

Lesson 15: The 2nd Essential of Holy Living: Faith-1

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

I. What is Faith?

1. **Hebrews 11:6** "But without _____ it is impossible to _____ him: for he that _____ to God must _____ that he _____, and that he is a _____ of them that diligently _____ him."

⇒ Faith is to believe that God exists and rewards the diligent seeker.

2. **Romans 4:21** "And being fully _____ that, what he had _____, he was _____ also to _____."

⇒ Faith is to believe what God says and that He is able to do what He says.

3. **Luke 6:6,8,10** "And it came to pass also on another sabbath, that He [Jesus] entered into the synagogue and taught: and there was a man whose right hand was _____."

"But he knew their thoughts, and said to the man which had the withered hand, Rise up, and _____ forth in the midst. And he _____ and stood forth."

"And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, _____ forth thy _____. And he _____ so: and his _____ was _____ whole as the other."

⇒ Faith is to act on what Jesus says.

4. The Wise Man and the Foolish Man

a. **Matthew 7:24-25** "Therefore whosoever _____ these sayings of mine, and _____ them, I will liken him unto a _____ man, which built his house upon a _____: And the _____ descended, and the _____ came, and the _____ blew, and _____ upon that house; and it fell _____: for it was founded upon a _____."

The wise man has faith. He hears what Jesus says and then he **does** what Jesus says.

b. **Matthew 7:26-27** "And every one that _____ these sayings of mine, and doeth them _____, shall be likened unto a _____ man, which built his house upon the _____: And the _____ descended, and the _____ came, and the _____ blew, and _____ upon that house; and it _____: and _____ was the fall of it."

The foolish man does not have faith. He hears what Jesus says, but he does _____ do it.

5. 1 John 5:14 "And this is the _____ that we have in him, that, if we _____ any thing _____ to his _____, he heareth us:"

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⇒ Faith is to pray in **harmony** with God's will and have **confidence** that He will answer our prayers.

6. Read Matthew 14:26-33

Jesus was _____ on the _____

Peter asked Him to invite him to come to Him on the water.

Jesus' word to Peter was "_____".

Peter B_____ the word of Jesus. He A_____ on what Jesus said.

This was F_____.

Then Peter looked at the W_____ and the W_____ and became _____.

Did he still have faith? YES NO

When Jesus rescued him what did He say? "O thou of little _____, wherefore didst thou _____?"

What did Peter doubt? He doubted that the Word of Jesus could hold him up on the water.

⇒ When we have faith, we believe God's word, we do what He says, and we trust that He will be able to accomplish it.

Note: "Faith is **trusting God** – believing that **He loves us** and **knows best** what is for our good. Thus, **instead of our own, it leads us to choose His way**. In place of our ignorance, it accepts His wisdom; in place of our weakness, His strength; in place of our sinfulness, His righteousness. Our lives, ourselves, are already His; **faith acknowledges His ownership and accepts its blessing**. Truth, uprightness, purity, have been pointed out as secrets of life's success. It is **faith** that puts us in possession of these principles. Ed 253.1

II. What is Presumption?

The opposite of faith is presumption. What is presumption?

7. James 4:3 "Ye ask, and _____ not, because ye ask _____, that ye may consume it upon your _____."

✚ Presumption is to believe that God will do what we ask Him, not because He has promised it, but just because we want it and ask for it.

Note: "The prayer of faith is never lost; but to claim that it will be always answered **in the very way** and **for the particular thing** we have expected is presumption." 1T 231

8. James 1:22 "But be ye _____ of the word, and not _____ only, _____ your own _____."

Note: "Because God is merciful, and ready to forgive, there are those who **say that it is safe to disobey Him. But this is presumption**. God will forgive all who seek pardon and turn away from sin. But those who **choose to disobey Him** He can not bless." SJ 46.5

✚ Presumption is to think that it is safe to disobey God.

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9. 1 John 2:4,5 "He that _____, I know him, and _____ not his commandments, is a liar, and the _____ is not in him. But whoso keepeth his _____, in him verily is the _____ of God perfected: _____ know we that we are _____ him."

➤ Presumption is to believe that He will do what we ask even though we have not fulfilled the conditions.

