

Lesson 16: The 2nd Essential of Holy Living: Faith-2

Memory Verse: 1 John 5:4 "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

V. Living By Faith

1. Hebrews 10:38 "Now the _____ shall _____ by _____: but if any man draw _____, my soul shall have no _____ in him."

2. What if I do not have any faith? The Bible tells us in Romans 12:3 that "God hath dealt to _____ man the _____ of _____."

Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye _____ through _____; and that not of yourselves: it is the _____ of God:" God has given us faith. We must exercise it.

Note: "Every good impulse or aspiration is the gift of God; **faith receives from God the life that alone can produce true growth and efficiency.**" Ed 253.2

"How to exercise faith should be made very plain. To every promise of God there are conditions. **If we are willing to do His will, all His strength is ours.** Whatever gift He promises, is in the promise itself. 'The seed is the word of God.' Luke 8:11. As surely as the oak is in the acorn, so surely is the gift of God in His promise. If we receive the promise, we have the gift." Ed 253.3

3. How do we exercise faith? Romans 10:17 "So then _____ cometh by _____, and hearing by the _____ of God."

Note: "Faith that enables us to receive God's gifts is itself a gift, of which some measure is imparted to every human being. **It grows as exercised in appropriating the word of God.** In order to strengthen faith, we must often bring it in contact with the word." Ed 253.4

What must we do with the word of God? We must A _____ it.

What does appropriate mean? *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* says that it means "to claim or use as an exclusive right" or "to take to one's self in exclusion of others".

4. What must we do in order to live by faith? Matthew 4:4 "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not _____ by bread alone, but by _____ that proceedeth out of the _____ of God."

Note: We must live according to faith. Faith is based on the Word of God, so we must live according to the _____ of God. We see what God has said about something and then we do it His way. This is how we live by faith. We can eat by faith by eating according to God's instructions on eating. We can dress by faith by dressing according to the way God wants His children to dress. We can listen to music by faith by listening only to music in harmony with His principles. So in everything we do, we do it according to His instructions, not our own ideas. **To ignore His will on any point, or take liberties with what He has said and follow our own desires instead, and then pray for Him to bless us, is presumption.**

5. How can we increase our faith? Romans 10:17 "So then _____ cometh by _____, and hearing by the _____ of God."

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Note: Faith is based on the things God has said in His word. If we read and believe one thing which He has said, we have one degree of faith. If we read another promise or word of instruction and believe that, we now have 2 degrees of faith. We can add to our measure of faith anytime we wish to do so by reading His word and acting according to it. We can go to the word and help ourselves to it anytime we want. We can have all the faith we want. **All we have to do is read and believe the promises and instructions of God's Word and act according to them.**

6. Read John 2:3-8. Write the words that teach you how to live by faith:

"Whatsoever _____, _____."

How did the servants live by faith? When Jesus said to fill the water pots with water,

"they _____."

When Jesus told them to "Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast." "they _____ it."

Note: Faith means that we learn what God's instructions are and then we follow them. Faith accepts God's word even if we don't understand or can't see what the result will be. The servants didn't know why they were taking water to the governor of the feast, but they did exactly what Jesus told them to do anyway.

7. 1 Corinthians 2:5 "That your _____ should _____ stand in the _____ of _____, but in the _____ of _____."

2 Corinthians 5:7 "For we walk by _____, not by _____:"

Note: God has given us specific instructions in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy concerning our life and work. We should **know** these instructions and then **follow** them. This is living by faith. This applies to all areas of our life, all plans and activities, to mission work, evangelism, education, health work, publishing work, tithing and making offerings, our contacts with the world in recreation and amusements, in labor unions, our dress, hair, jewelry, wedding rings, health habits, our choice in reading material, how we spend our leisure time, what we talk about with our friends, the kind of friends we choose, and the way we go about choosing our life occupation and our life companion. To **know** these instructions and then to **follow** them is to **live by faith**. It is true that **sometimes we cannot see why God has required a certain thing or why God has forbidden something.** We may not know what is wrong with it. We may not know what the consequences will be of doing as He has said, but **faith accepts God's word even though it doesn't seem to our wisdom to be the best thing.** Faith realizes that God knows best all the time.

