

TRUSTING GOD IN A WALK BY FAITH

By Dr. Edward Watke Jr.

IN THE MIDST OF A BATTLE

Eph.6:10-17; I John 5:4,5

Much like the Kuwait War of recent years the Christian is in a warfare. We have four things given us by God:

Our equipment: It is spiritual, and it is all we need.

Our LEADER: Christ is our file-captain, He is our victor.

Our training: That comes through a walk by faith, in obedience by the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit.

QUESTIONS: Do we understand our equipment?

Do we know how to use it?

Are we in direct contact with our LEADER?

Are we training daily for the BIG BATTLE? Faith is the life line that links us to our Leader.

I. UNDERSTANDING FAITH: Hebrews 11:1-3

A.What It Is Not: It is not our trying to talk ourselves in the some trust or belief. It is total reliance on the promises of God and His mighty power.

B. What it is:

1. Substance - the essence of something real and solid.
2. Foundation-that which stands under and provides a sure foundation.
3. Confident assurance- Phil. 1:6; Heb. 3:14; I Jh. 2:28
"putting our full confidence in the things we hope for"
4. Guarantee: Notarized, Sealed
II Cor. 1: 22 "He hath sealed us and given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

"FAITH IS THE GUARANTEE OF THE HEAVENLY REALITIES WE HOPE FOR, AND MAKES THEM CERTAIN, AND ENVISIONS THAT AS RIGHTFULLY BELONGING To US." Jh. 14:1-6; I Cor. 15:19 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are most miserable"

II. GOD'S GRACE PRODUCES FAITH - IT IS MAN'S RESPONSE Eph. 2:8,9

A. It is trust in the merits of another, the Lord Jesus.

B. Good works spring from faith and provide the evidence of Salvation.
James 2:17, 18

C. He is the Author and Finisher of our faith. - Heb. 12:2; II Cor. 4:13,14
WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT - II Cor.5:7 - TRUSTING GOD WHEN WE CAN'T SEE THE FUTURE

D. The word of God produces faith in our hearts. Rom.10:17,
Jesus said three times, "IT IS WRITTEN."

III. WHY WE NEED A WALK BY FAITH:

A. Because the enemy is working overtime TO DISTURB THE MIND ,
DECEIVE THE HEART, DECAY THE SAINTS, DEFEAT THE LIFE AND TO
DIVIDE THE CHURCH. *"The average saint is not equipped to meet the tests when
the enemy come to attack us.",said Andrew Telford at 92*

**B. Because the devil is a DECEIVER, LIAR, DEFIER, SPOILER ,DENIER,
DOUBTER, DELUDER, and a DEVOURER,** if we let him.

C. To be able to stand, (Eph. 6:11) we must develop strength of
character by God's grace, for God's glory.

1. Our EMOTIONAL LIFE must be un-muddled under the Holy Spirit's control.
Not easily disturbed, not easily defeated, and not easily discouraged.
"BECAUSE YE ARE STRONG, AND THE WORD OF GOD ABIDETH IN YOU"
I Jh. 2:14
2. Our SOCIAL LIFE must be above reproach. I Cor. 10:31; I Cor. 8:7
3. Our PHYSICAL LIFE must be in balance. I Cor. 9:27
4. Our PUBLIC LIFE must be unsoiled. DO OTHERS SEE CHRIST IN US?
II Cor. 3:2
5. Our SPIRITUAL LIFE must be unwavering. "Let us hold fast the profession of
our faith, without wavering." Heb. 10:23

Note: As we develop in these areas we may serve God in any circumstance in full
capacity -- mentally, morally and spiritually.

D. The Battle is INDIVIDUAL

1. It is PERSONAL
2. It is PRIVATE - the world will attract you, the devil attack you and your
sinful nature will seek to allure you.
3. It is PERMANENT BATTLE until we meet the Lord.

E. The battle is INTENSE. - Isaiah 59:19

F. The battle is IMPORTANT and VICTORY is ours.

1. BE PREPARED -be strong, be serious about it, be alert.
2. THINK OF YOUR FUTURE - new victories.
3. THINK OF YOUR FINAL REWARDS - it will be worth it all.

