

Faith – the very breath of Christian life

Faith is the basic and fundamental element of Christian life. Faith is a common term used by everyone. The meaning of this term changes depending on who uses it and in what context. When used by a non Christian, it has nothing to do with the Lord. When used by a Christian, it represents the hope and trust on the Lord and the eternal life. When used by a believer who closely walks with the Lord, it is the very breath of life. *Trust* and *believe* are the other synonymous usage of the word *faith*. [1] The word *faith* is found only twice in the Old Testament, but 245 times in the New Testament. The word *believe* with its various endings occurs 45 times in the Old Testament and 268 times in the New Testament. The word *trust* is the other Old Testament word for *faith* and *believe*. It is used with its various endings 154 times in the Old Testament and 35 times in the New Testament. These words simply mean to confined in, so as to be secure without fear; to flee for refuge to or to take shelter in; to put faith in; to stay or rest on; to rely on; to believe or to take one at his word; to rely upon the promise of another; and to put absolute trust in a person without any questioning or doubts as to his faithfulness.

Hebrews chapter 11 is a major display of the “Heroes of Faith” and their achievements. In this chapter faith is defined, explained and illustrated. Keeping this phenomenal portion of the scripture as the basis, this article addresses various facts concerning faith such as what faith is not, what is faith, different kinds of faith, walking by faith and enemies of faith.

What Faith is not?

[1] Faith is not feeling that prayer is answered. The average person who seeks to exercise faith depends upon what he can see, hear or feel. Testimonies concerning faith are usually expressed in connection with feelings and emotions, or the various senses. Sense-faith is based upon physical evidence or upon the emotions and feelings of the soul. All who take this road as the basis of faith will sooner or later be deceived. Faith should be based upon the Word of God regardless of any sense-knowledge, or feeling-evidences. People are constantly looking for feelings as to whether prayer has been heard or not. If they happen to feel good, or if something happens that encourages them, they think that it is easy to believe, but if reverses come and feelings take wings, these same people are in the depths of despair. They are quick to accuse God of being unfaithful and untrue to His Word. If they do not go this far, they are quick to imagine that it was not God’s will to grant the answer. They become satisfied to go without what God has plainly promised.

Faith has not the slightest relationship with feelings and sense-evidences. At the times when men think they have all the faith in the world because of feelings, they have the least in the world, and when they think they have the least, they have more than at any other time in their lives. Many people are surprised to get answer to prayer because when they prayed they thought their faith was nothing. People should not believe they are healed because the pain is gone, or that they are saved because they feel they are

forgiven. They should not think that their prayers are answered because things are working out that way. Instead, they should always maintain faith because of what the Word of God says. The Word of God should have first place in their lives instead of the senses. All basing of faith upon what we have done, how well we live, or what experiences we have had will lead to failure in answered prayer. God does not answer upon these grounds. He answers solely upon the grounds of grace and faith in Him and in His Word.

True faith is not trusting in the goodness and in the faith of another man. It must be personal faith in God and His Word. People continually go about seeking someone who has faith and who can get answers to prayer for them. This may work temporarily while one is learning about God and His Word, but if we do not properly learn and develop a personal faith that refuses to be denied, we shall eventually revert to failure and unbelief, and we shall have to be satisfied with the modern theory that answered prayer is not for everyone.

The program that will pay is that of having personal faith in God, faith in Jesus Christ, faith in the Holy Spirit, faith in the Word of God, faith in the atonement, and total consecration personally to believe God regardless of anything that might happen to hinder prayer. The right program is not talking about faith, or the need of it, but the actual exercise of it. Simple faith in the Word regardless of feelings and circumstances is never possible to the man who lives only in the realm of his senses, for he believes only what he can see, feel, hear, or understand to be possible. This was the kind of faith Thomas had when he declared that he would not believe until he had seen. It was the kind that Martha had when she could see nothing but the natural fact that Lazarus had been dead four days and “by this time he stinketh.” This is the kind of faith taught and encouraged by modern religious leaders, but it is not the kind required by the New Testament.

