

5. Faith - the Key to Victorious Living

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Subtitle: The Power of the Spoken Word

We are currently studying God's Word on the subject of faith & how we can build strong faith in our lives to live victorious in these challenging days.

- Our God-given faith is the substance & quality that helps us to stand strong and secure in Jesus Christ
- Faith is the master key that unlocks all of God's promises
- By faith we receive all that God has provided for us, and promised to us

1 John 5:4–5 (NIV) *For everyone born of God overcomes the world. **This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** 5 **Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.***

- Only believers in Jesus overcome the world & live victorious over it

2 Corinthians 4:13-14 (NKJV) *And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "**I believed and therefore I spoke,**" **we also believe and therefore speak,** knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you.*

- Believers who have the spirit of faith boldly and consistently declare what they believe
- A consistent and bold confession of God's Word releases God's power in our lives

The Power of the Spoken Word

Luke 17:5–6 (NASB) *And the apostles said to the Lord, "**Increase our faith!**" 6 And the Lord said, "**If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say** to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.*

- Faith doesn't come by asking for it
- Faith comes by hearing God's Word proclaimed (Romans 10:17)
- It's not the size of our faith that counts, it's what we do with it

- Faith has to be released by speaking faith-filled words with our mouth
- **Faith ‘comes’ by hearing --- and faith ‘goes’ by speaking**

Romans 10:6–8 (NKJV) *But the **righteousness of faith speaks** in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) **7** or, “ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **8** But what does it say? “**The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart**” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):*

- Notice, ... *the **righteousness of faith speaks** ...*
- Righteousness, which comes by faith, speaks in a certain way
- *Do not say: ” who will ascend ...” or “who will descend ...”*
- If you want God’s power on the scene to make you righteous (saved), you don’t need to “...bring Christ down ...” or “...bring Christ up ...”
- *But what does it say?*
- *“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach)*
- The power of God to make you righteous is very near you ...
- It is in your mouth and in your heart ...

John Osteen wrote a book entitled: “There is a miracle in your mouth”

Ps. John used to say:

- This is my Bible:
 - I am what it says I am
 - I have what it says I have
 - I can do what it says I can do

Romans 10:9 (NASB95) *... if you **confess with your mouth** Jesus as Lord, and **believe in your heart** that God raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved;***

- The miracle of salvation is activated when we confess Jesus as Lord
- Believing in our heart alone is not enough
- We must activate the miracle by confessing with our mouth

Romans 10:10 (NKJV) *For **with the heart one believes** unto righteousness, and **with the mouth confession is made** unto salvation.*

- *with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*
- notice the word “*unto*” ... – to, into, towards
- The promises of God, spoken with our mouth, moves us into our miracle

Joel 3:10 (NKJV) ... *Let the weak say, ‘I am strong.’*

- We need to say what we wish to be, before we are what we say we are
- Our confession will lead towards possession
- Nobody wants to be weak – everybody wishes to be strong
- If you say you are strong, while you feel weak, you will become strong, and overcome your weakness

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

- In Christ, all the promises in God’s written Word are Yes, and Amen
- Find the promises of God that cover your specific needs, and start to confess them, boldly and consistently

Job 22:27–28 (NKJV) *You will make your prayer to Him, He will hear you, and you will pay your vows. 28 You will also declare a thing, and it will be established for you; so light will shine on your ways.*

- Job 22:27-28 speaks about 2 separate things:
 - Prayers
 - Declarations
- God hears and answers our prayers
- God also hears & grants our declarations

Matthew 8:5–13 (NKJV) *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” 7 And **Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”** 8 The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. **But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.** 9 For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” 10 **When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!** 11 And I say to you that many will come from*

*east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13 Then **Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.***

- The centurion’s servant was lying at home, paralysed and tormented
- Jesus had just arrived in the city of Capernaum
- The centurion came to Jesus & told Him the situation about his servant
- Jesus said he would come to his house and heal the servant
- The Centurion made some very powerful statements:
 - You don’t need to come to my house
 - **Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed**
 - *I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me*
 - *I say to this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes*
 - *and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes*
 - *and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it*
- *Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel*
- *Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and **as you have believed, so let it be done for you.**” And his servant was healed that same hour*

- Your faith-filled words are like the centurion’s servants & soldiers
- Your words go where you tell them to go
- Your words do what you tell them to do
- Your words will bring to you what you tell them to bring

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV) *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*