

Blind Faith

© Tim Dubberly, April 7, 1999

Text: Joshua 6:1-16

Introduction:

There are a lot of people who talk about faith. Many believe that you should wait till God does something and then praise Him for it. However, I believe that you should praise God, by faith, before He does anything. It is not hard to praise God after He has worked the miracle, but it is very hard to praise God when you feel like the world is sitting on your shoulders.

Throughout the word of God, we are commanded to walk by faith, not by sight; walk by the promises in God's word, not by the things your eyes can see. Faith is believing that God is going to do something, whether we can see or feel it, we know He will do it.

■ This story was told at a women's prayer breakfast, by Rhonda Holland, in the 1998, South Carolina Prayer Conference.

A family that was short on cash and had no food in the house. The family began to believe God to supply food for them that day.

The husband came in the kitchen and told his wife to set the table. She said, "Honey, we have no food!" He told her to set the table anyway. She reluctantly set the table with plates, glasses, spoons, forks, napkins, and everything. She set the table just like she was about to serve a normal meal.

The husband, wife, and their small son sat down at the table and looked at the empty plates. The little boy was, of course, very hungry. He looked at his dad and asked, "What are we going to eat?"

His father replied, "Son the Lord will take care of us, you'll see."

The little boy asked the same question, several times, and received the same reply from his dad. Soon, the little boy said, "I sure would love to have a chocolate pie."

Once again, his dad told him that the Lord would provide. Just a few moments later, there was a knock on the door. The father went to open the door and there was a man standing there with a basket of food. He said, "My wife cooked too much food, and the Lord said for me to bring this basket to you."

When they opened the basket, they found chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, beans, and bread; and last of all, they removed a chocolate pie.

Sometimes in our lives we have to trust God right down to the last second. But God knows exactly how to take care of us. He can provide exactly what we need. He provides not only the meals we need, but He cares enough to send a chocolate pie to a little hungry boy.

So if it is encouragement you need, remember, "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

McCoy (6)

Just like this family they prepared for the victory. They sat down and gave thanks to God before they had received anything. Today, we need to thank God by faith, then live in a state of victory knowing that God is going to fulfill His word.

I. Faith takes God at His word.

A. It believes God even when God doesn't make sense. God told them in vs. 2, "See, I have given you the city." No doubt Joshua wondered about God's plan.

B. Faith believes God even when it can't see anything happening. Spiritual eyes can see God at work all the time. It is not restricted by what it sees.

A faith whose flag is at half-mast will hardly be found in the thick of the struggle of life's problems. The flag of faith should be raised to the highest pinnacle and become the banner of God's people.
Hobbs (257)

C. Faith believes that God is sovereign and faithful to His word. We believe that God is able and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

II. Faith obeys God's word unconditionally.

A. Faith believes that we should be doers of the word and not just hearers. Even when it sounds silly, we should obey. Joshua was told to march around 7 times.

- Gideon was told to put a light in a gourd and take a trumpet into battle with only 300 men. His opponent was a corporation of armies; he was outnumbered beyond belief.
- Jehosaphat was told to march into battle with musical instrument against the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mt. Seir.
- Elijah was told to challenge the false prophets of baal.

- B. Faith believes that we ought to do something because God said it. People have never understood the anointing with oil, taught by James. There is no power in the oil; the power is in the obedience.
- C. Faith doesn't see the size of the problem, only the solution, even when the problem is bigger than you are. Like David, who went out against Goliath.
- Peter stepped out of the boat because Jesus was all he could see. He didn't hear the wind, or see the waves.
 - Paul didn't look at the hopelessness of his situation at sea, he believed the angel and preached hope to the men on board.
 - When Jesus is all you can see, then you too can conquer whatever comes your way.

III. Faith reacts to God's promises not His provision.

- A. Faith believes that if God said it, then it is so. Notice the shout preceded the power.
- B. Faith must precede the prayer. Then we will show our faith by our works.
- C. Faith only sees solutions, not problems. Each problem is an opportunity to faith.

g George Muller said, The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith; and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.
Hobbs (257)

Conclusion:

Israel followed Joshua and obeyed the word of the Lord that had been delivered unto Joshua. They marched around Jericho one time for six days, seven times on the seventh day, and after the trumpets blew, the people shouted and then the walls fell.

Jesus said, “If ye abide in me and my word abides in you, then, you shall ask what you will and it shall be done for you.”

g Sweeping across Germany at the end of World War II, Allied forces searched farms and houses looking for snipers. At one abandoned house, almost a heap of rubble, searchers with flashlights found their way to the basement. There, on the crumbling wall, a victim of the Holocaust had scratched a Star of David. And beneath it, in rough lettering, the message:

I believe in the sun—even when it doesn't shine;

I believe in love—even when it is not shown;

I believe in God—even when he does not speak. Robert Scheueller

Hewitt (186)

God doesn't always answer prayers the way we want he answers the way that is best. He doesn't heal everyone we pray for, yet He always answers prayer. Sometimes yes, other times no, and many times wait. But while we wait for God's answer, let's praise Him because He hears us when we pray.

Begin today to praise God for the things you're praying for. When he has answered you can praise Him for doing something about your need.

References

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