8. For what should we watch out? Colossians 2:8 "Beware lest _____ man _____ you through philosophy and vain _____, after the _____ of men, after the rudiments of the _____, and _____ after Christ." We should watch out for those who would lead us to follow the teachings and customs of the world instead of the teachings of Christ in His Word.

Note: "As the truth is brought into practical life, the standard is to be elevated higher and higher to meet the requirements of the Bible. **This will necessitate opposition to the fashions, customs, practices, and maxims of the world.** Worldly influences, like the waves of the sea, beat against the

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followers of Christ to sweep them away from the true principles of His meekness and grace; but we are to stand as firm as a rock to principle. It will require **moral courage** to do this, and those whose souls are not riveted to the eternal Rock will be swept away by the worldly current. We can stand firm only as our life is hid with Christ in God. Moral independence is wholly in place when opposing the world. **By conforming entirely to the will of God, we shall be placed upon vantage ground**, and shall see the necessity of decided separation from the customs and practices of the world." 6T 146.2

"We are not to elevate our standard **just a little above the world's standard**, but we are to **make the distinction decidedly apparent**. The reason we have had so little influence upon unbelieving relatives and associates is that there has been so little decided difference between our practices and those of the world." 6T 146.3

9. By faith we take God's word and bring our life into harmony with it. What does this do for us? Ephesians 3:17 "That _____ may _____ in your _____ by faith; that ye, being _____ and _____ in love,"
Colossians 2:9,10 "For in _____ dwelleth _____ the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are _____ in _____, which is the head of all principality and power:"

Note: "Through faith in Christ, every deficiency of character may be supplied, every defilement cleansed, every fault corrected, every excellence developed." Ed 257.5

10. 2 Peter 1:3-4 When Christ dwells in our hearts, we become partakers of the _____ nature. How does this come about? "According as _____ divine power hath _____ unto us _____ things that pertain unto life and _____, through the _____ of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are _____ unto us exceeding _____ and precious _____: that by _____ ye might be partakers of the _____ nature, having _____ the _____ that is in the _____ through lust."

- * He has given us _____ things that we need for godliness.
- * He has given us many great _____ in His Word.
- * It is by these _____ that we become partakers of the divine nature.
- * This is Christ dwelling in our hearts by _____. (see Eph. 3:17)

11. How do we receive these promises? Romans 4:20-21 "He staggered _____ at the promise of God through _____; but was strong in _____, giving glory to God; And being _____ persuaded that, what he had promised, he was _____ also to _____." We completely trust that God can and will do what He has promised if we fulfill the conditions.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye _____, _____ that ye _____ them, and ye shall have them."

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- We ask in P_____.
- We B_____ that He hears us and answers us.
- We R_____ the blessing.

1 John 5:14-15 "And this is the _____ that we have in him, that, if we _____ any thing _____ to his _____, he _____ us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we _____ that we _____ the petitions that we desired of him."

Note: "He makes it plain that our asking must be according to God's will; **we must ask for the things that He has promised**, and **whatever we receive must be used in doing His will**. The conditions met, the promise is unequivocal [absolute]." Ed 257.7

"For the pardon of sin, for the Holy Spirit, for a Christlike temper, for wisdom and strength to do His work, for any gift He has promised, we may ask; then we are to believe that we receive, and return thanks to God that we have received." Ed 258.1

12. How do we apply this in our life? First read this: "In every **command** and in every **promise** of the **word of God** is the **power, the very life of God**, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith **receives** the word is receiving the very **life** and **character of God**." COL 38.1

So when we read a C_____ in the _____ of God, the _____ to obey that C_____ is in that word. When we read a P_____, the _____ to fulfill that _____ is in that word. God cannot lie. So what He says is truth. By _____, we must **believe** it and **act** on it.

