

## ***FAITH IS***

Faith is more than words  
That men may say;  
Faith is that which  
Always finds a way:

To perform the task  
Great or small;  
And yet is able always  
To perform it all.

Faith can take anytime  
A back row seat,  
And still find a way  
Every need to meet.

By DON KRIDER

### **FAITH IS** (Romans 10:14-17)

***"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" "And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things!" "But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?" "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God."***

God is getting "a people" prepared for the last great event, which is going to take place. Someone said, "Well, that is the coming of the Lord." No, there is something preceding the coming of the Lord.

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There is going to be a Bride, which will cry, "Even so come Lord Jesus." There will be a Bride without spot, wrinkle or blemish. There will be a Bride that has *ONE mind*, *ONE thought* and *ONE intent* which is to please God. They will have cleansed themselves from this world. There will be a Bride that is *ALIVE* and will stand upon the earth and declare the goodness and mercy of the Lord. They will begin to move forth until the glory of the knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea. This is the next great event to happen in God's economy. I want you to be prepared for that event; and to be prepared *you must have FAITH!*

We have all kinds of definitions of what faith is; from it is a feeling or it's goose pimples, but what is faith? We talk about the faith in Hebrews the eleventh chapter-about having substance and evidence, and that is true. But let me tell you something, faith is a simple thing, and should be a simple thing to the children of God. It shouldn't be something mysteriously hidden away, but the church should

definitely walk in it. "... *without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*" (Heb. 11:6)

Do you realize there are many people who come to God and never really receive anything from Him! Do you know why? Because the word of God says that if we are going to ever receive from God, we must first believe that **HE IS**. "... *for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*" (Heb. 11:6)

Without faith you cannot please God, so it is something that every Christian must have. Without faith you cannot even be saved! You can sit in church twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week and not be saved. You can abstain from drinking, swearing and smoking and still not be saved.

"...(by grace you are saved;)" Eph. 2:5

Faith is a gift of God, but what is it and how do you obtain it?

*"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? (Here is a key) So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing BY the word of God."* (Romans 10:14-17)

I've heard this scripture preached on, and almost every time they say, "hearing of the word of God." It does not say that, it says, "hearing **BY** the word of God." The key word here is, **HEARING**. "*He that hath an ear, (mentioned seven times in the book of Revelation), let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.*" (Rev. 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, 3:22) Faith cometh by **HEARING** what the **SPIRIT** is saying, but you cannot obtain **HEARING** unless it is given to you by the **WORD**, and the **WORD** is **JESUS CHRIST!**

You can read the Bible all your life and not have faith! You can read the scriptures as the Pharisees did, and not have faith! You can become a scripture lawyer and not have faith! You can apply scripture to every situation and still not have faith! **FAITH** belongs to the *Church*, it belongs to the *Believer*, it belongs to *them to whom the WORD of the LORD hath GIVEN HEARING!* **FAITH**

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cometh by **HEARING**. It doesn't come by memorizing all the scriptures in the world, or hiding the word in our head, but when you *EAT the WORD, and it is BREATHED into you by the SPIRIT, into your inner ear, then you have FAITH!* **FAITH** is nothing more than being **OBEDIENT** to the word of God.

Abraham was justified by **FAITH**. What did he do? He was **OBEDIENT!** He believed God, and was **OBEDIENT** to act upon that word which he received which gave him **HEARING**. All the men and women of God in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews were justified *by FAITH or through FAITH*. But faith is more than something just dormant. James said, "...*shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*" (James 2:18) The works spoken of here is not building churches, it is not establishing great works anywhere - it is doing the **WILL** of the Father. You cannot do the **WILL** of the Father unless you know what it is, and you cannot know what it is unless you can **HEAR!** Faith is **OBEDIENCE to the WORD OF GOD!**

*FAITH* is OBEDIENCE. It is that simple. If the word of God tells me to pray for the sick, it doesn't make any difference whether I am affected or not. It doesn't make any difference whether I have a sore head or a sore back; if the word of the Lord moves on me, the *HEARING* of that word springs up in my heart, I am to go out and pray for the sick. I am *OBEDIENT* to the word of God, and God is *OBLIGATED* to *JUSTIFY* what I do.

