

This same spiritual nature can control us and enable us to walk after the Spirit. And when we walk in the Spirit, the Spirit will control our soulish life. In the soul, which gives us self-consciousness, is the mind, intellect, reason, affection, and the heart.

So when we walk in the Spirit, the spiritual nature or inner man or new man will control our wills, and the will, will determine what the mind will think, which will make us spiritually minded.

This condition of mind will produce the right heart reactions, for the heart is the center of our emotional life. Then from the heart will come forth things relating to the Spirit, and the fruit of the Spirit. There will be brought forth spiritual manifestations, and true spiritual worship. There will be a spiritual understanding of God's Word. We will not be controlled by circumstances, or conditions, but we will walk by faith and make our decisions according to God's Word.

This walk of faith will in most cases contradict the senses. We will walk according to the Word of God regardless of circumstances, and regardless of what we see, hear, taste, or touch or smell. These things will not affect our experience with the Lord.

But as we have stated, if we walk according to the senses, the opposite will take place in our lives, and we will be dominated by the senses.

SCRIPTURAL INSTANCES OF THE AFFECT OF LIVING IN THE SENSES

God had promised the land of Canaan to Israel, it was theirs. Genesis 12:7, "And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, "Unto thy seed will I give this land..."

When it was time to go in and take the land that was theirs by inheritance they made the mistake of sending spies into the land. Now ten of these twelve men lived and believed only what they could see, hear, taste, and touch, and this was the report which they brought back. Numbers 13:28, "Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there".

Numbers 13:31-33, "...We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we...32...and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature. 33 And there we saw the giants...and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight".

Now because these spies lived in the realm of the senses, they made the wrong decisions. They disregarded God's Word, and they turned the whole nation of Israel away from what God had given to them. Even to the place where they wanted to go back to Egypt, and Israel as a nation went back into the wilderness for forty years of wandering.

SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES OF FAITH AND CIRCUMSTANCES

There were two men in that group of spies who believed in what God had given them. They walked in the Spirit. They disregarded the senses. Numbers 13:30, "And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it".

He was not ruled by the senses, but by the Word of God, and he made decisions accordingly. And if Israel as a nation had at that time done as it was suggested by Caleb, God would have performed the miracles for them that He afterwards performed for Joshua.

SENSES AND CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF ELISHA

The King of Syria had sent an army to take Elisha, because he was revealing the King's secrets to the King of Israel. (2 Kings 6:8-13) This same army was now around the city in which Elisha dwelt (2 Kings 6:14).

Now Elisha's servant saw this army around the city, and made his decision by what he saw. 2 Kings 6:15, "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do?"

The servant was overcome by what he saw with his eyes. He was not walking in the Spirit, therefore he did not know the whole truth.

For through discerning of spirits the Prophet Elisha saw other things that contradicted what his servant saw, and he said, 2 Kings 6:16, "...Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them".

And he prayed that what he could see in the spirit, that his servant may be able also to see. 2 Kings 6:17, "And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes

of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha”.

SENSES AND CIRCUMSTANCES

Peter saws the Lord walking upon the water, and asked if he may do the same. Matthew 14:28, “And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water”. And at the word of Jesus Peter began to walk upon the water. At the word of Jesus a miracle was taking place. Matthew 14:29, “And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus”. As long as Peter kept his eyes upon Jesus, and obeyed what he said, he walked upon the water. But as soon as he turned his eyes upon the conditions surrounding him, he became afraid and began to sink. Matthew 14:30, “But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me”.

Seeing and believing the circumstances he lost faith and began to sink. Matthew 14:31, “...O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?”

Senses and circumstances produce unbelief and rob us of God’s blessing. We magnify the circumstances above the Word of God, and the power of God, and fear and unbelief control us.

When we realize Satan’s purposes as he brings forth these circumstances and how God turns them always to work out His purposes, then circumstances should be used to strengthen our faith in God.

CIRCUMSTANCES AND FAITH

Faith which comes by the Word of God to our inner spirit believes the promises of God. For faith is believing that God will bring to pass what He said He would.

To faith, circumstances never present the truth. This is to be seen in the life of Daniel and his friends. Their not worshipping the golden image would result in their being cast into the furnace. Daniel 3:15, “...but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?”

To the senses these are real circumstances, but to faith they do not present the truth. Because after they were cast into the furnace, these circumstances were overcome. Daniel, 3:27, “And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king’s counselors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them”.