God has given us this promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13 "There hath _____ temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will _____ suffer you to be tempted _____ that ye are _____; but will with the temptation also _____ a _____ to _____, that ye may be able to bear it." Do you believe this promise when you are tempted and the temptation seems too strong for you? Do you look for His way of escape and take it?

Note: "Trials and temptations may come; but the child of God ... **knows** that **Jesus is his helper**. Jesus is stronger than the strong man armed [Satan who is trying to keep you as his captive], and **will rescue from the power of Satan every soul that relies wholly upon him**. Although we may be weak and helpless in ourselves, yet **all the forces of heaven** are at the command of the believing child of God, and **the hosts of hell cannot make him depart from the right course IF he clings to God by living faith**. Temptation is no sin; the sin is in yielding to temptation." RH, May 20, 1884 par. 8

"The Lord hates sin; but He loves and forgives the repentant, believing sinner, and takes him under His guardianship and control. Satan is on the track of every soul; but with every temptation that is permitted to come upon the children of God's pardoning love, He makes a way of escape in order that they shall not be tempted above that which they are able to bear. **Divine strength is imparted** to make the **believing** child **able to resist** the temptation, and to escape the snare." 13MR 361.3

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When we believe the **promise** of God, we **know** that Jesus is our H_____ and that He will give us His divine S_____ so that we are A_____ to resist the temptation of Satan. Satan is not able to make us sin if we cling to God by F_____.

✳ This is living by _____.

VI. The Trial of our Faith

13. Why is our faith tried? 1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober, be _____; because your _____ the _____, as a roaring _____, walketh about, seeking whom he may _____:"

Note: The devil is trying to devour us, to get us away from Jesus. He says that we don't really want to serve Jesus, so he tempts us to sin so he can "prove" to the onlooking universe that we would rather have our sins than Jesus. What will our answer be to this accusation?

14. What should we do when he tempts us? 1 Peter 5:9 "Whom _____ stedfast in the _____, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

Note: "Never were the youth of any age or country so earnestly observed by the angels of God as are the youth today. **All heaven is watching** with intense interest for every indication of the characters they are forming – **whether, when brought to the test, they will stand firmly for God and the right, or be swayed by worldly influences.**" LHU 127.2

15. What is the purpose of trials? Read 1 Peter 1:5-9

*Our S_____ is effected through _____ in the _____ of God to K_____ us. (verse 5)

*This is a cause for great _____ even when we are in _____ because of manifold [Strong's = various in character] _____ (verse 6)

*These temptations are for the _____ [Strong's = Testing to show trustworthiness] of our _____ (verse 7)

*Our faith is much more precious than _____ that _____ even though it is _____ [Strong's = T_____] with _____. (verse 7)

Gold is **tested** by putting it in the **fire**. Only the **real** gold survives; the dross is burned off.

Note: "The time is not far distant when **the test will come to every soul**. The observance of the false sabbath will be urged upon us. The contest will be between the commandments of God and the commandments of men. Those who have **yielded step by step to worldly demands and conformed to worldly customs will then yield** to the powers that be, rather than subject themselves to **derision, insult, threatened imprisonment, and death**. At that time the gold will be separated from the dross. True godliness will be clearly distinguished from the appearance and tinsel of it. Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness. Those who have assumed the ornaments of the sanctuary, but are not clothed with Christ's righteousness, will then appear in the shame of their own nakedness. PK 188.1,2

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*When our faith is tried and comes out as gold, it is then unto _____ and _____ and _____ at the _____ of Jesus Christ. (verse 7)

*Even though we don't see Jesus with our physical eyes, we _____ Him and _____ Him which gives us unspeakable _____ and _____. (verse 8)

*The end result of our faith in Jesus Christ is our _____. (verse 9)

16. What does the trying of our faith do for us? James 1:3,4 "Knowing this, that the trying of your _____ worketh _____. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be _____ and _____, wanting _____."

