

# FAITH IN AND TOWARD GOD

By Ntuthu Mpondo  
Christian Centre Abbotsford

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## Introduction: Personal Testimony

Extract from "Faith" a book by K.E Hagin

*So then FAITH cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. —Romans 10:17*

*But 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. —Hebrews 11:6*

Notice particularly the first part of **Hebrews 11:6**: "*But without FAITH it is impossible to please him...*"

If we don't have FAITH, God is not to blame. To blame God for our lack of FAITH is nothing in the world but ignorance. If we lack FAITH, we are to blame.

This is also true concerning FAITH for salvation. FAITH for salvation also comes by HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD (Rom. 10:17). Paul said in **Ephesians 2:8**: "*For by grace are ye saved through FAITH; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*"

We know that FAITH comes by HEARING, and HEARING BY THE WORD of God, but how are we to get FAITH to get saved?

Romans chapter 10 tells us. **Romans 10:8-10, 13, 14** *8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, THE WORD OF FAITH, WHICH WE PREACH; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. . . . 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. 14 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? MEN ARE SAVED BY HEARING GOD'S WORD, BECAUSE THE SCRIPTURE SAYS, "... FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD" (Rom. 10:17).*

- **YOU CANNOT BELIEVE AND HAVE FAITH WITHOUT HEARING THE WORD.**

**Hebrews 11: 1 (AMP)** *Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality, faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].*

- Faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something.
- However, biblical faith is complete trust in God's character, his promises, and his power.
- Faith is not passive, it is active trust in a living, personal God who calls us into a relationship with Himself.
- Faith towards God is not a one-time act but a continual heart posture of trust and obedience to His Word, His Will & His Way.

"No matter what fear says, faith speaks a better message."

"The Holy Spirit will never tell you something that does not align with the Word."

- Faith towards God is not just a belief system but the foundation for a transformative life, a life that is lived out in a daily walk with Jesus through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- Faith towards God begins when we turn away from self-reliance and place our trust entirely in Jesus Christ.

## Why Faith?

**Matthew 9:22 (AMP)**.... YOUR FAITH [personal trust and confidence in Me] has made you well." And at once the woman was [completely] healed

**Mark 5:34 (AMP)**.... YOUR FAITH [your personal trust and confidence in Me] has restored you to health; go in peace and be [permanently] healed from your suffering."

**Luke 8:48 (AMP)**.... YOUR FAITH [your personal trust and confidence in Me] has made you well. Go in peace (untroubled, undisturbed well-being)."

(This was Jesus speaking to the woman with the issue of blood.)

**Matthew 9:29 (AMP)**... "According to YOUR FAITH [your trust and confidence in My power and My ability to heal] it will be done to you.

(This was Jesus healing the two blind men.)

**Mark 10:52 (AMP)** ...."Go; YOUR FAITH [and confident trust in My power] has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and began following Jesus on the road.

(This was Jesus healing the blind Bartimaeus.)

**Matthew 15:28 (AMP)**....YOUR FAITH [your personal trust and confidence in My power] is great; it will be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

(Jesus is speaking to the Canaanite woman who was pleading for her daughter's healing.)

**Luke 7:50 (AMP)**.... "YOUR FAITH [in Me] HAS SAVED YOU; go in peace [free from the distress experienced because of sin]."

(Jesus speaking to the woman who was said to be a sinner, and who anointed Jesus' feet with her tears and perfume.)

**Luke 17:19 (AMP)**.... YOUR FAITH [your personal trust in Me and your confidence in God's power] has restored you to health."

(Jesus speaking to one of the ten lepers who returned to thank Him.)

**Romans 1: 17 (AMP)** For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed, both springing from FAITH and leading to FAITH [disclosed in a way that awakens more FAITH]. As it is written and forever remains written, "The just and upright shall live by FAITH."

## Faith in Action

**Hebrews 11:7-8; 11 (ESV)** By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

**By faith Abraham** obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

**By faith Sarah** herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised.

## Faith in Trials

**What do these 3 examples above teach us about the nature of faith?**

- Faith often requires action without full understanding.
- Faith often involves patient endurance, sacrifice, and obedience even when promises aren't fulfilled immediately.

