

Why Faith?

God Gave Us Faith For Our Advantage

By Pastor B. D. Tate

Faith is not supposed to be vague, confused, uncertain, unsure, accepting of everything...**our faith is supposed to produce in us *rest***, assurance, knowing, love, comfort, peace, self control, calmness, discernment and a righteous strength (power)...

Only in faith do we know we are saved, healed, restored, able to overcome in forgiveness, **able to let go of the past**, to move on with God, and **understand that we have Jesus' Spirit in us!** Only by faith do we come to know God, His Word, His Will, His life in us...**this is the best thing...IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO RELATE TO GOD! Faith leads us to Grace!**

Why Grace? Grace is a more sure thing **because it is an act of God** in giving us what we needed before we had the need.

Romans 4:16 "Therefore *it is* of faith **that *it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed***, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all."

While works and **human efforts may feel more secure** to us in reality our self righteousness is *conditional, weak, failing, and falls far short of the nature of God leaving us broken, defeated, and lacking*...If God blessed (gave us what we deserved) us according to our works we'd be in a mess but **He doesn't base His blessings upon us that way**, He already decided to bless us with every spiritual blessing IN CHRIST JESUS (II Pet. 1:3)! **It is a gift, a decision he made on our behalf while we were yet sinners** and it is our faith that hears God's word, focuses in on it, and receives what God has

already done for us. If we don't see God's blessings in our life it is not because He didn't give, it is because we aren't receiving or accepting it...Through sin, unbelief, doubt, living to the natural way of things we are not appropriating what belongs to us. **It is Satan's work to keep us carnal**, fleshly, and natural in our way of being because that keeps us out of faith and not manifesting the life of Christ—the victory that overcomes the world.

Receiving is a code word for manifesting or bringing it to pass in the physical world...**Receiving** is a code word for "it's included!" **When we know something is already included we are far more able to pursue, claim, and remain steadfast until it is manifested.** Like the provisions in an Insurance policy. When the need arises for insurance we don't go the company to ask them to cover the need—they already do. **We go to the company to make our claim.** We are asking for coverage for something already covered. **We seek and expect knowing we are entitled by what Jesus provided (grace).** With God's Grace then, it is already covered now we are going for the claim. Insurance companies often use claims forms or some kind of process to complete the deal and fulfill obligations. Even when insurance companies play games by denying claims that are covered and we have to resubmit or press our argument, they will eventually pay. Jesus said this is similar to when the widow kept coming to the unjust judge saying, "*Avenge me my adversary.*" (Luke 18:1-8) The Judge eventually gave into her because he didn't want to be continually bothered by her coming.

Jesus went on to say if an **unjust** judge will grant what belongs to you **how much more has your heavenly Father who loves you and by his grace already provided it for you?** (Luke 18) Furthermore, realizing all that God has done in sending His Son to suffer, die, and be raise from the dead (to provide it), **we should know God wants us to have it!** The blessing, the answers, the healing, the protection, the provision, the guidance, and the direction have already been

provided. **Our job then is to accept and get into it.** We walk in God's grace by faith. Amen.

The Advantage of Faith!

By Faith we walk and abide in the Spirit. **Faith is the only connection, tool, channel, that we have to God.** Faith is what it takes to believe God, relate to God, because our natural man is dependent upon our *senses* while the Spirit man, by faith communes with God. Why is this important? First, without faith it is impossible to please God. Our lives were meant for His pleasure. Second, Faith is the only way we can relate to God. **All of our connections, experiences, God moments, peace, love, joy, come through Faith in God.** Third, **Faith is based completely in God's Word and grace.** Faith isn't base upon our opinions, speculations, imaginations, or experiences, but solely upon God's Word, Spirit and Grace. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by God's Word (Rom. 10:17). Fourth, **our spiritual walk in this world is determined by the amount of faith we exercise. Our heart governs** what we believe and we must guard it, screen, and operate our gift of dominion so that God's will is done. We have a choice, a daily choice, to walk in and after God's Spirit so that we can live. For the Spirit brings life, the natural man, the flesh, the carnal sense dependent man brings death (Rom. 8:6).

