



The Good Fight of Faith!

Part 9

The Good Fight of Faith

1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith, take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you testified so well to your faith before many witnesses.

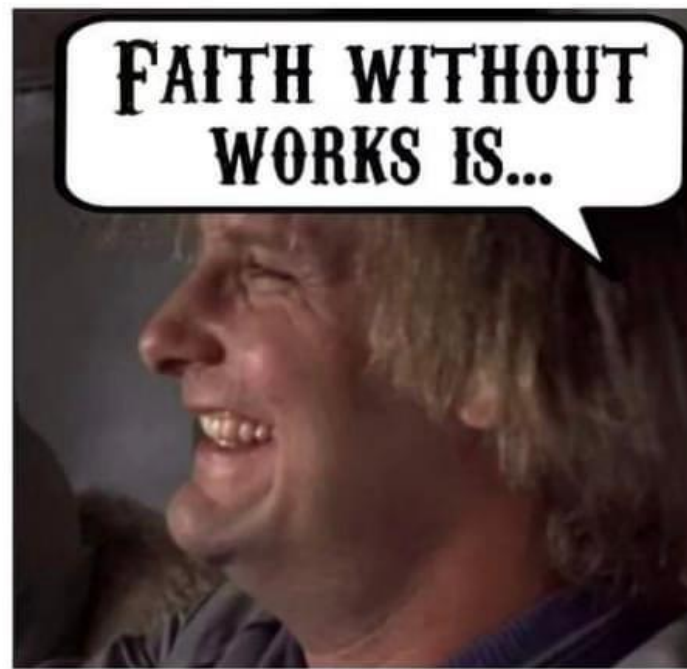
1 Timothy 1:18 This charge, son Timothy, I put to you, in keeping with the prophecies already made about you, so that by these prophecies you may fight the good fight, armed with trust (Faith) and a good conscience. By rejecting conscience, some have made shipwreck of their trust (Faith);

Faith is a process:

- The process of faith!
- It must be fought for, you must see it through to the end.
- It requires “faithfulness” aka continued perseverance, obedience and belief...
- It requires a word or promise from God to have “faith” and “hope” in.
- Faith is NOT:
 - A magic word, if I say the right “phrase” etc...
 - A snap of the fingers or instantaneous
 - Or a magic wand for you to use at your leisure
 - It’s not a “one and done” “belief only” – faith requires “action” **James 2:14-26**

Faith as a Meme:

- James 2:17-18 Thus, faith by itself, unaccompanied by actions, is dead. But someone will say that you have faith and I have actions. Show me this faith of yours without the actions, and I will show you my faith by my actions!



Recap:

- God uses us because He gave us authority/dominion **Gen 1:26-27 & Psa 8:3-9**
- God's long-term plan for Abraham's walk of Faith: **Gal 3:15-16 & 3:26-29**
- God finds us (Mercy & Grace) not on our merit: **Josh 24:2-3**
- Faith leads us to “cross-over” (Hebrew) from death to life: **John 5:24 & Gen 12:1**
Separates from worldly influences so we can be influenced by him.
- Ups & Downs of the walk: Separation, Easy Stages, Discouragement: **Gen 12:9-13**
- God's immediate moves make sense! Bring stability! Even if we walk imperfectly, He will continue to bless us. Just don't “give up” **Gen 13:1-2**
- Once your Household is in order (Your sphere of influence) **Acts 16:31 & Joshua 24:15** He may bring you amongst the wicked **Gen 12:6-8** (Cloud of separation)
- It's important to maintain your relationship with God & check in! **Gen 12:7-8 & Gen 13:8**

Recap:

- God “released faith” when He spoke a change of name into Abraham & Sarah **Gen 17:1-6**
- He gave them something to believe in and something to confess! **Gen 17** Issac to come through Sarah and a change in name – every time the name Abraham or Sarah is uttered that is a confessions. **Rom 10:9** confession and belief!
- **Rom 4:16-22** Summarizes Abrahams walk and fight. God calls into existence that which does not exist! He gives life to the dead! Abraham had unwavering faith! Giving glory to God throughout the process.
- Abraham/Sarah were reproductively dead **Heb 11:11-12** God did this intentionally to ensure there was no chance glory could be assigned to a human. A nation (Israel) was started by resurrecting the dead by faith and will end with a resurrection of the dead by faith! This is the end of our battle, our victory!
- The resurrection foreshadowed! **Heb 11:17-19**, by Yeshua’s word **Rom 8:10-1** **1John 5:25-29**
- ALL victories in faith come when: 1. We have something to believe 2. Something to confess
- These words have to be from God, commonly delivered through the Ruach **1Cor 2:10-12**

Faith is about relationship

- Faith isn't a magic wand to wave at tough situations, or a tool to gain something wanted. Rather....
- Faith is the vehicle that achieves Gods will, His desires and calling. But faith operates through a personal relationship with Yahweh, the God of Israel, through Yeshua the Messiah, King of Israel.

Act 8:18-22 Shim'on saw that the Spirit was given when the emissaries placed their hands on them, and he offered them money. "Give this power to me, too," he said, "so that whoever I place my hands on will receive the Ruach HaKodesh." But Kefa said to him, "Your silver go to ruin — and you with it, for thinking the free gift of God can be bought! You have no part at all in this matter; because in the eyes of God, your heart is crooked. So repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord. Perhaps you will yet be forgiven for holding such a thought in your heart.

- We treat faith the same way!

Faith is about relationship

- A great Biblical example of this is the Cohan Gadol Eli. Eli was a decent man, but he was too permissive with his own sons, he never restrained them. He protected them and only protested their wrongdoing. (1Sam 2:24-25)

1Sa 2:12 `Eli's sons were scoundrels who had no regard for Adonai.

- Hofni & Pinchas had no regard for Yahweh's portion 1Sam 2:13-17
- They had relations with women at the door of the tent of meeting 1Sam 2:22
- His sons never had a relationship with Yahweh! They were wicked!
- They could have chosen the Ruach like other leaders, but because of their carnality they rejected it: Psa 119:30-32, Psa 37:23, Psa 23:3 & Rom 1:28-30
- In contrast to the respect Samuel shows 1Sam 2:18, and how his service to Yahweh increases to a prophet over the nation and its king!

Relationship, His Presence & Victory

1Sam 4:4-8 So the people sent to Shiloh and brought from there the ark for the covenant of Adonai-Tzva'ot, who is present above the k'ruvim. The two sons of `Eli, Hofni and Pinchas, were there with the ark for the covenant of God. When the ark for the covenant of Adonai entered the camp, all Isra'el gave a mighty shout that resounded through the land. On hearing the shout, the P'lishtim asked, "What does this great shout in the Hebrews' camp mean?" Then they realized that the ark of Adonai had arrived in the camp, and the P'lishtim became afraid. They said, "God has entered the camp! We're lost! There was no such thing yesterday or the day before. We're lost! Who will rescue us from the power of these mighty gods? These are the gods that completely overthrew the Egyptians in the desert.

- Battles won Deuteronomy 20
- Waters parted before the presence in the Ark Joshua 3:13 & 4:18
- Cities crumbled Joshua 6
- Idols crumble 1Samuel 5:4

Relationship, His Presence & Victory

- But the enemy knew there was a compromise in the camp of the Israeli army and encouraged an attack.

1Sam 4:10-11 The Philistines fought, Israel was defeated, and every man fled to his tent. It was a terrible slaughter — 30,000 of Israel's foot soldiers fell. Moreover, the ark of God was captured; and the two sons of Eli, Hofni and Phinehas, died.

1Sam 4:21-22 She named the child I-Khavad [without glory], saying, "The glory has departed from Israel"; because the ark of God had been captured, and because of her father-in-law and husband. She said, "The glory of Israel has gone into exile, because the ark of God has been captured."