"Well, Brother Krider, I don't feel like I have faith, I don't feel like I've got this, I don't feel like I've got that." We live in a sensual realm of wisdom - a five-sense wisdom that if we don't feel right, if it doesn't look right, or sound right, then we don't do it. But the man that lives by *FAITH* lives "...by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt 4:4.

"Well, I've read all of these chapters." I am not talking about you reading them; I am talking about you *LIVING* them! *FAITH* is *LIVING* and being *OBEDIENT* to what the word says; Faith desires to *HEAR* the *WORD* and to *CARRY* it *OUT*. Go back through to what we call the Old Testament and see about Gideon, Daniel and Joseph. They heard the word of the Lord. They had *HEARING* to receive it, they *ACTED* upon it and God was *GLORIFIED* in their lives.

God gives us a scripture, "...That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love another." (John 13:34) We don't have the faith for it - it's going to cost me something to love you. Right away we begin to look at the cost. That isn't faith. When you walk by *FAITH*, you walk by the *WORD* of *GOD*, *OBEDIENT* to it. There are two other words that are found from the same word as faith. One of them is "trustworthy." How trustworthy are we? Can God really trust us?

*"Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."* (Gal. 3:6)

In other words, Abraham had *FAITH*. He did what God told him to do. We want faith to move on us like goose pimples, or we want some kind of a manifestation of the flesh so we know we have faith. If we get a certain feeling, we know we've got faith. No, we've got a feeling; it has nothing to do with faith.

You don't have to work *FAITH* up. Faith is a sure-knowledge. If God said it, I may not see it, but already I have the substance, the evidence of it, I can step out on it, and the outcome will be just exactly like God said it would be. You cannot even be saved unless you can confess it. Romans 10:10 says, "... with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." That is why Jesus spoke in a depth that very few people I minister to, ever reach. Jesus turned to His disciples before they were even

converted, and He said to them, "*You shall have whatsoever you say.*" We are quick to pray because we don't know about the outcome of it; so *whatever* happens, it was God's will. But a man that says a thing has to *KNOW* God's will. "*And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.*" (Acts 14:8-10) The man was obedient, and became healed.

Faith is some mysterious thing to a lot of us. We try to work it up, or we try to memorize it so it will work for us; but faith is *OBEDIENCE* to the word of God - that is why you can say you have substance and evidence. I have evidence that men have lived by faith because of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Christians walk around like we are trying to grab something, or trying to get something by getting in a certain position, a certain thought, or a certain town - that isn't faith at all. Faith simply comes by being *OBEDIENT* to the word of God, and He says that you are saved by *OBEYING* the

word of God. How many understand what I am talking about? We try to prove we have faith by not smoking, drinking or cursing; we don't do things, so we have faith. No, the man who has faith does all kinds of things.

***"I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me."*** (Phil 4:13)

We quote that scripture all the time, but whenever we run up against a hard place, we fall flat on our face and begin to murmur, to complain, and we begin to make void the very word we said we believe in. Don't say you can do all things if you don't believe you can. That is why the man was honored when he came to Jesus and he said, ***"...Master, I have brought unto Thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to Thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not."*** Mark 9:17-18 ***"Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."*** (Mark 9:23) In other words, **ONLY BELIEVE!** Now that sounds like a silly thing to say only believe, but what was He really saying? **BE OBEDIENT!**

***"And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe (I am obedient); help thou mine unbelief (disobedience)."*** (Mark 9:24)

Unbelief is really disobedience. You are either obedient or disobedient! You either **BELIEVE** or don't believe. You can quote scripture all day long, but that doesn't mean you believe anything. It is what you **LIVE** that **PROVES** what realm of **FAITH** you **WALK IN!** All you have to do is be obedient - help my disobedience, Lord.

Faith is an article that we **ALL** must have, but the amount of faith in which you walk depends totally upon the amount of **OBEDIENCE** you have in doing the Lord's will. ***"Abraham, I want you to get up out of here and separate yourself, and I will bless you, give you a land and shew unto you a land."*** Abraham could have sat there all day and said, "Well, Sarah I'll tell you what God told me..." Was that faith? When was faith exhibited in his heart? When he became obedient! I'll show you a little further than that.

