

6. Developing Overcoming Faith

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Sub-title: Our Faith is energized by Love

We are journeying through a series of messages on the subject of faith, to (re)learn and be reminded of:

- what faith is
- how faith works
- how to get faith
- how to live by faith
- how to release faith into every area of our lives

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 (born again) believers in Jesus Christ are able to overcome the world
- Our faith in Jesus Christ lifts us above the world, into a place of victory

Recap from last week's message:

- A. We must add corresponding action to our faith
- B. Our corresponding action makes our faith complete
- C. The doers of God's Word will be blessed

Real Bible Faith means:

- **Hearing** what the Word of God says
- **Believing** in our heart what the Word of God says
- **Confessing** with our mouth what the Word of God says
- **Doing** what the Word of God says

1. **Our Faith is energized by our Love**

- Over the last few week we put “wheels” on our “faith car” by identifying various parts and components of real Bible faith
- Today we will put fuel in the tank

Galatians 5:6 (AMP) *For [if we are] in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but **only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love.***

- Apostle Paul tells the Galatian believers that, once we are born again, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything
- Circumcision is an external sign that has no value to a believer, nor does it invoke any special blessing from God
- *But ... faith activated & energized & expressed & working through love...*
- For the believer, faith counts for everything
- It is faith that has real value to the believer, since it is by faith that we receive the promises of God
- But – our faith must be energized by love
- KJV – worketh – Gr. energeo - energy, puts forth power
- To reiterate:
 - Faith comes by hearing
 - Faith is released by speaking
 - Faith is made complete by adding corresponding action
 - AND - Faith is energized as we walk in love

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV) *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because **your faith grows exceedingly**, and **the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other**.*

- Our faith grows - as our love abounds
- Faith doesn't work by itself – it has two other companions

1 Corinthians 13:13 (NLT) *Three things will last forever—**faith, hope, and love**—and the greatest of these is love.*

- One day in the future, when the gifts of the Spirit have faded away, faith, hope, and love will remain throughout eternity
- Over two dozen N.T. Scripture verses list faith & love side by side

2. Faith, Hope and Love always work together

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (AMP) *Recalling unceasingly before our God and Father **your work energized by faith and service motivated by love and unwavering hope in [the return of] our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).***

- Notice again – the trio of faith, hope and love are listed together
- It's never one at the exclusion of the other two
- It's always all three working together in synergy
- Here is what that looks like:

- The written promise of God first gives us hope
- Then, after hearing and hearing the promise, faith comes
- Then, our love energizes our faith and aids it to receive the promise, and bring it into tangible reality

3. Christians must walk in Love

Ephesians 5:1–2 (NKJV) *Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 **And walk in love**, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.*

- We are called to walk in love
- Walk in love
 - Be occupied with love ...
 - Regulate ones life by love ...
- Our love energises our faith
- Our love is the fuel that keeps our faith working
- As we walk in love, we are confident that our faith is operational
- Conversely, if we harbour unforgiveness towards someone, our faith is de-energised
- If we engage in strife, gossip and quarrelling, our faith is de-energised

4. Peace in our Lives is a Product of our Love

2 Timothy 2:22 (NKJV) *Flee also youthful lusts; but **pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace** with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

- Christians are called to:
 - Pursue righteousness
 - Pursue faith
 - Pursue love
 - Pursue peace
- Notice how love is mentioned before peace
- Without love, peace is elusive and unobtainable

5. Filling the gaps in our faith

1 Thessalonians 3:10 (NLT) *Night and day we pray earnestly for you, asking God to let us see you again to **fill the gaps in your faith**.*

- Apostle Paul desired to visit the Thessalonian believers to help fill any gaps in their faith

- Evidently, it is possible to have gaps in one's faith

1 Thessalonians 3:6–10 (NAB) *But just now Timothy has returned to us from you, **bringing us the good news of your faith and love**, and that you always think kindly of us and long to see us as we long to see you. **7** Because of this, we have been reassured about you, brothers, in our every distress and affliction, through your faith. **8** For we now live, if you stand firm in the Lord. **9** What thanksgiving, then, can we render to God for you, for all the joy we feel on your account before our God? **10** Night and day we pray beyond measure to see you in person and to **remedy the deficiencies of your faith.***

- If Paul were to visit us, would he identify any deficiencies in our faith?
- What would he recommend concerning our faith?

2 Peter 1:5–9 (NKJV) *But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, **add to your faith** virtue, to virtue knowledge, **6** to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, **7** to godliness brotherly kindness, and to **brotherly kindness love**. **8** For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. **9** For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.*

- Apostle Peter tells the believers to add certain things to their faith
- Most of the things he lists are character qualities
- Among other things he lists brotherly kindness & love
- Vs. 8: *if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful*
- In other words, your faith will be fully productive and working properly