

# The Foundation of Faith – 2

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## **Operational Faith**

### Expanding the Definition of Faith in **Heb.11:1**

- More than a theological definition, an operational explanation
- Faith is not wanting or wishing for something but believing with your heart.
- To have Faith is to be PRESENTLY FULLY PERSUADED of what we ENTHUSIASTICALLY EXPECT.
- Our Persuasion based on the TITLE DEED or legal contract of the NEW COVENANT, established between God and us by Jesus' death, burial and resurrection.
- Our conviction stands on the EVIDENCE or proof of the reality of the RESULTS (Gk. pragma) of JESUS' WORK in the spiritual dimension that now may be unseen on earth, but that we can see by faith.

### I Call This PRAGMATIC FAITH

- FAITH IS NOT BLIND, IT IS BASED ON EVIDENCE we now have and can see
  - What is your evidence? How fully persuaded are you?
- TO STEP OUT IN FAITH
  - without evidence is FOOLISHNESS (lacking common sense or prudence)
  - without full conviction is PRESUMPTION (believing without reason that you have faith when you don't and it is the result of pride)
  - stepping out in faith will put you under pressure and make you waver – and you will get nothing - **Jam.1:5-8**

## **How Faith Works**

### Having Faithful Experiences

- **Heb.11:3** – By your Faith you experientially can understand how God operates by speaking (Gk. rhema) His Word
  - You can see the results when you speak words in faith, believing with your heart
  - **Rom.4:16-25** -
    - 17 – CALL = CALL FORTH what is not as it were
    - 18 – In a hopeless case believed (had faith) in hope
    - 19 – not weak in faith (believing), did not CONSIDER (observe fully, pay attention) to his body
    - 20 – STAGGERED – Waver (Gr. Diakrino in Jam.1:6) - UNBELIEF (Gk. A-pistia = lack of faith)
    - 21 – BEING FULLY PERSUADED = Gk. Plairophoreo = wearing or clothed completely with
    - 25 – JUSTIFICATION = acquittal
- **Mk.11:22-25** – Have the Faith of God, speak things into existence
  - We bring into this world what already exists in the spiritual world
    - The things that Jesus has accomplished relating to our salvation

### What Jesus Has Accomplished

- **Gal.3:13-14** – FREE YOU FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW, that we may receive the promise of the Spirit
  - Be fully persuaded that all the curses have no power over you
- **Col.1:12 and 2Cor.1:20** – QUALIFIED YOU FOR ALL THE PROMISES
  - Be fully persuaded that you qualify, as you trust in Jesus, and not in yourself
- **Col.2:14-15** – STRIPPED THE DEVIL OF ALL HIS POWER and put him under your feet
  - Be fully persuaded that Satan and his demons have no power over you, except for the power you give them
  - His power is based on your unbelief and accusation

## **Questions to Consider**

1. Do you agree with the statement, “Your present situation is the manifestation of your faith”, and how do you feel about it?
2. Can you explain the difference between stepping out in faith and walking by faith?
3. Please comment and give examples of how “Faith sees and faith speaks.”
4. What is the difference between denial and not considering as given in Rom.4:16-25
5. What are the implications of being free from the curse of the law?
6. How can you qualify for God’s promises?