G. Claim the very PROMISES of God. "Faithful is HE that called you, who
also will do it." I Thess. 5:24

WALK IN A FAITH THAT FUNCTIONS

Introduction:

Heb. 11:1 - This is the *confidence* we have in Him. The Greek word is used five times in New Testament. It means that we will “*hold fast the beginning of our confidence unto the end.*” Heb. 3:14

I. 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 to them that diligently seek Him. Heb. 11:6

A. Faith is the natural instinct of a child unless raised in utter ignorance and rejection of the truth.

B. Our faith in God and in His Son must be firm.

C. Faith is rewarded. If we diligently seek Him, God is available to answer, to reward, to comfort us, and to come to us in grace, strength, love and mercy.

1. Our part is to come to God, Heb. 10:25, 36
2. Call on Him - speak to Him, let Him speak to you through His Word.

II. LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU. Col. 3:16

A. The disciple's prayer was: "Lord increase our faith " Luke 17:5

B. God's answer is very clear: Rom. 10:17; I Jn. 2:14; Ps. 1:1-3;
Joshua 1:8, Through study, earnest pondering and application our faith will grow and function for His glory.

C. Our part: HUNGER after righteousness. Psa. 46:11

THE MEASURE OF OUR FAITH IS DETERMINED BY OUR HUNGER FOR THE WORD OF GOD.

III. OBEY GOD AND HIS WORD. Faith is more than conviction.

IT IS TRUSTING HIM, VENTURING OUT UPON GOD'S PROMISES,
IT IS KNOWING AND OBEYING GOD'S WORD. It is OBEDIENCE.

IV. FAITH RELEASES GOD'S POWER IN OUR LIVES.

A. It must be exercised or put to the test as seen in Hebrews chapter eleven. OBEDIENCE is seen in the lives of all in the hall of fame.

B. It will be tested:

1. God sends tests in order to build our faith.
2. The world sends tribulations.
3. The devil sends temptations to sin.

Note: The **TEST OF FAITH** will be allowed by our Heavenly Father. *Faith is the ability to accept difficult situations from God without giving Him a deadline to change them!*

C. When testings come:

1. Be cautious
2. Be prayerful - watch and pray
3. Be patient - endure
4. Expect them frequently - I Peter 4:12,13

D. Times to watch for temptation:

1. When physically exhausted
2. Eight after a great spiritual activity , victory or step.
3. In times of illness, or just before death.

"SATAN WOULD FIRST WEAN THE CHRISTIAN AWAY FROM CHRIST THROUGH COLDNESS OF HEART AND THEN HE IS PREPARED TO WEAKEN HIS BELIEF IN CHRIST'S WORD THROUGH BLINDNESS OF MIND. SATAN WOULD FIRST ROB CHRIST OF THE CHRISTIAN'S LOVE AND THEN HIS LOYALTY" (Quote from *The Wealth and Walk and Warfare of the Christian* by Ruth Paxson)

E. Satan's tactics: See I John 2:15, 16.

1. To bring doubt as the world becomes so important.
2. He appeals to the flesh, and to the pride of life.
3. He appeals to the lust of the eyes. Satan's primary point of entrance into the mind is through the eyes.

V. TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH - HOW TO RESIST - James 4:7,8

A. Three Steps -- submit to God, resist the devil and take action.
Claim the power of the Blood of Christ and draw nigh to God.

B. By Faith, in the Name of Christ-

1. We are SAVED - BY FAITH
2. We are KEPT- BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD
3. We are to STAND FIRM - BY FAITH
4. We WALK and LIVE BY FAITH
5. We have PEACE AND JOY BY FAITH Isa. 26:3; Phil. 4:6,7;
Rom. 5:1; I Peter 1:8

C. Results: Eph. 6:23,24 - peace, love, grace

HAVE FAITH IN GOD! BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT TO LIVE AND DIE FOR HIM.