Neither mental faith nor mere assent to truth and dependence upon feelings is enough. The individual must come to life and action before he will realize the benefits of active, living faith that refuses to know defeat and failure. A man must learn to fight the fight of faith and lay hold of God and His Word. He must learn that he is surrounded by an unbelieving world and an atmosphere of doubts, that demons and fallen angels and men have lived for centuries in unbelief and wickedness creating currents of doubt and mistrust that are very subtle, and that effects of the fall have left in the lives of fallen men deep wounds of doubt and wavering that must be healed. He must learn that he has to wrestle with powers of darkness and currents of mistrust and unbelief which make it a struggle to exercise active living faith for things that are not seen. He must not only learn how to do this, but he must do it in order to get results.

What is Faith?

[2] Faith is sort of a sixth sense. It is the feeling of knowing something even though you can't touch or understand it. It usually comes as a result of reason. But reason will only take you so far. Since it is your reasoning, and you are limited, the reasoning will have to

stop at some point. At this point the skeptic reaches a dead end. He is trapped by his own ego. That which he thinks makes him so big is in reality keeping him so small.

The faithful, on the other hand, uses this moment as a portal between his universe and the world of the infinite. He thinks: "I have reached my limits, it is time to reach beyond my limits." Faith means knowing that regardless of what your five senses tell you, regardless of the limited capabilities of your mind to understand, there is a sixth sense that tells you, you are not alone. Look at it through the eyes of a child. A child walks into a room and her mother is not there. All of her reasoning comes to the conclusion that mother is gone forever. The child who taps into her sense of faith, however, "knows" mother wouldn't leave her forever. She can't see, smell, feel, hear, or talk to mother. She can't understand why mother would be anywhere else but here. But she has faith that mother will be here shortly. Because she knows, through knowledge beyond her understanding, that mother would never leave her.

Faith means knowing that regardless of what your five senses tell you, regardless of the limited capabilities of your mind to understand, there is a sixth sense that tells you, you are not alone. Her senses tell her that mother is not there. Reason tells her that mother is not there.

[3] St. Augustine said, "Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe." [4] Dr Chandrakumar explains in a practical manner what faith is. According to him, faith is trusting God for something to happen which we have not seen or experienced before.

1. Faith is seeing the unseen

In Berkeley's translation we read in Hebrews 11:1, that, "Faith is the conviction of unseen realities." By faith Noah being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark. By faith Abraham obeyed God and went out not knowing where he was going. By faith Sarah herself received ability to conceive beyond human possibility.

2. Faith is believing God in spite of circumstances

When the situation looks hopeless, keep hoping. When everything looks impossible, refuse to accept defeat. You are not defeated until you lose your patience and faith. Jesus said, "The things impossible with men are possible with God." Luke. 18:27. For nothing will be impossible with God, Luke. 1:37.

3. Faith is obeying God regardless of consequences

By Faith Abraham offered Isaac, Hebrews 11:17. He not only believed God in spite of the circumstances but also obeyed God regardless of the consequences, and God said, "I will bless you because you have obeyed me", Genesis 22:15-18.

The word Faith is defined in Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. The definition of faith does not change according to the circumstances.

When everything is going all right, life is full of joy and happiness having faith simply means doing everything that assures the eternal joy and happiness even though it is not seen only heard.

When everything turns around and life is full of sorrow and mourning, having faith simply means holding on to the promises of everlasting joy irrespective of the current circumstances.

When sickness threatens our future and even our life, having faith means believing the healing power of His blood and the promised eternal life where no sickness exists.

When tortured and persecuted for His name sake, having faith is nothing but believing that sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

To go one step further, for a Christian the faith is nothing but believing the fundamental elements of Christian faith such as [6],

1. The Scriptures Inspired - The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct.

2. The One True God - The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ - The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God.

4. The Fall of Man - Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.

5. The Salvation of Man - Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

6. The Ordinances of the Church -

Baptism in Water - The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded by the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life.

Holy Communion - The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements bread and the fruit of the vine is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 Peter 1:4 a memorial of his suffering and death, 1 Corinthians 11:26, and a prophecy of His second coming, 1 Corinthians 11:26, and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit - All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit - The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance.

9. Sanctification - Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God.

10. The Church and its Mission - The Church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the General Assembly and Church of the Firstborn, which are written in heaven.

11. The Ministry - A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: Evangelization of the world, Worship of God and building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

12. Divine Healing - Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers.

13. The Blessed Hope - The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the church.

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ - The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on earth for one thousand years.

15. The Final Judgment - There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to the everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth - "We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness."

Kinds of faith

[1] There are several kinds of faith mentioned in Scripture, of which the following list will be helpful in arriving at the kind of faith one should have.

