

## SESSION 1 – FOUNDATIONS FOR PREVAILING PRAYER

### 1) WE NEED FAITH TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY

Our God will never bring about any of His great works without coming through your own personal faith. It is taken for granted that you do have faith, for the Bible says:

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

You have faith whether you feel it or not. You may try to feel faith, but when you need faith, then faith is there. It is there for your use, like having two arms; and move them. I do not need to feel that my two arms are hanging on my shoulders to know that I have them.

### 2) WHAT IS FAITH?

**Faith** is defined as [confidence](#) or [trust](#) in a being, object, [living organism](#), [deity](#), view, or in the doctrines or teachings of a [religion](#), as well as confidence based on some degree of [warrant](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup> It can also be [belief](#) that is not based on [proof](#).<sup>[3]</sup> The word *faith* is often <sup>[quantify]</sup> used as a synonym for *hope*,<sup>[4]</sup> for *trust*,<sup>[5]</sup> or for *belief*.<sup>[6]</sup>

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see *and* the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

<sup>6</sup> But without faith it is impossible to please *and* be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out]. Amplified

### 3) HOW MUCH FAITH DO I NEED

Matthew 17:20 He said to them, Because of the littleness of your faith [that is, your lack of firmly relying trust]. For truly I say to you, if you have faith [that is living] like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, Move from here to yonder place, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.

#### 4) FAITH IS THE WAY OF LIVING FOR THE BELIEVER

Hab 2:4 Behold, his soul *which* is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

#### 5) ENEMIES OF OUR FAITH

Matt 8:26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye **fearful**, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Matt 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth *his* hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou **doubt**?

Matt 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your **unbelief**: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

**Distorted Identity** in us produces a **wrong image of God**. TESTIMONY

#### 6) UNBELIEF

Matthew 13:58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their **unbelief**.

Hebrews 3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of **unbelief** in departing from the living God;

Mark 16:14 [*The Great Commission*] Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their **unbelief** and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. Amplified

#### 7) MANY COULD NOT ENTER THE PROMISE LAND BECAUSE THEIR UNBELIEF

Hebrews 3:3-19 Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also *was faithful* in all His house. <sup>3</sup> For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. <sup>4</sup> For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things *is* God. <sup>5</sup> And Moses indeed *was faithful* in all His house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which would be spoken *afterward*, <sup>6</sup> but Christ as a Son over His own house, whose house we are if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm to the end.

<sup>7</sup> Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you will hear His voice,  
<sup>8</sup> Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion,  
In the day of trial in the wilderness,  
<sup>9</sup> Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me,  
And saw My works forty years.  
<sup>10</sup> Therefore I was angry with that generation,  
And said, ‘They always go astray in *their* heart,  
And they have not known My ways.’  
<sup>11</sup> So I swore in My wrath,  
‘They shall not enter My rest.’”

<sup>12</sup> Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; <sup>13</sup> but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. <sup>14</sup> For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, <sup>15</sup> while it is said:

<sup>16</sup> For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, *was it* not all who came out of Egypt, *led* by Moses? <sup>17</sup> Now with whom was He angry forty years? *Was it* not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.”

UNBELIEF WILL MAKE YOU WANDER IN THE WILDERNESS AND HAVE CHILDREN OF DESOBEDIENCE IF WE ARE NOT CAREFULL

HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF GOD DEALING WITH UNBELIEF WITH THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL AND JESUS DEALING WITH THE DISCIPLES

READ: DEUT 32

Luke 9:41 Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.” <sup>42</sup> And as he was still coming, the demon threw him down and convulsed *him*. Then Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the child, and gave him back to his father.

8) WE MUST BELIEVE THAT HE IS AND THAT HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE THAT DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM

Heb. 11:6 It is said that ***without this faith it is impossible to please God***, without such a faith as helps us to walk with God, an active faith, and that we cannot come to God unless we ***believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of those that diligently seek him.***

(1.) We must believe that God is, and that he is what he is, what he has revealed himself to be in the scripture, a Being of infinite perfections, subsisting in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Observe, The practical belief of the existence of God, as revealed in the word, would be a powerful awe-band upon our souls, a bridle of restraint to keep us from sin, and a spur of constraint to put us upon all manner of gospel obedience.

(2.) *That he is a rewarder of those that diligently seek him.* Here observe,

[1.] By the fall we have lost God; we have lost the divine light, life, love, likeness, and communion.

[2.] God is again to be found of us through Christ, the second Adam.

[3.] God has prescribed means and ways wherein he may be found; to with, a strict attention to his oracles, attendance on his ordinances, and ministers duly discharging their office and associating with his people, observing his providential guidance, and in all things humbly waiting his gracious presence.

[4.] Those who would find God in these ways of his must *seek him diligently*; they must seek early, earnestly, and perseveringly. *Then shall they seek him, and find him, if they seek him with all their heart*; and when once they have found him, as their reconciled God, they will never repent the pains they have spent in seeking after him. [Resources](#) » [Matthew Henry's Commentary](#) » [Hebrews](#) » [Chapter 11](#) » Verses 4–31

## 9) WILL GOD FIND FAITH IN US

Luke 18:8 I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will **He really find faith on the earth?**”

Matt 11:22 So Jesus answered and said to them, **“Have faith in God.**

Testimony: Do not trust in men, trust in Me.....

## 10) WE MUST PUT ON THE NEW MAN AND BE TRANSFORMED

Ephesians 4:17-24 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

<sup>20</sup> But you have not so learned Christ, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> **that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and **be**

**renewed in the spirit of your mind,** <sup>24</sup> **and that you put on the new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

11) THE FIRST REACTION OF A BELIEVER WHEN HE OR SHE ENCOUNTERS A PROBLEM SHOULD BE TO RUN TO GOD IN PRAYER

James 2:14 [***Faith Without Works Is Dead***] What *does it* profit, my brethren, if someone says he has **faith** but does not have **works**? Can **faith** save him? Amplified

Matthew 21:13 And He said to them, "It is written, '**My house shall be called a house of prayer,**' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'

TESTIMONY: THE TRIP & THE ELEVATOR