

# LIFE IN THE KINGDOM

## 8. FAITH



So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

Now someone may argue, "Some people have faith; others have good deeds." But I say, "How can you show me your faith if you don't have good deeds? I will show you my faith by my good deeds."

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God.[a] Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror. How foolish! Can't you see that faith without good deeds is useless?

*So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone. Just as the body is dead without breath, so also faith is dead without good works.*

*James 2:17-20,24,26 NLT*

As we have just seen, faith is not an abstract belief but rather something active that has to do with what we do. Therefore if we say that we have **faith**, the evidence is that our life, our decisions and our actions change and are consistent with what we say we believe. Having faith is not just words but also tangible actions that demonstrate the good will of our Heavenly Father.

**Having faith is trusting in God, in His Word and in His plan. Therefore having faith is also believing in what He promises to the point of doing what He says.** Having faith is continuing to believe and act based on the instructions He gives us. This brings us to His promises and to the fulfillment of His wonderful plan.

**Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.**

*Hebrews 11:1 NLT*

**Let's look at an example:** If we are out of work for a long period of time and one day we are hired at a good company and we sign a contract with a good salary and benefits; as soon as we leave the human resource office we are happy. Happiness leads us to call the people we love and share our happiness with them because we finally have a job and also because they are going to pay us a good salary. So, the question would be: Why are you happy if you haven't worked the first day yet and you haven't been paid yet? Well because you have **faith**. You have the certainty, the security and the conviction that although you have not seen it yet, the company is going to fulfill the contract, the word they gave you, and they are going to pay you what was promised. The mere certainty that it is going to happen has already changed your mood.

**Let's continue with the example:** Suppose let's say, that you thought you had been given the job and you were even happy but then you thought that the happiness was enough so you don't show up to work at all; still expecting your money to be there on payday because the company promised it and you believed it. Wouldn't that be absurd? The evidence that you believed in the contract was not only the fact that you were happy with what you were promised but that you did your part to make it happen; You went to work believing that if you did your part, the company would do its part. That is faith.

***And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.***

*Hebrews 11:6 NLT*

Living by Faith is living believing in the King; that He is absolutely good and that His will for us is good, pleasing, and perfect. It is living under the authority that He established for us and trying every day to be aligned with His Word; doing what He says and being certain that we will see what He promised, His Kingdom on Earth.

***Faith without works is dead.***

**Remember:** Having faith is not only believing in what was promised but also believing in the instructions which were given in order to receive what was promised and is manifested by what we do; which is the evidence that we believe.

### **Study Questions**

1. Take some time to reflect and meditate on whether your actions reflect the faith of what you say you believe.
2. Make a list of those areas of your life in which you have thought you believed but you have not acted according to your faith.
3. Take some time in silence and ask your Heavenly Father what instruction you should follow to align your actions with your faith.
4. Write down the answer you have and make an action plan for each point.

**APPROVED**