Note: "There are those who profess holiness, who declare that they are wholly the Lord's, who claim a right to the promises of God, **while refusing to render obedience to His commandments**. These transgressors of the law claim everything that is promised to the children of God; but this is presumption on their part, for John tells us that true love for God will be revealed in obedience to all His commandments. It is **not enough** to believe the theory of truth, to make a profession of faith in Christ, to believe that Jesus is no impostor, and that the religion of the Bible is no cunningly devised fable." AA 562.3

10. Matthew 4:6-7 "And saith unto him, _____ thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is _____, He shall give his _____ charge concerning thee: and in their _____ they shall bear thee up, lest at _____ time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is _____ again, Thou shalt not _____ the Lord thy God."

➤ Presumption is using Scripture to excuse disobedience.

Note: "Faith is in no sense allied to presumption. Only he who has true faith is secure against presumption. For presumption is Satan's counterfeit of faith. Faith claims God's promises, and brings forth fruit in obedience. **Presumption also claims the promises, but uses them as Satan did, to excuse transgression**. Faith would have led our first parents to trust the love of God, and to obey His commands. Presumption led them to transgress His law, believing that His great love would save them from the consequence of their sin. It is not faith that claims the favor of Heaven without complying with the conditions on which mercy is to be granted. Genuine faith has its foundation in the promises and provisions of the Scriptures." DA 126.1

"Satan's temptation to the Saviour of the world to cast Himself from the pinnacle of the temple was firmly met and resisted. The archenemy **quoted a promise of God as security**, that Christ might with safety do this on the strength of the promise. Jesus met this temptation with Scripture: "It is written, ... Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God." In the same way **Satan urges men into places where God does not require them to go, presenting Scripture to justify his suggestions**. -- RH, April 8, 1880.

11. Exodus 32:4-5 "And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had _____ it a molten _____: and they said, _____ be thy _____, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And when _____ saw it, he built an _____ before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a _____ to the _____."

➤ It is presumption to call idolatrous worship a feast to the Lord.

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Note: "Aaron's calm assurance in a wrong course gave him greater influence with the people than Moses could have had in leading them in a right course and in subduing their rebellion. What terrible spiritual blindness had come upon Aaron that he should put light for darkness and darkness for light!

What presumption in him to proclaim a feast to the Lord over their idolatrous worship of a golden image! Here is seen the power that Satan has over minds that are not fully controlled by the Spirit of God. Satan had set up his banner in the midst of Israel, and it was exalted as the banner of God. 3T 300.1

12. Leviticus 18:3 "After the _____ of the land of Egypt, wherein ye dwelt, shall ye _____ do: and after the _____ of the land of Canaan, whither I bring you, shall ye _____ do: neither shall ye _____ in their _____."

➤ It is presumption to use the idolatrous practices of the heathen in our religious services.

Note: "The Lord would have his people true to his service, and **separate and distinct** from every nation who did not fear his name. He understood the **danger of associating** with idolaters, knowing that the seeing and hearing of their heathen customs and vain philosophy would have a **corrupting influence** upon their morals. **There was danger of the sacrilegious services of the idol worship appearing attractive to them, and giving character to their religious services.** Although the experience of parents might be a safeguard to themselves, there was **constant danger in regard to the morals of their children.** They would be continually tempted to imitate the practices of the people with whom they associated." ST, July 22, 1880 par. 2

"**This injunction from God himself is of consequence to us** who live in these last days when iniquity prevails, and Satan with every device is upon the track of the unwary. Merriment and pleasure-seeking is the order of the day, and reckless presumption and the absence of virtue mark the course of society generally. The standard of the world is in no case to be the standard of those who love and fear God. He requires those who follow him to **be separate** from sin and sinners. The reason why those who profess his name are not more precious in his sight is because **the pure gold of their character has been corrupted by association with the world,** and they have not genuine faith or a genuine religion." ST, July 22, 1880 par. 3

III. How Can We Tell the Difference?

13. Read Matthew 7:13-23: There are _____ gates and _____ ways.

The _____ gate and the _____ way lead to destruction.
_____ choose this way.

The _____ gate and the _____ way lead to eternal life.
_____ choose this way.

There are people who appear as S_____, but who are really W_____.