The Following insert from the booklet "Understanding Doubt" addresses concretely **the real issue of faith in relationship to doubt.** **If we can grasp that faith knows and doubt doesn't know and realize God wants us knowing...then we can translate how it is that faith is to our advantage** even as much as knowing is more advantageous than not knowing...

Why would it be important to understand doubt and/or unbelief? It is because both of these concepts are considered **reasons from the Bible** why we as Christians **do not receive** the promises of God in our lives. Here are verses concerning doubt:

1) Romans 14:23 “**But he who doubts is condemned** if he eats, because *he does not eat* from faith; for whatever **is not from faith is sin.**”

2) James 1:6 “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 *he is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”

Doubt destroys, stops, prevents faith from being **established** in our hearts. Romans 14:23 further teaches that anything **not of faith** is sin. **Doubt** then is a **major issue** in restraining, defeating faith in our lives which according to Hebrews 11:6 “**But without faith it is impossible to please Him**, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

Faith pleases God doubt does not.

Definition of Faith as Opposed to Doubt—a Key

As we consider the James passage above we’ll note a **definition of faith** as opposed to doubt. **Faith is single minded while doubt is double minded. Faith therefore is fixed on God’s will and knows what God’s will is concerning a matter.** Doubt however, is double minded, tossed back and forth about what God’s will is. This is an important foundational point in order to operate in faith and please God.

When someone prays “*if it be Thy will*” or “*Thy will be done*” but doesn’t know God’s will on the matter that is ***not*** faith that is doubt. **We must be convinced of this truth about faith—that faith knows God’s will and is acting on it.**

We cannot act *in God’s faith* upon anything or anyone of God’s promises if we doubt. What this means is that our hearts and minds must be transformed by renewing them both to know God’s will. **We can’t operate *in faith* if we don’t know God’s will—period.**

People have defined faith vaguely. For example the following has been put forth as faith: a belief in God; a generalized trust that God controls everything; that God will bring us through no matter what happens; a system of beliefs called Christian. Most of this type of thinking is not faith at all but a belief, surrounded by hope, with doubt mixed in.

The Bible’s definition of faith: Faith knows the answer and has a witness revealed in their heart about God’s will. James teaches us let us ask for wisdom through faith. Wisdom by definition knows what to do...Later in his epistle he writes:

Jas 5:15 “**And the prayer of faith will save the sick,** and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”

Issuing over Prayer in faith

The prayer of faith *does not doubt* but knows God’s will to save the sick. This is very plain and straightforward but **many of us find a way to make it mean something else.** Someone might say, “Yes, the prayer of faith will save the sick; the problem is whether or not God’s will is to save *this sick person*.”

If we have God's answer, as in a special dispensation of grace *for this person*, then we can pray in faith."

The explanation: "When some people get healed they or the ones praying for them have received a special grace *on their behalf* for faith to believe for their healing. When there are so many people who don't get healed when prayed for, it becomes obvious that God does not will everyone to be healed."

When we embrace this type of explanation it **causes us to doubt** because we are *waiting for God* to move within our hearts about this one or that one or the lucky few. If someone gets healed then of course it was God's will; if someone does not get healed then it simply wasn't God's will. We remain in a **state of uncertainty** about God's will.

Then this leads to the question: "Is it God's will for you (everyone) to be healed?" *Integrated doubt* will respond: "We cannot know unless we receive a special revelation from God about our healing. In short, no one can know unless they receive special faith to be healed."

"The whole responsibility **then rests upon God** to lead or direct or witness to each person if it is God's will for him/her to be healed. No individual can make God heal them or declare someone else to be healed. God is the author of our faith and we are completely under his will (**This kind of reasoning even within the scriptures can sound very spiritual**)."

Continuing along this line of thinking, "Therefore, to pray 'if it be thy will, oh God, heal me' is proper. No one can know God's will about their healing until God reveals it to them."

So when someone prays with this frame of mind what we have *in essence* then is a double-minded mind prior to prayer. Doubt has secured its work because the person cannot know what God's will is concerning their healing unless God's grants special faith. This leaves the *majority unable* to decide what God's will is. **Not knowing then produces two ways of thinking even before prayer is offered.** One way of thinking is that it might be God's will to heal me; another way of thinking at the same time is that it might not be. **James tells us that a double-minded man will receive nothing from God.** Is it any wonder why most if not all do not receive healing? Is it any wonder why the church for the most part denies, ignores, or even rejects healing for today? **If no one is convinced that God's will is healing then everyone is in doubt!** Most prayers in this attitude don't even get off the ground because God cannot violate His word even if we are very sincere. Double-mindedness will not receive because it is not faith. In essence, double mindedness does not believe God's Word without adjustments, compromise, and/or rationalizing it.