***"While He (Jesus) yet talked to the people, behold, His mother and His brethren stood without, desiring to speak with Him. Then one said unto Him, Behold, Thy mother and Thy brethren stand without desiring to speak with Thee. But He answered and said unto him that***

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***told him, "Who is my mother? And who are my brethren?" And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples and said, "Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will (being obedient) of My Father which is in heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother."*** (Matt. 12:46-50)

You see, obedience is what faith is all about. That is why James wrote, "If you can tell me you have faith and live like a dog, you don't have anything." If you have faith, that means you will be **OBEDIENT** to the word of God because you believe what God says. "I've got to go to my mother, my brother, my sister and I've got to take care of them, and etc...." It means you don't believe God! God says you love the Lord thy God with **ALL** of your heart, not some of it.

Now if you do love the Lord thy God with **ALL** of your heart, you don't have any room for hate, anger, malice, complaining, or deceitful works of the flesh! When you have no room for that, it means you are obedient to the first commandment of God, and your obedience is the evidence of your faith. I can

say I believe all kinds of things and live contrary to it, and then my own mouth proves that I am a liar. Faith is simply this: Reading or hearing the word of God in my heart, acknowledging it as the word of God and living according to the word of God. That is why you are *JUSTIFIED BY FAITH!* Romans 5:1

Jesus was *OBEDIENT*. How many know that is scripture? *"...even unto death..."* (Matt. 26:38) Therefore, if obedience was required of the *SON OF GOD*, shall it not also be required of the sons of God? *"...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith (obedience) of the Son of God..."* (Gal. 2:20) If you really have faith, then you are obedient. The wrath of God abides on the disobedient children, not upon the obedient children. *"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."* (John 3:36)

Christians, do you want your prayers answered? *BECOME OBEDIENT!* Don't run around looking for somebody to pray for you, just become obedient. If you live in the *OBEDIENT* realm, you can say what you will, and it will be done! *"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in My name, I will do it."* (John 14:13-14) Then you will be able to pray for others who are in need. You will be able to do the works of God when you become obedient to the word of God.

"I know a lot of people who keep the Sabbath, and I know a lot of people who do this, and a lot of people who do that, does that mean they have faith?" No, that doesn't mean they have faith, that means they are under the law. A man that lives by faith is a man that lives obedient to the Spirit of God. He is not directed by his natural mind, he is not under a bondage to do things because he has to do them, but he does them because he hears the voice of God and is directed by God to do what he does.

Jesus did what he did because he said the Father showed Him to do it. *"... Verily, verily I say unto you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise."* (John 5:19) Why do we do this? "Well, some preacher told me I was suppose to." That isn't faith. You did it because someone else told you to. We need to hear what God is saying. We need to have an ear that is so developed to the Spirit that when He speaks, we don't have to get a board together to vote on it, we just do it.

I am sure all of you receive gas and light bills, and when they are due, you believe you've got to pay

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them, because you know without a shadow of a doubt that eventually if you don't pay them, they will be turned off. Now that is the natural man. But how much more than we that are of the Spirit of God, when God says for us to do something, why do we have to look at it and analyze it, why don't we just do it? Because we don't believe it! If we did believe it, we would do it. If we were obedient to the word of the Lord, we would do it. The Bible doesn't say anything about Abraham not believing God. It doesn't say anything about Moses not crossing the Red Sea when he was told to stretch forth his rod.

Some of the things God tells you to do in the natural seem very silly. Moses stood at the Red Sea and there looked like there was no escape. Here was the chosen army of the Pharaoh behind him; with him were three million grumblers, complainers and grippers, full of no good, and he is standing with his back to the Red Sea. The army of Pharaoh is closing in on him, all the people are murmuring and complaining and what does God tell him to go-call a prayer meeting? No! *"Stretch forth thy rod!"*

*"And the Lord said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may*

*come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen."* Exodus 14:26

"Look Lord, what you really mean is for me to get an army together and enlist the strongest men out of these three million and go to war with the Pharaoh and his army. Isn't that what you really mean, Lord?" No. Moses was obedient. He was moved by obedience, and when he stretched forth that rod, things began to happen.

The reason most things never happen in most Christians lives is because they never take a step of faith. They never take a step of obedience, they want God to do something before they do anything, and God has already *DONE IT ALL*. He says, "All I want you to do is be obedient to My word, do what I tell you and see what I will do!" We want everything out before us before we do anything.