Jesus calls them _____ prophets.

Jesus said to check the F_____.

He said that "not _____ one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall _____ into the kingdom of heaven; but he that _____ the _____ of my Father which is in heaven."

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Those who do not do the will of God will lead you to follow their example in ignoring God's will.

There will be many who say they have _____ in His name and _____ out devils and done many _____ works in His name.

But Jesus sees beneath the surface and says they work _____.

He says to them, "I never _____ you." They were not His true sheep.

Note: "Our only safety is in giving no place to the devil, for his suggestions and purposes are ever to injure us and hinder us from relying upon God. He transforms himself into an angel of purity that he may, through his specious temptations, introduce his devices in such a manner that we may not discern his wiles. The more we yield, the more powerful will be his deceptions over us. It is unsafe to enter into controversy or to parley with him. For every advantage that we give the enemy, he will claim more. Our only safety is in rejecting firmly the first approach to presumption. God has, through the merits of Christ, given us sufficient grace to withstand Satan and be more than conquerors.

Resistance is success. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." **Resistance must be firm and steadfast. We lose all we gain if we resist today only to yield tomorrow.** 3T 482.3

"The sin of this age is **disregard** of God's express commands. The power of influence in a wrong direction is very great." 3T 483.1

IV. Faith is Not Feeling

14. Paul said in 2 Timothy 1:12 "For the which cause I also _____ these things: _____ I am not ashamed: for I _____ whom I have _____, and am _____ that he is _____ to _____ that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Note: Faith is not based on how I feel, but on **knowing** God. I **know** that He is able to keep me. I **know** that He loves me. I **know** that He cares for me, **no matter** what circumstances I am in. And so I obey Him even when I don't **feel** like it.

15. We are told in 2 Corinthians 13:5 " _____ yourselves, whether ye be in the _____; _____ your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" How do we know if Jesus is dwelling in our hearts? Is it by how we feel?

Note: " 'Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.' Some conscientious souls, on reading this, immediately begin to criticize their every feeling and emotion. But **this is not correct self-examination.** It is not the petty feelings and emotions that are to be examined. The life, the character, is to be measured by the only standard of character, God's holy law. The fruit testifies to the character of the tree. **Our works, not our feelings, bear witness of us.**" RH, February 28, 1907 par. 1

"The feelings, whether encouraging or discouraging, should not be made the test of the spiritual condition. **By God's Word we are to determine our true standing before him.** Many are bewildered on this point. When they are happy and joyous, they think that they are accepted by God. When a change comes, and they feel depressed, they think that God has forsaken them."

RH, February 28, 1907 par. 2

16. Hebrews 11:1 "Now _____ is the substance of things _____ for, the evidence of things _____ seen."

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We can't see Jesus. We can't always see what He is doing in our lives, but by faith we trust Him and obey Him anyway. By faith we KNOW that He is working to save us from all sin and to build our characters like His perfect character.

Note: "**Look steadfastly to Jesus.** Behold him, full of grace and truth. He will make his goodness pass before you while he hides you in the cleft of the rock. You will be enabled to endure the seeing of him who is invisible, and by beholding you will be transformed.

"**Faith is not feeling.** Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. **There is a form of religion which is nothing more than selfishness.** It takes pleasure in worldly enjoyment. It is satisfied with contemplating the religion of Christ, and knows nothing of its saving power. Those who possess this religion regard sin lightly because they do not know Jesus. While in this condition, they estimate duty very lightly. But **a faithful performance of duty goes hand in hand with a right estimate of the character of God.**" RH, February 28, 1907 par. 9,10

17. True faith is more than talk. 1 John 2:4-5 says:

"He that _____, I _____ him, and keepeth _____ his commandments, is a _____, and the _____ is not _____ him. But whoso _____ his _____, in him verily is the love of God _____: _____ know we that we _____ in him."

Note: "The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an **imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms**, where the truth is kept in the outer court, to be admired as we admire a beautiful flower; they demand **something more than a religion of feeling, which distrusts God when trials and difficulties come.** **Holiness does not consist in profession, but in lifting the cross, doing the will of God.** Saying, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?' will not secure for us an entrance into the kingdom of heaven." RH, February 28, 1907 par. 11