Faith is about relationship

- Yahweh won't be used as a tool or an errand boy. Its not a snap of the fingers a wave of a wand at our disposal. Faith is not a means to get this or get that...
- Faith is something much deeper, something much more meaningful!
- Faith is the means by which God changes natural and physical circumstances. It is only fitting for faith to impact this physical world because by faith it was created (**Heb 1**)! Therefor faith (through God) has the power to change things in this physical world.
- However, faith is predicated on relationship. It is not something that works without an intimate interaction with Yahweh.
- It was NEVER meant to be a “tool” to use at our leisure

Copycat Faith ©

- What tends to happen is that there are people that take a look at the past examples of faith and think :

“I can pick that tool up and use it like others have”

or

“I can quote some verses I like to get a result I desire”

- The problem is, without a word from God (through the Spirit) you won't get a victory.
- Faith flows out of a deep relationship with Yahweh through Yeshua with the Spirit as messenger.
- Without a relationship, we will never taste victory and taint others view of the process of faith.

Relationship Changes Desire

Mark 11:24-26 Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, trust that you are receiving it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him; so that your Father in heaven may also forgive your offenses." ["But if you do not forgive, your Father in heaven will not forgive your offenses."]

- Read 1John 5:14-15 & Rom 8:26-28
- Yeshua said this to His disciples, the ones that knew him intimately.
- There is a place in God where you can be confident that you are asking and praying His will and it will be answered!
- It has to do with the fullness of your relationship and walk with the Lord, not copycat faith.
- Some fall or never get answers because they think of faith as just a tool.

Power flows through Relationship

- God had led Sha'ul through an incredible journey of faith, this led to...

Act 19:11-12 God did extraordinary miracles through Sha'ul. For instance, handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were brought to sick people; they would recover from their ailments; and the evil spirits would leave them.

- Sons of Skeva showing their Copycat © faith: No Authority, no relationship!

Act 19:13-20 Then some of the Jewish exorcists who traveled from place to place tried to make use of the name of the Lord Yeshua in connection with people who had evil spirits. They would say, "I exorcise you by the Yeshua that Sha'ul is proclaiming!" One time, seven sons of a Jewish cohen gadol named Skeva were doing this; and the evil spirit answered them. It said, "Yeshua I know. And Sha'ul I recognize. But you? Who are you?" Then the man with the evil spirit fell upon them, overpowered them and gave them such a beating that they ran from the house, naked and bleeding. When all this became known to the residents of Ephesus, fear fell on all of them, Jews and Greeks alike; and the name of the Lord Yeshua came to be held in high regard. Many of those who had earlier made professions of faith now came and admitted publicly their evil deeds; and a considerable number of those who had engaged in occult practices threw their scrolls in a pile and burned them in public. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, it came to fifty thousand drachmas. Thus the message about the Lord continued in a powerful way to¹⁴ grow in influence.

Power flows through Relationship

- When we try to do works of faith without hearing from Yahweh we bring shame and dishonor to His name because it won't come about! It will fail... What's born of the flesh will not live – it's man made!
- Num 20:10-13 “Do I have to do this for you”? (Not giving credit to God)
- Num 24:12 “I can not of my own accord go beyond what Yahweh says”
- Psa 20:7-8 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we praise the name of Adonai our God. They will crumple and fall, but we will arise and stand erect.
- Psa 115:8 “Those who create and trust idols become like them”
- Joh 6:63 & Mat 26:41 “Spirit gives life, the flesh is weak”
- 1Cor 15:50 “Flesh & blood will not inherit”

Maintaining a living union

John 15:7 "If you remain united with me, and my words with you, then ask whatever you want, and it will happen for you. This is how my Father is glorified — in your bearing much fruit; this is how you will prove to be my talmidim. "Just as my Father has loved me, I too have loved you; so stay in my love. If you keep my commands, you will stay in my love — just as I have kept my Father's commands and stay in his love. I have said this to you so that my joy may be in you, and your joy be complete.

