

FAITH TREASURES

7 December 2014

¹ *The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see.*

² *The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd.*

³ *By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word, what we see created by what we don't see.*

⁴ *By an act of faith, Abel brought a better sacrifice to God than Cain. It was what he believed, not what he brought, that made the difference. That's what God noticed and approved as righteous. After all these centuries, that belief continues to catch our notice.*

⁵ *By an act of faith, Enoch skipped death completely. "They looked all over and couldn't find him because God had taken him." We know on the basis of reliable testimony that before he was taken "he pleased God."*

⁶ *It's impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.*

⁷ *By faith, Noah built a ship in the middle of dry land. He was warned about something he couldn't see, and acted on what he was told. The result? His family was saved. His act of faith drew a sharp line between the evil of the unbelieving world and the rightness of the believing world. As a result, Noah became intimate with God.*

⁸ *By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going.*

⁹ *By an act of faith he lived in the country promised him, lived as a stranger camping in tents. Isaac and Jacob did the same, living under the same promise.*

¹⁰ *Abraham did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real, eternal foundations-the City designed and built by God.*

Hebrews 11: 1-10 (Message)

There is only one way to the treasures of God, and this is the way of faith! **All things are possible, even the fulfilling of all promises is possible, to him who believes (Mark 9:23).** All the promises are "Yes" and "Amen" for those who believe!

The Word that He gives is life – He is the Word. As we receive the Word of life, it comforts us, frees us, it fills us, it moves us, it changes us, and this brings us to a place where we can say AMEN to EVERYTHING God has already spoken.

As you have therefore received Christ, [even] Jesus the Lord, [so] walk (regulate your lives and conduct yourselves) in union with and conformity to Him.

Have the roots [of your being] firmly and deeply planted [in Him, fixed and founded in Him], being continually built up in Him, becoming increasingly more confirmed and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and abounding and overflowing in it with thanksgiving.

Colossians 2: 6-7 (Amplified)

Abounding in faith: "Abundance" in Greek = an exceeding, excessive measure, above the ordinary.

Zechariah and Mary:

But because you won't believe me, you'll be unable to say a word until the day of your son's birth. Every word I've spoken to you will come true on time-God's time. (Luke 1:20).

Mary said, Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say. Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:38).

I. Faith Is A Reality

⁸ **The angel said, "Get dressed. Put on your shoes." Peter did it. Then, "Grab your coat and let's get out of here."**

⁹ **Peter followed him, but didn't believe it was really an angel-he thought he was dreaming.**

¹⁰ **Past the first guard and then the second, they came to the Iron Gate that led into the city. It swung open before them on its own, and they were out on the street, free as the breeze. At the first intersection the angel left him, going his own way.**

¹¹ **That's when Peter realized it was no dream. "I can't believe it-this really happened! The Master sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's vicious little production and the spectacle the Jewish mob was looking forward to."**

¹² **Still shaking his head, amazed, he went to Mary's house, the Mary who was John Mark's mother. The house was packed with praying friends.**

¹³ **When he knocked on the door to the courtyard, a young woman named Rhoda came to see who it was.**

¹⁴ **But when she recognized his voice-Peter's voice!-she was so excited and eager to tell everyone Peter was there that she forgot to open the door and left him standing in the street.**

¹⁵ **But they wouldn't believe her, dismissing her, dismissing her report. "You're crazy," they said. She stuck by her story, insisting. They still wouldn't believe her and said, "It must be his angel."**

¹⁶ **All this time Peter was standing out in the street, knocking away. Finally they opened up and saw him-and went wild!**

Acts 12: 8-16 (Message)

Can a man who is full of sin and all kinds of ruin in his life change God when he starts to pray?

- Charles Finney

No! But when a man becomes broken in prayer, he humbles himself through complete surrender and brokenness. Prayer changes hearts, but not God. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, full of love, full of compassion, mercy, and ready to bless us.

³ **Know (perceive, recognize, and understand with approval) that the Lord is God! It is He who has made us, not we ourselves [and we are His]! We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.**

⁴ **Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and a thank offering and into His courts with praise! Be thankful and say so to Him, bless and affectionately praise His name!**

Psalm 100: 3-4 (Amplified)

And I am convinced and sure of this very thing that He who began a good work in you will continue until the day of Jesus Christ [right up to the time of His return], developing [that good work] and perfecting and bringing it to full completion in you.

Philippians 1: 6 (Amplified)

2. Communion With God

By an act of faith, Enoch skipped death completely. "They looked all over and couldn't find him because God had taken him." We know on the basis of reliable testimony that before he was taken "he pleased God."

Hebrews 11: 5 (Message)

Spirit-filled Christians seek God, trust God, and live for God. Therefore, to be filled by the Holy Spirit means we yield to His control and guidance moment by moment.

3. Understand God's Word

Cultivate your own relationship with God, but don't impose it on others. You're fortunate if your behaviour and your belief are coherent.

But if you're not sure, if you notice that you are acting in ways inconsistent with what you believe-some days trying to impose your opinions on others, other days just trying to please them-then you know that you're out of line. If the way you live isn't consistent with what you believe, then it's wrong.

Romans 14: 22-23

How can I obtain this faith you may ask? ***Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2).***

God took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah.

God came and pulled us out of ourselves in him and we took from the natural to the supernatural, from the human to the divine - His image. What a Saviour!

By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones).

And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength.

Ephesians 1:18, 19

From Glory To Glory

But even now, God wants to transform us from glory to glory, by the Spirit of the living God. Have faith in God, faith in the Son, and the Holy Spirit – the Trinity.

[Not in your own strength] for it is God who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.

Philippians 2:13 (Amplified)

You can take control of life's situations and walk in the dominion Jesus died to provide.

You can be transformed from glory to glory into the image of Christ's glorious Church. God's abundant life can be yours, but you must possess it, you mighty Christian of valour.