How would you have liked to have been up the Jordan River the day the children were going to cross over the promised land-the water was overflowing the banks. To cross the river this time of the year was ridiculous, but God said you're going to cross this Jordan. "But Lord, if you will just dry it up. Lord, if you'll just put a bridge across it. Lord, if you'll just get ten more to go with me. Lord, if you'll just put that in the mind of everyone else." "No Joshua, you are going to take them over." So Joshua gets the priests together, puts the ark on their shoulders and as these priests step in the wild-running floodwater something happens. All of a sudden, when the soles of the priest's feet hit the water, the Bible says the water went back, and they walked through on dry ground. If you have faith, you don't have to tell people you have it, the life you live will prove it.

We are living a life of obedience or disobedience. You are either obedient to the word of God, and that doesn't mean that you have the right to choose what part you want to be obedient to, either. There is a lot of denominationalism built on what parts of the word of God says, they want to be obedient to.

I would like some day for you to read Luke, chapters 14 and 15 and see what Jesus demanded of a man that would be His disciple; what He really said it would cost him to follow Jesus. How much do you think it cost Jesus to be obedient to the cross? He gave His all.

I hear people say that they want to know the will of God, but the only way to know the will of God is by *DOING* the will of God. Abraham could have said, "Lord, I want to know the will of God for my life." God would have told him to separate himself, come out and follow Him. But Abraham didn't

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need to ask the will of his Father, he just *DID* it!

The will of God is explained right in the word of God, but we need to be able to *HEAR* what He is saying. He says to love one another, that is the will of God. Anything that happens to me is the will of God! I know we have a funny thing that goes on, too. We say there is the "permissive" will of God, and then there is His perfect will. I don't find that in my Bible at all. I find the three-fold definition of the fullness of God's will: the good, the acceptable and the perfect, but that is all *ONE* will.

You are either in the will of God, or you are out of His will. You are either *OBEDIENT* or *DISOBEDIENT*; there is no middle ground. God has a will for every one of us to walk in. When we walk *ACCORDING to HIS WORD*, everything that happens to us while we are walking according to His Word, and in obedience to His Word, by that faith which is in our heart, everything that happens to us, is *GOOD*.

When people follow the Lord, and something happens to them they say, "Well, I must be out of the will of God, so I quit!" When you are in the will of God, things happen to you. Usually when you are out of the will of God, nothing happens to you because you are not bothering anyone. Things happen to you when you are in the will of God and when you are obedient to God. Abraham didn't have a bed of roses, Moses didn't have one, Jacob didn't have one, Joseph didn't have one; none of the men of God that followed the Lord through obedience ever had a bed of roses, but they had **VICTORY!** Now this is the key to let you know where you're living. If you are obedient to the word of God, no matter what is happening to you, you have **VICTORY**.

***"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28***

So if we murmur and complain and say we are following Jesus, then we are disobedient children. II Thess. 5:16, 17 & 18 says, ***"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the WILL of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."***

I am showing you that you cannot separate **FAITH** from **OBEDIENCE**; it is impossible. We say we are going on "blind" faith. Faith has **EVIDENCE** and **SUBSTANCE** to it.

If I walk and follow the Lord, I know exactly what will happen to me. I know that the Lord **will WALK** with me, that He will be a **STRONG TOWER** for me, that He will be a **DELIVERER**, a **SAVIOR**, a **GUIDE** and a **COMFORTER**. He will be **EVERYTHING** that I need, and at the end of the obedient journey, I shall hear Him say, ***"Well done, thou good and faithful servant, ...enter thou into the rest of thy Lord."***

There is no such thing as "blind" faith. Abraham did not go by "blind" faith. God said, "I will show thee." We can't see it with a natural eye, so we call it "blind" faith. But when we look through the eye of the Spirit, we can say about our children and about our families that they are saved. They don't belong to the devil, they don't belong to the enemy; the world doesn't even belong to him (Satan), he is the god of this world for a short season - the world belongs to the Lord. The earth is His, the fullness thereof, and all they that dwell therein belongeth unto the Lord, and you shall have whatsoever you say if you **DOUBT NOT** in your heart!