- United, His words (through the spirit/written word) are our words
- Following Him, showing fruit glorifies God
- Ask whatever you want! Our desires change to His desires
 - See 1John 5:14-15 & Rom 8:26-28
- Yeshua's example, authority through following the father
- Joy comes through victories of faith

Maintaining a living union

- Joh 15:1-6 "I am the real vine, and my Father is the gardener. Every branch which is part of me but fails to bear fruit, he cuts off; and every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes, so that it may bear more fruit. Right now, because of the word which I have spoken to you, you are pruned. Stay united with me, as I will with you — for just as the branch can't put forth fruit by itself apart from the vine, so you can't bear fruit apart from me. "I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who stay united with me, and I with them, are the ones who bear much fruit; because apart from me you can't do a thing. Unless a person remains united with me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up. Such branches are gathered and thrown into the fire, where they are burned up.
- We are connected to him, like a vine to the roots!
- "Abide in me, and I in you" reminds me of : Psa 91:1-7 v14-16 (Passover)

Maintaining a living union

- There is a place in our relationship with God where we are connected to His desires, and He causes us to bear His fruit.
- The relationship is two-fold:
 1. Abide in Him
 2. And He puts His words in us
- Abiding:
 - ☐ Prayer, meditating on His word day and night
 - ☐ Calling on His name in all situations
 - ☐ Blessing Him at all times
- His Word:
 - ☐ The written word (guided by the Spirit – we can't just pick one).
 - ☐ The word of God through the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit).

“Hunger and thirst for righteousness”

Maintaining a living union

Mat 5:6 "How blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness! for they will be filled.

- The young rely on someone else to feed them... Graduate slowly it's not overnight!
- Moses & Aaron example...
- Develop an ability to feed yourself, it's a huge part of your walk with God "Abide in me"

1Pet 2:1-3 So get rid of all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all lashon ha-ra. As newborn babes, long for pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow toward salvation— now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Heb 5:11-14 We have much to say about this subject, but it is hard to explain, because you have become sluggish in understanding. For although by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the very first principles of God's Word all over again! You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who has to drink milk is still a baby, without experience in applying the Word about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, for those whose faculties have been trained by continuous exercise to distinguish good from evil.

Maintaining a living union

- Being in Covenant, maintaining a living union is a close intimate relationship of sharing thoughts and emotions with each other. David is a prime example, he held nothing back, neither did God.
- Often, we go to Yeshua beaten down and with heavy burdens, and when we commune with Him, we leave uplifted, strengthened, with a direction and purpose.
- This happens when you are pursuing God seriously, if you are casual in your approach, you never achieve the intimacy. Delight in Him!

Psa 37:3-6 Trust in Adonai, and do good; settle in the land, and feed on faithfulness. Then you will delight yourself in Adonai, and he will give you your heart's desire. Commit your way to Adonai; trust in him, and he will act. He will make your vindication shine forth like light, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.

Maintaining a living union

- Reach a point where you have CONFIDENCE in how and what to ask for!

Joh 15:15-17 “I am no longer calling you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing. Now I have called you friends, because everything I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. “You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I selected you so that you would go and produce fruit, and your fruit would remain.

Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. “These things I command you, so that you may love one another.”

Maintaining a living union

- Our fight of faith will only lead to victory when it is rooted in a deep connection to God who sustains us. This is an example that will lead others to faith!

Psalm 40:1-5 [For the leader. A psalm of David:] I waited patiently for Adonai, till he turned toward me and heard my cry. He brought me up from the roaring pit, up from the muddy ooze, and set my feet on a rock, making my footing firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will look on in awe and put their trust in Adonai. How blessed the man who trusts in Adonai and does not look to the arrogant or to those who rely on things that are false. How much you have done, Adonai my God! Your wonders and your thoughts toward us - none can compare with you! I would proclaim them, I would speak about them; but there's too much to tell!

Psa 40:8 Doing your will, my God, is my joy; your Torah is in my inmost being.



Shabbat Shalom

QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS

PART 10 WILL FOLLOW!