1. **Common faith** (Titus 1:4): It is called mutual faith in Romans 1:12. This is the faith that is common to all men who claim to be Christians. It is common because of the few commonly accepted truth held more or less alike by all Christians, such as belief in Christ as a Savior and in eternal life.
2. **Weak faith** (Romans 4:19; 14:1-23; 15:1-4; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13): This is the kind of faith that constantly limits personal benefits and privileges in the gospel, due to wrong teachings and personal principles concerning non-essentials of life. There are literally thousands of people who spend much of their time arguing and condemning each other over small details of life that are not essentials enough to mention in particular in Scripture. These consists of what one may or may not eat, drink, wear, or do in life and still be Christian. In the Scripture it is clear that Kingdom of God

does not consist in meat, drink, and personal details of life that are not specifically forbidden in Scripture, but that it is “righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, Romans 4:17.

If the devil cannot get men to commit great sins that are forbidden in Scripture, he will urge honest-hearted people to go to the extreme and condemn this or that in personal liberties that are not strictly condemned by God. The law of Scripture concerning anything that is not definitely forbidden by God in Scripture is “And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin”, Romans 14:23. According to Scripture, it is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak. We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the wee, and not to please ourselves. Let everyone of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.

3. **Strong faith** (Romans 4:20): This faith is a kind that refuses to be defeated. It refuses to take no for an answer. It laughs at circumstances, symptoms, all outward appearances, and what is seen, heard, or felt, and it doggedly holds to the fact that what has been asked of God is granted. Abraham had this kind of faith: “Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being **not weak in faith**, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was **strong in faith**, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was also able to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness”, Romans 4:18-22.

This is the kind of faith all men should have and could have if they would only persuade themselves that God is true to His Word. All men are definitely assured of getting from God those things which He has promised if they will walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham.

4. **Little faith** (Mathew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31; Luke 12:28) “And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of **little faith**, wherefore didst thou doubt?”, Mathew 14:31. “Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of **little faith**?”, Mathew 6:30. Jesus was talking about little faith. This is the same as no faith because it is wavering kind. “But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.” James 1:6.
5. **Great faith** (Mathew 8:10; 15:28) ¹“When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so **great faith**, no, not in Israel.” Mathew 8:10. This is the true, unwavering faith that will always move God to answer according to His abundant promise.

6. **Unfeigned faith** (I Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5) This faith is the kind that knows no hypocrisy, sham, or counterfeit. It is the kind that does not brag or put on outward show, that it is real. It is simply genuine and real and sincere in its every aspect. It proceeds out of a pure heart and from a good conscience as stated in these scriptures. It is the kind that all honest, pure, and sincere men have. It is the unselfish, holy, and godly kind that naturally increases in the life of every true child of God, as he grows in grace and knowledge.
7. **Temporary faith** (Luke 8:13) This is a kind of faith that believes for a while and springs up like a mushroom, but because of shallowness, lack of root it fails in time of temptation and test. People through the ages have been of this type. They receive the Word of God with great joy, and it seems that they are going to outstrip everybody else in faith, but after few days or week they are not heard of again, or if they are heard of again it is in another revival meeting where their emotions become again stirred temporarily and they make another start in faith, soon to fall again. They never fully come clean with God or make the full surrender of their lives except for the moment. They do not prepare the soil so that the seed can take root and produce fruit.
8. **Historical faith** (I John 5:10-13) This is faith in the history or the record of God concerning the past and concerning His own work for men. One can believe the record of God to the letter and still not be saved. It is simply believing in the record of anything in the past. No consecration to God is necessary to believe history.
9. **Mental faith** (James 2:14-26) Mental faith is similar to historical faith in that it believes history but goes further and believes every part of the Bible, past, present and future, as well as all the truths of the blessings of God, but it does not act upon the Word of God. Faith without works is dead, being alone. It is passive faith or mere mental assent to truth. Thousands of sinners have mental faith in God and the Bible, but they keep neglecting the definite action of obeying truth.

Mental assent, or passive faith, is one of the most dangerous enemies of true faith in God. It claims all the faith in the world and it is satisfied with either anything or with nothing from God. If it does not get what it wants, it does not care. It would accept something from God if He would come personally and lay the answer in the lap and beg one to keep the gift, but apart from this there is little or no effort put forth to act in faith concerning anything God has promised. Mental faith may go as far as to maintain belief in every truth and in every part of God's program, and it may even claim to be contending for certain benefits; yet it dares not act upon the promise of God.

