

4. How to Develop Strong Faith

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Subtitle: Holding fast the Confession of our Faith (Part 2)

Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV) *Now **the just shall live by faith**; but if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.*

- We are still ‘priming the pump’ to take our personal faith to new levels
 - Strong Faith in God
 - Strong Faith in God’s Word
 - Strong Faith in the Name of Jesus Christ
 - Strong Faith in God’s promises
- **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)** *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*
- As believers, we are called to live & walk by faith

Main points of our previous message:

- Faith “comes” and faith “goes”
- Faith “speaks”
- Jesus’ faith wasn’t “released” until He spoke words
- Have the Faith of God

1. The Confession of our Faith

Hebrews 10:23 (KJV 1900) *Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)*

- Profession – NKJV. confession
- Confession – Gr. Homologia
 - Homo – same
 - Logia (logos) – word, saying, speech
 - “to say the same thing as another”
- Hold fast – keep, retain, keep firm possession of (be consistent)
- Without wavering – be steady, don’t oscillate, don’t switch back and forth
- For He is faithful who promised ...
- Question:
 - What are we confessing?

- We are confessing the promises of God!
- We consistently declare the Word of God (over our lives & others)
- We say the same thing that God's has said in His Word

2. Pray, receive and confess

Mark 11:24–25 (NKJV) *Therefore I say to you, **whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.***

- Jesus is teaching His disciples how to get answers to their prayers
- ... whatever things you ask when you pray ...
- Whatever – we can only ask from God whatever things God has promised
 - Our faith is not based on our wishes, but on God's written promises
 - If we do not have a promise from God about a certain thing, we do not have faith for that certain thing
 - That said, God has provided for all of our needs, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)
 - If it's a genuine need in our lives, one of God's promises will cover it
- ...when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them..
- Question: When do we receive the things that we pray for?
- Answer: At the time when we pray!
- Question: When shall we have "them" (The things that we pray for)?
- Answer: At some future point after we have prayed & received
 - The key point in this verse is "receiving"
- Question: What do we do between the time of "receiving" & the time of "having"
- Answer: We hold fast to the confession of our faith!

3. Examples

a. Receiving healing in our physical body

Psalm 103:1–3 (NKJV) *Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: 3 Who forgives all your iniquities, **Who heals all your diseases.***

Exodus 15:26 (NKJV) *... I am the Lord who heals you.*

- When a sick person asks in prayer for healing from sickness or disease:
- i. They stand in faith based on a written promise from God concerning healing (ie. 1 Peter 2:24, etc.)
 - ii. They receive healing for their sick body at the time when they pray

- a. Sometimes healing from sickness occurs immediately (miracle)
- b. At other times, healing begins from the moment they have prayed, & is completed hours, days, weeks or even months after they prayed
- iii. While they stand in faith for their healing to be completed, they “Hold fast to the confession of their faith”, and say:
 - a. Thank you Lord, I have received my healing by faith when I prayed
 - b. I have been healed by the stripes of Jesus (1 Peter 2:24)
 - c. Thank you Lord, that I am healed right now
 - d. Praise God, healing belongs to me, in Jesus’ name.

b. Receiving provision for various physical needs, including employment, finances, contracts, etc.:

Philippians 4:19 (NKJV) *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Psalm 37:4 (NKJV) *Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.*

When a person asks in prayer for God to provide for their physical needs:

- i. They stand in faith based on a written promise from God concerning provision
- ii. They receive God’s provision for their need at the time when they pray
- iii. While they stand in faith for God’s provision to manifest in their lives, they “Hold fast to the confession of their faith”, and say:
 - e. Thank you Lord, I have received your abundant provision for my life
 - f. My needs are now met according to your riches in glory by Christ Jesus
 - g. Praise God, He is my Shepherd and I shall not lack (Ps. 23:1)

4. Don’t be double-minded

James 1:5–8 (NKJV) *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

- It any man lacks (anything) ...
- Let him ask of God (in prayer) ...

- Vs. 6. But let him ask in faith (not just hope)...
- (Remember, faith receives at the time when we pray)
- With no doubting (be single-minded) ..
- Vs. 7. Let not that (double-minded) man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord

5. Watch your confession

- Faith is of the heart (With the heart man believes ...Rom. 10:10)
- A fleeting thought of doubt in the head (mind) will not hinder us from receiving and having the thing that we prayed for, as long as we:
- Do NOT confess your doubt!
- Continue to confess your faith

Hebrews 4:14 (NKJV) *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, **let us hold fast our confession.***

(AMP) ... let us hold fast our confession [of faith in Him].

- This is true concerning our eternal salvation through faith in Jesus
- It is also true concerning anything that we have prayed for & received
- **Hold fast to the confession of your faith**

1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV) ***Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.***

- What is the fight?
- To not let the devil wrestle away from me what I have received in prayer!
- Be sure to maintain “a good confession”
- Never confess your doubts
- Always confess your faith