

6. Faith - the Key to Victorious Living

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Subtitle: How to get faith into the heart

We are still 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

How to get faith into our heart

Luke 6:45 (NKJV) *A good man out of the **good treasure of his heart** brings forth good; and an evil man out of the **evil treasure of his heart** brings forth evil. For **out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.***

- A good man has good treasure (a good deposit) in his heart
- An evil man has evil treasure (an evil deposit) in his heart
- Whatever is in the heart in abundance, good or evil, will always come out of the mouth
- Because, ... **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks**
- To change what comes out of the mouth, we must change what's deposited in the heart

Psalm 119:11 (NKJV) *Your word I have **hidden** in my heart, that I might not sin against You.*

- Hidden – to hide a treasure, to store up
- The psalmist esteemed God's Word a treasure to store up in his heart

Romans 10:6,8 (NKJV) *But the righteousness of faith speaks ... 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 how verse 8 mentions the mouth first, and the heart last
- To get a new deposit of God’s word into our heart, it needs to be in our mouth first
- We call this “the confession unto faith”
- We repeatedly confess God’s word, to move it from our mind (head) into our heart (our spirit)
- In life, we cannot rise above the level of our confession
- Whatever we say consistently will create a ceiling in our life
- Some people’s “ceiling” in life is very low
- Some people’s “ceiling” in life is very high
- It’s all to do with the words that we have spoken

Our words work for us or against us

Matthew 12:37 (NKJV) *For **by your words** you will be justified, and **by your words** you will be condemned.*

Psalm 78:41 (NKJV) *Yes, again and again they tempted God, and **limited the Holy One of Israel.***

- They limited God in their lives by the words they had spoken

Psalm 78:19–21 (NKJV) *Yes, **they spoke against God: They said, “Can God prepare a table in the wilderness? 20 Behold, He struck the rock, so that the waters gushed out, and the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?” 21 Therefore the Lord heard this and was furious; ...***

Numbers 14:26–30 (NKJV) *And the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, 27 ... **I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. 28 Say to them, ‘As I live,’ says the Lord, ‘just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you: 29 The carcasses of you who have complained against Me shall fall in this wilderness, all of you who were numbered, according to your entire number, from twenty years old and above. 30 Except for Caleb the son of Jephunneh and Joshua the son of Nun, you shall by no means enter the land which I swore I would make you dwell in.***

Mediation in God's Word:

Psalm 1:2–3 (NKJV) *But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.*

- Meditation in God's Word moves the Word from the mind to the heart

Progression from memorising Scripture to depositing it in our heart:

God's Word moves:

- From the pages of the Bible
- To the eyes of the reader
- To the mouth of the reader who repeatedly confesses it
- To the memory of the reader who repeatedly confesses it
- To the heart of the one who meditates in it day and night

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

- Once our heart believes the Word of God, we have just moved from:
 - the confession unto faith
 - to the confession of faith
- Memorisation of God's Word is good & necessary, but not enough
- It is meditation that drives the Word of God into the heart

Joshua 1:8 (NKJV) *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

- God's word is the ultimate success literature
- Do not let it depart from your mouth
- Meditate in it day and night
- Do what it says

Proverbs 4:20–23 (NKJV) *My son, **give attention to my words**; Incline your ear to my sayings. **21** Do not let them depart from your eyes; **Keep them in the midst of your heart**; **22** For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. **23** Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*

- Stick with the Word of God
- Do not follow fads or be carried about with every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14)
- Do not chase the latest prophecy
- We have a more sure word of prophecy, namely the Word of God (1 Peter 1:19)