10. **Active faith** (James 2:14-26; Hebrew 10:19-38) This is the kind that acts upon the Word of God as it is made clear. James put it this way: "shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." All men must have this faith to get anything from God. As long as faith is purely mental and passive no action will be taken to obey the truth. Men must get beyond the stage of hearing and into

the act of doing what God says before they get results. Active, living faith moves to obey every truth of God to the letter and to appropriate what God has promised. It acts as if the things that are not seen are a reality. It is quick to provide works to prove that it is sincere and obedient.

Multitudes of people have never had an answer to prayer, and they are missing the greatest blessings of life by such neglect. Most people depend upon others to get answers for them. They pray, as they think, but they want someone else to do the believing. In reality, they are not praying. They are merely saying words and going through a form of prayer. True New Testament praying is always heard of God, and the answer is always sure. God has planned that all men should have this kind of faith and results. Faith can be developed into a mighty living force that will know no defeat. We can know that we are master of all demon powers and circumstances through Jesus Christ. We no longer need to be a slave to fear, timidity, weakness, failure, sickness, poverty, helplessness, and despair. We can be conqueror in the very things wherein we have suffered defeat. We must awake to the consciousness of the new life we have in Christ. As a branch, we have His life, His health, His power, His love, and His nature flowing through us. We are the fruit bearing part of Christ in the earth. We are commanded to be the doers of the Word.

11. **Wavering faith** (James 1:5-8) This is faith doubting God and refusing to believe. Truly to believe and to have faith is to act on the Word. To believe on Jesus means to take Him for all that the Bible declares Him to be. It means taking salvation from sin, healing for the body, answers to prayer, and all that He did to bring to us. A wavering faith is called double-mindedness, a constant change of mind as to what is wanted or whether the thing asked for is wanted or not. People who have wavering faith do not really makeup their minds that they are going to see the fight of faith through to an answer.
12. **Unwavering faith** (Hebrews 10:23; 11:6)
This is faith taking God at His Word without any question. God commands us to ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. We are told to hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, Hebrews 10:23. This is faith refusing to doubt, wonder, question, or reason about one detail of what one has asked for fro God. It has absolute confidence that what was asked is according to the Word of God, and therefore it knows that prayer is answered. It rests upon the promises as the basis of the answer, instead of upon feelings and things seen. It refuses to act contrary to what has asked or to question in the least any delay in an answer. It counts the thing done regardless of all outward evidences to the contrary. It laughs at impossibilities and goes on in utmost confidence that what God has promised He is able to perform. It gives thanks for the answer from the moment it asks and looks forward in child-like expectation of getting it.

13. **Human faith** (Mark 11:22-24) This is simply the exercise of human faculties in having confidence and conviction that he can believe God, and that God is true to all that He has promised. All men are capable of faith in them and faith in anyone else that makes statement of promise to them. Faith is an attribute of man's created being. It was natural for man to believe God before the fall. There was no such thing as a doubt, a question, or any unbelieving reasoning on the part of man before this time. It was the devil that injected doubt and unbelief into man's moral and spiritual makeup. And since man's fall and because of the almost total depravity of his being, it becomes one of the greatest struggles of his redemptive career to have that same simple unwavering faith that was natural before the fall. It was doubt and unbelief that caused the fall and it is of the greatest importance to get rid of all such in redemption.
14. **Divine faith** (Hebrews 11:3; Galatians 2:20; I Corinthians 13:13) Faith is not only a natural attribute of man. It is an attribute of God. It is God's absolute confidence and conviction in His own Being and Word. The first passage above teaches that the ages were planned by faith through the Word of God and that things were brought into existence that never existed before. God had faith in Himself when He planned the worlds. He believed that He could do what He commanded, and He counted those that were not as though they were. The second passage above speaks of "the faith of the Son of God", thus providing that He also has faith as does the Father. In fact He is the author and finisher of faith, Hebrews 12:1-2. The last passage above speaks of "faith" abiding along with hope and love, which means that these three qualities are eternal as attributes of God. Thus it is clear that God has faith, Christ has faith, the Holy Spirit has faith, angels have faith, demons have faith and men must have faith in order to please God, Hebrews 11:6.