17. How does Paul direct us to go through life? 1 Corinthians 16:13 "Watch ye, stand _____ in the _____, quit you like men, be _____."

What does "quit you like men" mean? Strong's Concordance tells us it means "to act manly"; in other words, "Take a firm stand for right".

Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold _____ the profession of our _____ without _____; (for he is _____ that _____)."

1 Timothy 6:12 "Fight the _____ fight of faith, lay _____ on eternal _____, whereunto thou art also _____, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

Be true to God and stand **firmly** for the right under **all** circumstances and in **all** places.

Note: Here is a story to illustrate this. "One day a group of people accompanied their new missionary up a steep mountainside on the island of Sumatra. The narrow path was bordered on both sides by tall lallang grass. When the travelers came to the steepest part of the climb, they reached out to take hold of the grass to pull themselves up. Everyone in the line shouted 'Grasp it firmly! Grasp it firmly!' So the missionary grabbed a handful of the tough, coarse grass and held it. Then he grabbed another handful and another until they reached the top.

"Then the missionary asked his companions why they had all shouted 'Grasp it firmly!' They told him that if any person takes hold of the lallang grass lightly or fearfully, the razorsharp edges will cut his hands and make deep and painful wounds." ...

"Many young Christians get hurts and discouragements because they have not taken a **firm** and **determined** stand for Christ. ... The Christian life is a war against evil. We must take our stand under the flag we mean to defend, and we must grasp our weapons and step out with courage. Our Leader goes before us. We follow the blood-stained banner of our crucified Lord." (Taken from "*Under the Blood Banner*", pages 112,113)

18. In the end, who are those that are ready to meet Jesus when He comes? Rev. 14:12 "Here is the _____ of the saints: here are they that _____ the commandments of God, and the _____ of Jesus."

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19. How is our faith revealed? Read James 2:20-23. Our faith is revealed by our _____. The example is given of _____ when he offered up _____. He did exactly what God said for him to do. He B_____ God and so he did what God told him to do. This is how he showed his F_____.

Note: When I do what He asks me to do **because** He asks it, doing what He asks is not my own works, but it is an act of faith. I do it **because** I believe Him and trust that He knows best. I also believe that He is with me in performing such acts and **adds** His strength to my efforts. So our faith is revealed by a life of active endeavor to do everything just as He has commanded. When we live by faith, **every** act of life is **based** on the **instruction** God has given.

20. The faith of God's people in the last days is illustrated in an impressive dream that Ellen White had. Read it below:

An Impressive Dream

"While at Battle Creek in August, 1868, I dreamed of being with a large body of people. A portion of this assembly started out prepared to journey. We had heavily loaded wagons. As we journeyed, the road seemed to ascend. On one side of this road was a deep precipice; on the other was a high, smooth, white wall, like the hard finish upon plastered rooms.

"As we journeyed on, the road grew narrower and steeper. In some places it seemed so very narrow that we concluded that we could no longer travel with the loaded wagons. We then loosed them from the horses, took a portion of the luggage from the wagons and placed it upon the horses, and journeyed on horseback.

"As we progressed, the path still continued to grow narrow. We were obliged to press close to the wall, to save ourselves from falling off the narrow road down the steep precipice. As we did this, the luggage on the horses pressed against the wall and caused us to sway toward the precipice. We feared that we should fall and be dashed in pieces on the rocks. We then cut the luggage from the horses, and it fell over the precipice. We continued on horseback, greatly fearing, as we came to the narrower places in the road, that we should lose our balance and fall. At such times a hand seemed to take the bridle and guide us over the perilous way.