Doubt works this way. **Doubt prevents us from deciding and being convinced about God's will** because we are presented with more than one way to see God's will. No one can be *single minded* if they see more than one way or answer coming from God.

Like the waves of the seas being tossed back and forth so is anyone who is **not convinced about God's will.** **If we can see that not knowing is the problem and the only way to know is to be single minded about it,** then we can begin to address the doubt issue. **Removing doubt about God's will is crucial before one even begins to pray.**

Christians quite often do not know they are in doubt thinking this way and that way about God's will. They have been taught to accept doubt as God's will. One of the more familiar sayings is this, "You'll never know!" **We will never know everything in this life but we ARE to know God's Word and His promises.** If we understand this then we need to grasp the fact that God no longer wants us **NOT KNOWING!**

Not knowing causes doubt; Doubt causes not knowing. Both have nothing positive to contribute or add to faith! In fact what the Bible calls **darkness** is not knowing, confusion, and doubt. What the Bible calls light is knowing (Col. 1:13)!

Applying this!

How does this work? By faith we are to be led by God's Spirit; this faith however is based upon **knowing God's Word**, God's will—the counsel of His will. We need to dwell, abide, and recognize God's presence, **God's voice**, God's leading, for in our focus of *these things* we'll be spirit filled and spirit led. This is done by **KNOWING**, it's a revelation that is witnessed by the Spirit over the word of God that we are **convinced about!** When we know the Word, Will, and Counsel of God's Will, we no longer need feelings, senses, or experiences to guide us! We are taking God at His word and acting upon it because we know what His Word says, what His will is, through the revelation of the Spirit in us. This revelation comes from meditating, talking, sharing, and feeding upon the Word drawing upon the wisdom of Christ who is in us! This is a Spirit thing that happens because we embrace the truth of the Word becoming single minded about it (James 1).

The Advantage is Grace

This is vital because if we are led by the Spirit throughout our day we will not be under the law. Many have expressed this simple truth: *We are no longer under the law but under grace*; yet, many have applied it very little. With little understanding we live our Christian lives thinking that grace must be automatic because we are born again. Listen to Galatians 5:18

“But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”

Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law!

Ga 3:13 “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”),”

We are to be ***faith filled***; Spirit led, and abide in Him so that we are living our lives in grace and not under the law. This means we are living in a ***growing knowing zone!*** Knowing is far more than being aware it opens up the grace and power of God into our lives. When we know we are saved we have rest and peace from God’s grace. **When we know that we have Christ’s life, peace, faith, power, and presence in our lives we will begin to act like it with authority!**

When we live lives self centered, self absorbed, self fulfilling, seeking our own dreams, pleasures, entertainment, and comfort, we are not under grace but back under the law. **Satan wants us devoted to our own ways**, thoughts, wishes, being provoked by the world’s pursuits, lusts, cravings, money, materialism, values, and priorities...when we live to these things, being caught up, being captivated by worldly visions and desires,

we are under the law even as a Christian. This is why the church is so weak, sick, powerless, and unable to manifest the compassion of God, because we are not living to it.

Conclusion:

Faith is to our advantage **because we go from not knowing to knowing God's will**, word, and purposes in life. Faith is based completely in the counsel of God's will which is His word revealed by the wisdom of the Spirit. Faith is to our advantage because it is the light, the steps, the awareness, the revelation of God's power in us. Faith is to our advantage because we're supposed to pass from darkness (not knowing) to the kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13). When we know we have peace, rest, assurance, life, health, strength, power, and purpose in our relationship to God. Faith is to our advantage because when we KNOW the truth it sets us free from sin and bondage! Faith is the victory that overcomes the world, the curse, and weakness of not knowing...When we understand **Biblical faith** then we can discern and walk in grace and come out from under the law and its curse. Faith is the only way we connect with God, please Him, and become fruitful sons and daughters of the Most High and be full of GRACE.