Walking by Faith

Christian life is like a man who has been thrown out into the sea after a shipwreck, holding on a piece of wood, trying to float while all others are sinking, with a hope that some one will come to rescue. All that he could see is only the piece of wood. Everything he possessed was lost. Every security system installed was failed. The hope on friends, money, position, status, experience and intellectual ability was lost. Surrounded with the mighty ocean that is ready to gulp, roaring waves trying to toss him around and sharks that can even smell a drop of blood in the water. The wood he holds is the only hope with an assurance of rescue. As long as he could cling on that, he was taken up when the waves are high and deep when the waves are low, but never allowed to sink. Today the life of a true Christian is like this man who is caught up the middle of the sea. The only wooden piece he could hold on is the faith, a result of the finished work in the cross. Faith is seeing the unseen. There is no land or shore is seen today, but there is an assurance to reach there one day as long as he has faith that makes him float.

The initial step for walking by faith is to have faith. According to Romans 10:17 faith comes by hearing the Word of God. The next step is to act upon what was heard. Having strong faith with no action is same as having no faith. According to James 2:26

for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. Faith is complete only when it is followed by obedience. Bible accounts for individuals who listened to God's voice and obeyed instantly without any question. Noah obeyed God's instruction in faith to build an ark even though there was no sign of flood for hundred years. Abraham walked in faith even though he didn't know where he was going. Moses walked Israelites in wilderness obeying the promise of the Lord. Walking by faith is not just having faith in what was promised but it is to obey His instructions in order to achieve what was promised.

Enemies of Faith

After knowing so much about faith, it is better to know the enemies of faith as they constantly war against our faith. They overpower the flesh and make one to loose faith. They need to be overcome with God's help otherwise they will slowly drift one away from faith. Following are few of such enemies identified.

1. Ignorance

One cannot believe unless he knows what to believe. According to Scripture, faith comes from hearing the Word of God. Most of the time we experience unbelief as we don't know what Bible says about the particular situation we are dealing with. The only way to overcome this enemy of faith is to study the Word of God.

2. Fear

Fear is rooted in anxiety and lack of trust in God's abiding presence, fatherly protection and love. It is expecting bad things to happen even at the very normal situation. The imagination of human mind bundles it up as a mighty stone rolling and falling on us. It aggravates when the situation is not in favor. While on a boat in the middle of a storm, the disciples awoke Jesus and pleaded that He saves them from drowning. He answered, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm, Matthew 8:23-26. The only way to overcome this enemy is to cast out fear. According to 1 John 4:18, There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. According to 1 John 4:8, He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. Therefore by seeking God, His presence and the fullness of His Spirit will set us free from fear.

3. Doubt

Doubt trickles into the mind when we look at the circumstances. The moment doubt comes, we loose faith on God. Peter saw Jesus walking on the water of the Sea of Galilee and asked if he could do the same. Jesus invited him to join Him; Peter too began walking on the water. "But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me, Matthew 14:30. Christ "stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Matthew 14:31. The only way to overcome this enemy of faith is to focus our eyes on the Lord and not to look at the circumstances.

4. Worry

Worry is something that cannot be separated from man. Most of the time worry is not about something tragic that may happen. Often we worry about minor issues that may bother our mind. In Matthew 6:25-33, Jesus was trying to establish the fact that our heavenly father knows what we need even before we ask for it. He said not to worry about food, drink or cloth but to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness. The only way to overcome this enemy of faith is to put the faith in God and His promises and allow Him to take us through the difficulties of life.

5. Discouragement

Discouragement comes in many ways. Physical and emotional weakness or tiredness leads to discouragement. At times the behavior of our colleague or neighbor may be discouraging. It is certainly discouraging when our own family comes against us. A long time unanswered prayer certainly results in discouragement. Many Christian believers at times become disappointed with God. Satan uses this opportunity to weaken if possible even to destroy our faith. This is the time we should be strong as in Ephesians 6:10. We should stop making excuses for our failures and weaknesses. We should consider God's faithfulness in the past and rededicate ourselves to Him.

6. The love of praise

Whenever we are more interested in knowing what others think of us than what God thinks about us, we won't be able to truly believe in Him. This is because God's priorities and man's priorities are different. God does not look at a person the way man looks at. Jesus said in John 5:44, "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" We need to have the spirit of John the Baptist "He must increase, but I must decrease", John 3:30 to overcome this enemy of faith.

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