The natural man says, "Look at it, it's bad. Look at that husband of yours, look at that wife of yours,

look at your situation, don't you realize that you are all messed up!" That is right, that is where the enemy comes from. You are out there serving God thinking everything is going to be a bed of roses, and it all turns out to be sauerkraut! It all turns out different than you thought it would, and so you then begin to go back to the natural man, and you become disobedient because you return to what you understand in the natural. But the man that follows God and is obedient to His word doesn't have to worry about anything. Isn't that great! He doesn't even worry about having to eat tomorrow, if there is a tomorrow. He doesn't have to worry about what he is going to wear or where he is going to sleep. How many know that this is true?

Matthew 6:33 says, ***"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you."***

If you are obedient to this scripture, then all of these things shall be added unto you. That is **FAITH!** I know that if I am obedient to seek God and His kingdom and His righteousness, that the thing that

follows is this: ***ALL OF THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO ME.*** I don't have to seek any of those things, that is obedience. The end result of faith and obedience is simply that God's promise is manifested.

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 says, "***And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all His commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.***"

If you are not a blessed Christian, it means you are not walking obedient unto God. In other words, ***OBEDIENCE*** unto God is more pleasing than sacrifice. You could give ten thousand dollars to the Lord, which would be all the money you have in the world and go around saying, "Well, I've given my last dollar to the Lord." And you could go out and die of starvation tomorrow. Or you can come with a dollar, a quarter or a nickel and because you are obedient in your heart and you love the Lord and you want to give it to the Lord, the blessing of the Lord will jump on you!

Obedience is a beautiful thing. God put a very high priority on obedience. He says it is better than the rest of it. When you are obedient you love one another. You don't have any trouble loving people; you just love them. When I was a natural man, I didn't like people, I hated them. I wanted to be all by myself, I didn't want to be with people unless I could make something off of them. But when Jesus came I found a new law written in my heart, it said, "LOVE". Now I could be disobedient to that and I can hate part of the people and pick out the ones I am going to love and it will be all right with the Lord. No, it won't!

The Bible ways to love thy brethren, it doesn't mean for me to see what is wrong with them, or check them out and see if it is possible for me to love them, it just makes a flat-blanket statement, "***LOVE ONE ANOTHER EVEN AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.***" John 13:34, says, "***A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.***" I want to talk about that kind of faith that heals the sick, the kind of faith that will move mountains.

If you believe in your heart and doubt not, if you are obedient in your heart, if you are obedient to keep God's word in your heart, if you are obedient to the voice of God, you shall say what you will and it shall be done unto you. It is good for us to realize we need obedience. You do not separate faith from

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obedience, you cannot; it doesn't work. You cannot separate obedience from the manifestation of that faith-producing work in your life. The kind of faith that God talks about here is the kind that only comes from God. It doesn't come by our abilities, our wisdom or our carnal understanding, but it comes by hearing. That hearing only comes by God or by the Word. That is why I say you can sit all your life in a church and never have one victory in your soul. That is why there are so many young Christians that just jump into it, get it whole-hog, and they go for God! If God says it, they do it and they keep going on and then someone comes along and says, "Don't you know it doesn't work that way?"

But isn't it funny, it has been working all the time that way, and we have to reason that out. If someone who has been longer in the faith than you says it doesn't work that way, we believe them. Yet, Jesus admonished them and said, "Return to your first love where there is nothing impossible, where all things are possible to him that believeth." Mark 9:23. To someone that is so vibrantly in love and intimate with God, so vitally responsive to His very thought and voice, so vitally intent on doing His



will, there is no room for malice, envy or strife. That man can come before God with a clean heart and he can ask what he will and IT WILL BE DONE! That is *FAITH*. Faith is living the word of God. Faith is denying self. Faith is following Jesus and living by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God as stated in Matthew 4:4.

Read the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Read it and see what it says about these people living by faith and through faith in order to do all those mighty works. But it was only after God gave them hearing that they were able to do it. You cannot get a church committed together and say, "Well, now we have the faith to do anything."

Faith is something that can only be quickened to you by the Holy Spirit, and it will never be quickened beyond your obedience to do what has been revealed to you. You want more faith? You really want more faith? DO the WORD of THE LORD! It is that simple. "Well, that sounds too simple. I know you've got to fast, pray and seek, and do all these great works before you can have faith." NO, you just turn back to your FIRST love and if God says go north, then go north; if He says go south, go south; if He says go east, go east; and if He says go west, go west. If He says go to a brother and hug his neck, go hug his neck instead of saying, "Well, I don't know, did he shave this morning? I don't think so God, he really is not what I want him to be." If God tells you to hug him, hug him.