The deliverance of God was so complete that they had no evidence that they had ever been in a furnace. Daniel did not believe the circumstances when he was told that to pray to his God would cause him to be cast into the lion’s den. Daniel 6:10, “Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed...he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God...”

After being cast into the lion’s den, the King found him still alive and unhurt. Daniel 6:22, “My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions’ mouths, that they have not hurt me...”

So it must be understood that Satan brings about these circumstances to confuse us, and if we are walking in the realm of the senses we will fall into unbelief. But if we walk by faith, these circumstances will not hinder me, for we know that all things work together for our good, Romans 8:28.

GOD USES THESE CIRCUMSTANCES FOR OUR GOOD

Joseph, because of the hatred of his own brethren, was sold into Egypt, then falsely accused and thrown into prison, but God used these same circumstances to bring Joseph into Egypt in order to save Israel from the famine. Genesis 50:20, “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive”.

Paul delivered the woman from a divination spirit (Acts 16:18) after which both he and Silas were beaten with stripes. Acts 16:23, “...laid many stripes upon them...” But walking by faith they sang praises to God. Acts 16:25,26, “...Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God...26 And suddenly there was a great

earthquake...” After that the jailer and all his household were baptized. Acts 16:33, “And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway”.

Two men whom I personally knew were out in the country in Alberta, Canada, doing missionary work. They were caught in a bad rain storm and their car was unable to get up a certain hill because of the mud.

After becoming soaked and tired because of their condition, they gave up, and went into a farm house which was in a field not far from where they were. After conversation with the farmer and his wife, one of the young men mentioned that he was going to China as a missionary.

The farmer upon finding this out gave him the sum of four hundred dollars for his fare to China, for he said he had been saving it for just such a purpose.

If these two young men had been able to get up that hill that day, they would have missed what God had intended for them.

ABRAHAM’S FAITH

Romans 4:19,20, “And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God”.

When Abraham gave glory to God he was confessing what God had said. Confessing means saying the same thing as God has said. What we confess imprisons us or sets us free.

If we confess circumstances we imprison ourselves. If we confess what God has said, we will set ourselves free as Abraham was. Romans 4:21, “And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform”.

HOW THE CONFESSED WORD WORKS FOR US

The angel of the Lord had just told Mary about the birth of her Son, Jesus. Then Mary asked the angel the question, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” (Luke 1:34) Then in Luke 1:35, the angel explains how it will come to pass, and says in Luke 1:37, “For with God, nothing shall be impossible”.

Mary in the following statement confessed the Word of God concerning her. Luke 1:38, “And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word...” She submitted herself to the Word and confessed it, and the miracle of the incarnation took place.

Circumstances never present the truth, for we find Jonah in the belly of the fish, and if he had been living according to the senses he would have given up and died. But it says in Scripture that he disregarded the circumstances, and he remembered the Lord, Jonah 2:7.

And after getting right with God in Jonah 2:9, the Lord spoke to the fish. Jonah 2:10, “And the Lord spake unto the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land”.

There are God’s children who because of circumstances and symptoms which they have accepted as final because they walk according to the senses, will be defeated all their Christian experience, and some will even die.

What are we confessing? What God has said, or are we confessing the circumstances or the symptoms? Remember that what we confess imprisons us or it sets us free.

FAITH
BOOK 13
QUESTIONS ON LESSON 3

1. What are the two kinds of Christians in regards to faith?
2. What is the result spiritually, of living by the senses?
3. What kind of man was Adam when God created him?
4. What happened when Adam sinned?
5. What is man's natural condition?
6. What was necessary to regain fellowship with God?
7. Explain what happens when we walk in the spirit.
8. What part does the Will play?
9. What does the walk of faith contradict?
10. Though the land of Canaan was promised to Israel, what did they still have to do?
11. Why did they make a wrong decision?
12. How many of the spies walked by faith? How do we know?
13. If Israel had listened to God, what would God have done for them?
14. What Gifts of the Spirit were working in Elisha?
15. Why did fear grip Peter when he walked on the water?
16. Do circumstances present the truth? What does?
17. How complete was God's deliverance of Daniel and his friends from the fiery furnace?
18. What did Daniel believe when thrown in the Den?
19. How does God use circumstances?
20. Why could Paul and Silas sing in prison?
21. Explain what we confess does to us?