As the path grew more narrow, we decided that we could no longer go with safety on horseback, and we left the horses and went on foot, in single file, one following in the footsteps of another. At this point small cords were let down from the top of the pure white wall; these we eagerly grasped, to aid us in keeping our balance upon the path. As we traveled, the cord moved along with us. The path finally became so narrow that we concluded that we could travel more safely without our shoes, so we slipped them from our feet and went on some distance without them. Soon it was decided that we could travel more safely without our stockings; these were removed, and we journeyed on with bare feet.

"We then thought of those who had not accustomed themselves to privations and hardships. Where were such now? They were not in the company. At every change some were left behind, and those only remained who had accustomed themselves to endure hardships. The privations of the way only made these more eager to press on to the end.

"Our danger of falling from the pathway increased. We pressed close to the white wall, yet could not place our feet fully upon the path, for it was too narrow. We then suspended nearly our whole weight upon the cords, exclaiming: 'We have hold from above! We have hold from above!' The same words were uttered by all the company in the narrow pathway. As we heard the sounds of mirth and revelry that seemed to come from the abyss below, we shuddered. We heard the profane oath, the vulgar jest, and low, vile songs. We heard the war song and the dance song. We heard instrumental music and loud laughter, mingled with cursing and cries of anguish and bitter wailing, and were more anxious than ever to keep upon the narrow, difficult pathway. Much of the time we were compelled to suspend our whole weight upon the cords, which increased in size as we progressed.

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"I noticed that the beautiful white wall was stained with blood. It caused a feeling of regret to see the wall thus stained. This feeling, however, lasted but for a moment, as I soon thought that it was all as it should be. Those who are following after will know that others have passed the narrow, difficult way before them, and will conclude that if others were able to pursue their onward course, they can do the same. And as the blood shall be pressed from their aching feet, they will not faint with discouragement; but, seeing the blood upon the wall, they will know that others have endured the same pain.

"At length we came to a large chasm, at which our path ended. There was nothing now to guide the feet, nothing upon which to rest them. Our whole reliance must be upon the cords, which had increased in size until they were as large as our bodies. Here we were for a time thrown into perplexity and distress. We inquired in fearful whispers: 'To what is the cord attached?' My husband was just before me. Large drops of sweat were falling from his brow, the veins in his neck and temples were increased to double their usual size, and suppressed, agonizing groans came from his lips. The sweat was dropping from my face, and I felt such anguish as I had never felt before. A fearful struggle was before us. Should we fail here, all the difficulties of our journey had been experienced for nought.

"Before us, on the other side of the chasm, was a beautiful field of green grass, about six inches high. I could not see the sun; but bright, soft beams of light, resembling fine gold and silver, were resting upon this field. Nothing I had seen upon earth could compare in beauty and glory with this field. But could we succeed in reaching it? was the anxious inquiry. Should the cord break, we must perish. Again, in whispered anguish, the words were breathed: 'What holds the cord?' For a moment we hesitated to venture. Then we exclaimed: 'Our only hope is to trust wholly to the cord. It has been our dependence all the difficult way. It will not fail us now.' Still we were hesitating and distressed. The words were then spoken: 'God holds the cord. We need not fear.' These words were then repeated by those behind us, accompanied with: 'He will not fail us now. He has brought us thus far in safety.'

"My husband then swung himself over the fearful abyss into the beautiful field beyond. I immediately followed. And, oh, what a sense of relief and gratitude to God we felt! I heard voices raised in triumphant praise to God. I was happy, perfectly happy." 2T 594.1-597.1

What was the cord that was let down from above? It was faith in God which became so strong that the people trusted in God without trusting in **any** earthly thing, even when they had **no** earthly support at all. This is the faith God's people will have who complete the journey in the midst of the trials, troubles, and hardships of the last days. They will depend on God even though **everything** in this earth is against them and they are not allowed to buy or sell because they refuse to give up **loyalty** to God in keeping the Sabbath day holy. (Revelation 13:14-17)

We don't get this faith overnight. It comes from **living by faith day by day** in the **choices** we make in our **everyday** lives. We must **practice** living according to the word of God by faith now. Then we will be able to do it then.