### **Luke 8:43-48**

*43 And a woman who had suffered from a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians, and could not be healed by anyone. 44 Came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His garment, and immediately her flow of blood ceased.*

*45 And Jesus said, Who is it who touched Me? When all were denying it, Peter and those who were with him said, Master, the multitudes surround You and press You on every side.*

*46 But Jesus said, Someone did touch Me; for I perceived that [healing] power has gone forth from Me. 47 And when the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came up trembling, and, falling down before Him, she declared in the presence of all the people for what reason she had touched Him and how she had been instantly cured.*

*48 And He said to her, Daughter, YOUR FAITH (YOUR CONFIDENCE AND TRUST IN ME) HAS MADE YOU WELL! GO (ENTER) INTO PEACE (UNTROUBLED, UNDISTURBED WELL-BEING).*

**How does the story above challenge or encourage our faith?**

- The woman's faith was bold and personal.
- She didn't wait for an invitation to receive healing.
- She believed that if she could just touch Jesus she could be healed.
- She reminds us to reach out to Jesus in our desperation.

## Faith is Tested and Strengthened Through Trials

### **James 1:2-4**

*2 Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials of any sort or fall into various temptations.*

*3 Be assured and understand that the trial and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness, and patience.*

*4 But let endurance and steadfastness and patience have full play and do a thorough work, so that you may be [people] perfectly and fully developed [with no defects], lacking in nothing.*

### **1 Peter 1:6-7**

*6 [You should] be exceedingly glad on this account, though now for a little while you may be distressed by trials and suffer temptations,*

*7 So that [the genuineness] of your faith may be tested, [your faith] which is infinitely more precious than the perishable gold which is tested and purified by fire. [This proving of your faith is intended] to redound to your praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) is revealed.*

## **Highlights of Faith**

### Kenneth E. Hagin

"Faith begins where the will of God is known."

"You can't receive from God beyond your actual knowledge of God's Word."

"Your faith will never rise above the confession of your lips."

"Doubt, fear, and unbelief are spiritual enemies that rob us of God's blessings."

"Feed your faith and starve your doubts to death."

"Faith changes hope into reality."

"It's not God who fails to meet us; it's our faith that fails to meet Him."

"The spoken word of faith releases the power of God."

"Faith is acting on God's Word."

"You can have what you say, if you say it in faith."

### David Oyedepo

"Faith is not a belief system; it is a spiritual force. It is not a religious theory, it is a mystery."

"Faith is the master key to a world of unlimited possibilities."

"Until your faith produces results, your faith is not real."

"It is faith in your heart, not tears in your eyes, that moves God."

"What you don't believe, you're not permitted to become."

"Every provision of redemption answers to faith; faith is the key to unlocking your inheritance in Christ."

"Faith is not waiting; faith is taking steps."

"Faith is the living force drawn from the living Word to produce living proofs."

"The future you cannot see with the eyes of faith, you cannot take delivery of."

"Your faith will only deliver to the level of your spiritual insight."

### Chris Oyakhilome

"Faith is the response of the human spirit to the Word of God."

"Your faith is the victory that overcomes the world. You were born to win by faith!"

"Until you act your faith, nothing changes."

"Faith doesn't ask, 'Can it happen?' Faith declares, 'It is done!'"

"Christianity is a life of faith, responding to God's Word and acting on it."

"When you speak words full of faith, you're releasing the creative power of God."

"The Word of God is the material that builds your faith."

"You can't function in faith without the Word; the Word gives you the mindset of the just."

"Faith is not trying to believe; faith is knowing."

"In Christ, you don't try to win—your faith declares you already won!"

### Watchman Nee

"Faith is not a matter of striving and struggling but of resting in God's faithfulness."

"The Christian experience, from start to finish, is a journey of faith."

"God does not set us aside because of our failures, but He uses them to teach us to walk by faith."

"Faith is not the ability to believe long and hard. Faith is simply knowing God is faithful."

"Faith is the breaking through of the soul into the realm of God."

### **A Call to Action**

- Where Is God Calling You to Have Faith?
- What area of your life do you need to surrender and trust Him with?
- Do you need to trust God with your finances, health, relationships, and/or decisions?
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- What area of your life do you need to surrender and trust Him with?
- Do you need to trust God with your finances, health, relationships, and/or decisions?
- Faith Isn't About Feeling
- Faith means praying before acting, believing before seeing.
- Faith is about trusting God's word even when we don't see results immediately.
- God is faithful. He sees every act of trust, every prayer, every step taken in obedience.
- Your faith will be rewarded, in His time, in His way.

### 5 practical ways to grow your faith:

- Spend time in the Word
- Pray regularly
- Journal your prayers and God's answers to your prayers
- Join a faith community
- Obey quickly when God speaks

### **Closing Prayer**