You see, God will always start you out in the small things. If you are not faithful in the little things, there is no need to look for big ministries - big works of God. If you haven't gotten the faith that obedience brings from doing small things, then God will never give you enough faith to do anything big. I Samuel 15:22 says, "... *to obey is better than sacrifice*..." We need hearing don't we. Most of us have "hearing-aid" problems. God says do this and we say, "I don't think I'll do that. It just doesn't look right, doesn't look good, isn't what I want to do, and it doesn't sound right." If God says do it, we should do it. That proves that we have faith when we walk where God wants us to walk.

I talked to you about the eleventh chapter of Hebrews where these men and women were justified through faith by the things they did. It is an amazing thing that Abraham, as far as I know, never had a King James Version of the Bible. The early church, as we call it, the first born of the Christians back in the book of Acts didn't even have the four gospels to read. What was it that compelled them to go about and turn the world upside down for Jesus? Was it because they could quote scriptures? Was that what justified Abraham? Was that what justified Moses? NO! What it was, was because they believed GOD! Not in just saying, "I believe God sister, I believe God brother." It was living what

they believed and putting their lives on the line for that testimony!

"Now look, I want to be acceptable to my wife and children, my family, my husband, my neighbor..." You better first of all say, "Lord, I want to be acceptable to you." I believe the scripture means what is says in Matthew 10:34, "*Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.*"

There is a strange teaching going on that says, if you get everything all right with your husband, everything is going to be O.K. with you in God's Kingdom, and that is wrong. When you get everything all right with God, even if everything else falls apart first so that God can put it back together right. You see, God has to take apart a lot of things that we put together. When we become obedient to God, and obedient to do what God says, He begins to rearrange our lives, but that is not our business. It is up to Him to rearrange it and put it together as it pleases Him. But the man that walks by obedience and faith in Jesus Christ, that man will walk in the blessings of God. Isn't that great!

How do you separate faith from obedience? You can't; there is no way, the two of them go hand in hand. "Lord, I want to have a great ministry, I want to have the greatest ministry in the world. I want to heal people, I want to cast out devils, I want to save, I want to do all these great things." God says, "Why don't you just get faithful in the little things." Be faithful in the things God gives you to do now, like visiting the widows, orphans, the fatherless in their afflictions and keeping yourself unspotted from this world. How about those little things? "Well God, that isn't really important.

I know what is important, what is important is going out and preaching the gospel to the world that is lost." No! What is important is being obedient to do whatsoever your hand findeth to do. If it's sweeping the floor in the church, if it's washing cars for saints, or if it is visiting them, or mowing their lawns, or whatever it is, be *FAITHFUL* and *OBEDIENT* in that, and when you have been obedient in that, I will give you MUCH to be faithful over.

How faithful are we over our tongue? Just think about it for a minute. You say you want a great ministry, an "eye-ball" popping ministry, and yet God says, I want you to be faithful in little things. James 3:5 says, ***"Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"*** Did you ever notice that, but what a fire that tongue can kindle, it just takes a few words, cruel words, vicious words. Jesus said that we were to be master over our own bodies. We are to bring our bodies under subjection and keep them there. I Corinthians 9:27 says, ***"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."***

I want to follow God in all of this. I want to be obedient to the Lord in all of this. I don't want to just say I've got faith, but I want to live by faith. I want it projected on the walls of my life, manifested, that there is obedience in my house, that I am obedient.

Faith is not being able to heal the sick, or to raise the dead even - the kind of faith that God talks about is the kind that will cause you to live victoriously or godly in this present world. Matthew 7:22,23 says, ***"Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity."*** I want to be found faithful to live the life that will glorify God in my body and in my spirit. I may never, ever heal a sick man again, or see the eye of a blind man open again, but if I didn't, I would still want to be obedient to

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God so that I could hear Him say, "Enter in thy good and faithful servant, enter into the rest of the Lord." Now if you can find faith in your heart to criticize, make light of brothers and sisters or bring reproach on them by the word you speak; if you can find faith to do that and still have a clear conscience towards God, then go ahead. But you'll never find it. Be obedient, and ***LOVE ONE ANOTHER!***