

# IT'S ALL ABOUT FAITH

(No. 1261 – 2/24/25 – Sermon Online Zoom)

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. The absolute necessity of faith

1. **Heb. 11:6:** *And **without faith it is impossible to please God**, because anyone who comes to Him **must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.***
2. **John 6:27-29:** *<sup>27</sup>Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On Him God the Father has placed His seal of approval.” <sup>28</sup>Then they asked Him, “**What must we do to do the works God requires?**” <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, “**The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent.**”*

### B. Faith is the foundation of our Christian life

1. **Heb. 6:1-2:** *<sup>1</sup>Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the **foundation** of repentance from acts that lead to death, and **of faith in God**, <sup>2</sup>instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.*
2. **James 1:5-8:** *<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>For **let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;** <sup>8</sup>he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

## II. FAITH FROM START TO FINISH

### A. Our entire Christian life, from start to finish, is about faith:

**Rom. 1:16-17:** *<sup>16</sup>I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the **salvation of everyone who believes:** first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup>For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is **by faith from first to last**, just as it is written: “**The righteous will live by faith.**”*

B. We live and walk by faith:

**2 Cor. 5:7** (NKJV): *For we **walk** [“live” NIV] **by faith**, not by sight.*

C. God started the nation of Israel, His people, through Abraham, the father of faith, because HE BELIEVED!

D. Faith is the *only* way to be saved! (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9)

E. We start and finish the race by faith:

**2 Tim. 4:7**: *I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.***

F. **Heb. 12:1-2** (NKJV): *<sup>1</sup>Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking unto **Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

### III. GROW IN FAITH

A. Jesus was constantly teaching, demonstrating, and testing His disciples and the people about their need to grow in faith (little faith, great faith, according to your faith, where is your faith?)

1. **Mat. 8:26**: *He replied, “**You of little faith**, why are you so afraid?” Then He got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm.*

2. **Luke 8:25**: *“**Where is your faith?**” He asked His disciples. In fear and amazement, they asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey Him.”*

3. **Mat. 8:10**: *When Jesus heard this, He was astonished and said to those following Him, “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such **great faith**.*

B. Jesus was always looking for faith

1. **Mat 8:10**: *I have not **found anyone** in Israel with such great faith.*

2. **Luke 18:8**: *However, when the Son of Man comes, **will He find faith on the earth?**”*

Jesus didn't see an interruption!

3. **Mark 2:1-5:** <sup>1</sup>A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that He had come home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and He preached the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Some men came, bringing to Him a paralytic, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. <sup>5</sup>When **Jesus saw their faith**, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.”

4. **Mat. 9:20-22:** <sup>20</sup>Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind Him and touched the edge of His cloak. <sup>21</sup>She said to herself, “If I only touch His cloak, I will be healed.” <sup>22</sup>Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” He said, “**your faith has healed you.**” And the woman was healed from that moment.

C. Abraham’s faith grew stronger:

**Rom. 4:18-21:** <sup>18</sup>Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>19</sup>**Without weakening in his faith**, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah’s womb was also dead. <sup>20</sup>Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but **was strengthened in his faith** and gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully persuaded that God had power to do what He had promised.

#### IV. LACKING IN FAITH

A. **Luke 17:1-6:** <sup>1</sup>Jesus said to His disciples: “Things that cause people to sin are bound to come, but woe to that person through whom they come. <sup>2</sup>It would be better for him to be thrown into the sea with a millstone tied around his neck than for him to cause one of these little ones to sin. <sup>3</sup>So watch yourselves. “If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him. <sup>4</sup>If he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times comes back to you and says, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.” <sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, “**Increase our faith!**” <sup>6</sup>He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.

- B. **1 Thess. 3:10:** *Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and **supply what is lacking in your faith.***
- C. **Mark 9:14-29:** <sup>14</sup>*When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet Him. <sup>16</sup>“What are you arguing with them about?” He asked. <sup>17</sup>A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup>Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked Your disciples to drive out the spirit, but **they could not.**” <sup>19</sup>“**O unbelieving generation,**” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? **How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to Me.**” <sup>20</sup>So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>Jesus asked the boy's father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. <sup>22</sup>“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But **if You can do anything,** take pity on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup>“**If you can?**” said Jesus. “**Everything is possible for him who believes.**” <sup>24</sup>Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, “**I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!**” <sup>25</sup>When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, He rebuked the evil spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” He said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup>The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He's dead.” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. <sup>28</sup>After Jesus had gone indoors, His disciples asked Him privately, “Why couldn't we drive it out?” <sup>29</sup>He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer [“and fasting” KJV].”*

1. Jesus was looking for faith, but only saw unbelief!
2. Unbelief MUST be overcome!

## V. SUMMARY

- A. We need to “work” on our faith more than anything else—the Christian life is all about faith!
- B. We need to fight and overcome all doubt, fear, and unbelief.

- C. Stop questioning whether God *can* do anything and, like Abraham, be fully persuaded that God has power to do whatever He has purposed and promised!
- D. **1 John 5:4-5:** *<sup>4</sup>For everyone born of God overcomes the world. **This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** <sup>5</sup>Who is it that overcomes the world? Only **he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.***