



## Inner Growth - Faith 4

**Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations (controversy).**

*Romans 14:1*

**Forgiveness** - Psalms 130:4

**Adoration** - Galatians 5:6

**Incertitude** - Matthew 14:31, 1 John 2:19

**Thoughts, Talk** - Luke 5:22, John 14:30

**Help** - Psalm 60:11

There is something that must be clear about faith. If we have faith, and how much, was the first edition. The second one, we learn about what it is, and the third, we discover how to live by it. The fourth is about the condition of our hearts, while keeping faith is most important for faith to work. Many believers know faith without works is dead, and vice versa.

However, one thing missing is the approach that needs to be included: the condition of the heart. One preacher said that the heart is like a warehouse because it can store so many things. The heart can store up memorable occasions, horrible memories, incidents, awkward situations, and embarrassing moments. Therefore, with those things in mind, it may stock unforgiveness, hate, doubt, and negative words, harboring inside a person. Hebrews ten, verse twenty-three, states, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering."

On one hand, we have faith and works, then, on the other side, hating somebody. Is it not God who brings all we hope for to pass into the present? God does not condone sin. Satan

sees everything we do: how we act, what we say, with everyone. Therefore, if we expect God to do something by faith, we have an appointed time. But if we have wrongdoing within our hearts, the enemy, who is the accuser, will bring that up toward God. Not that He is not able, but Satan can interfere and say, "Look how they act with the boss at their workplace, you can't give them that now." Forgiveness is one of the most powerful weapons that can break a stony heart and overall change a heart. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh," as in Ezekiel thirty-six, verse twenty-six. A preacher who revealed this true story of a woman who was locked out of her home by her husband for personal reasons, and she stayed just outside the door of her home all night. Early in the morning, when the husband opened the door to let his wife inside, her first response was, "What would you like for breakfast?" As she entered.

The husband was quiet and could not say a word. Then he broke down crying and said, "I'm so sorry, I will never do that again!" He kept sobbing while she continued preparing their morning meal. The woman demonstrated forgiveness and kindness towards him, which overwhelmed him. Her actions of faith and forgiveness cancelled any animosity he had within him.

Faith works by love is true. Faith in Christ, the devoted attachment to Christ, is the great motive power, the source or mainspring of action; and the law by which that action is regulated is the law of love. Faith makes a believer seek to do the will of Christ; love tells them what that will is. Christ will not be the Saviour of any who will not own and rely upon him as their only Saviour. All true Christians, being taught by the Holy Spirit, wait for eternal life, the reward of righteousness, and the object of their hope, as the gift of God by faith in Christ; and not for the sake of their own works.

No outward privileges or profession will avail to acceptance with God, without sincere faith in our Lord Jesus. True faith is a working grace; it works by love to God and to our brethren. May all saints be of the number of

those who, through the Spirit, wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. The danger of old was not in things of no consequence in themselves, as many forms and observances now are. But without faith working by love, all else is worthless, and compared to other things that are of little value.

The opposite force of faith is doubt. The devil attempts to implant this lack of faith into the hearts and minds of believers. "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us," as in First John two, verse nineteen. Those who are not in Christ are called antichrists. The meaning of Anti? A person who opposes something or is not in agreement with, or does not believe.

When the antichrists departed from fellowship with true believers, they were not in a saving relationship with Christ. This allows for two possibilities: They never were true believers to begin with, or they had been in a saving relationship with Christ but afterward abandoned their faith in Christ. Believers will abide in Christ and experience salvation only as long as they remain in the original teaching of Christ and the apostles. To abandon the original gospel of New Testament faith is spiritually fatal and separates one from Jesus Christ.

For believers to be loyal to Jesus Christ, they must be loyal to the gospel and to the teachings of the New Testament. It is perilous to receive new teachings or teachers who preach new things not found in the Christian faith. For this reason, it is important to study scripture and hold fast to Christ and the Word of God; our very souls and our eternal destinies depend on it.

In verses twenty-eight up to thirty-one, give the example of faith and doubt. "And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and

said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

Today, many believers believe that the Lord will carry them through to be victorious over their circumstances. However, as time goes on, the focus shifts to their circumstance and not trusting Christ in handling it, that is when the enemy begins to push the doubt in. Peter was walking on the water as Jesus guided him, but when he looked away from Jesus to see the wind, his trust turned to doubt that he could not continue, which happens to many of us.

Faith can be tested by thoughts and what comes out of our mouths. The battle is in the mind because the enemy is tricky and can put a thought in your head. "I'm not feeling well." And it is not you saying it, and you may think it's you, and then you take it. The mind is like a receiver, like a radio. We have God that can speak, and the enemy that will project thoughts. "Thus saith the Lord GOD; It shall also come to pass, that at the same time shall things come into thy mind, and thou shalt think an evil thought," as in Ezekiel thirty-eight, verse ten. "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ," as in Second Corinthians ten, verse five.

What we allow through our eye gate and our ear gate will contribute to the thoughts that will come to mind to fill your heart. What is fighting you? Thoughts. Don't accept it. Do not listen to it.

Faith can be weakened by the way we talk. What you say out of your mouth is very important. Despite the emotional state, you must not confess how you feel. If you confess it and the devil hears it out of your mouth, you give the enemy the right to bind you with your confession. Words give authority. Therefore, we have to protect our mind and our heart. Faith cannot work by confessing negative words over yourself: Until you change the way you talk, you won't receive.

Faith requires help. God gives us the measure of faith. However, God's people suffer defeat in their circumstances due to their withdrawal from drawing close to God and cease to please Him and do His will. The remedy for believers is to seek God earnestly in prayer

and renew their fear of Him. Why do many of God's people experience spiritual defeat in their churches, families, and personal lives? God's Spirit may have been offended by our sin, our conformity to the surrounding society, pride, or our forsaking the Biblical principles of truth and righteousness.

Faith has conditions that pertain to the heart. God works with His people who follow His Word, who honor, and do it. Therefore, if unforgiveness, hate, doubt, improper thoughts of evil, mischief, and wrongdoing are within a person, God cannot abide in such a person. That activity is the devil's territory, and he works with individuals of that nature. Faith will not be relevant if these conditions are a part of the heart.