

ANNOTATIONS

Series 2 Lesson 8

FAITH

U N I T Y

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL LESSONS

UNITY SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY

LEE'S SUMMIT, MISSOURI

7-19-72

Annotations

Series 2 Lesson 8

FAITH

1. Give a concise definition of faith.

1. Faith is an idea in Divine Mind; a spiritual principle; one of the twelve powers; a faculty in man's mind; an idea that combines and embodies belief, trust, and expectancy in a firm state of consciousness. Faith is the divinely ordained, eternally established God quality of assurance inherent in each soul. Faith is an attitude of mind, a confidence of heart, a joyousness of spirit.

"Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen."--Hebrews 11:1.

"Faith is the perceiving power of the mind, linked with a power to shape substance."--Charles Fillmore in Prosperity, page 43.

Faith is an assurance, a conviction, a knowing that a desire for something will be fulfilled at the right time, without a person having anything visible to the five senses as to how and from where the fulfillment is to come. It is in reality possessing the thing in consciousness before there is any sign of it in the outer or manifest world. It is that faculty of mind that knows, and knows that it knows. It is not something that is confined to religion because man often has faith in and brings to himself many things that he considers "not good" after he has them.

Faith is unwavering confidence, free from doubt. The essential part of anything hoped for is confidence in its actual manifestation at the time expected; it is the innate proof or testimony that though there is no visible sign of the thing desired or hoped for, there is nevertheless an intuitive knowing, a faith, a confidence that dispels every doubt, and we expectantly await the fulfillment of that desire. Faith is the direct road to manifestation, the wedge that pries open the door of promise.

2. Where should faith be centered?

2. Faith should be centered in the indwelling presence of God, the all-powerful Spirit or Mind. Faith ever abides in our consciousness waiting to be called into action. When our faith is established in our indwelling Lord we have no fear that anything in the external can affect us. Faith in Omnipotence overpowers all belief in any opposing power, and we finally arrive at the place in our unfoldment where we are conscious that there can be nothing in which to have faith except in the good, God within, and its power to accomplish like unto itself.

3. In the creative process, what is the second day's work?

3. On the second day of God's creation He said, "Let there be a firmament."--Genesis 1:6. First, the "light" was spoken into existence. This light is God's presence within us and throughout the universe. When we attain the consciousness that God is within us, we have found the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. After our illumination we must have a firm

place established in consciousness. Faith is the firmament of mind; it is the reality, the substance; it is that faculty of mind which stands under formed substance and is the forming as well as the sustaining element in all organized life.

4. What is the meaning of Peter's walking upon the water?

4. Peter's walking upon the water represents the human consciousness when it takes its eyes off its spiritual center and forgets the Christ power within each one and perfection through looking at the effect, the appearance. We begin to doubt when we do not keep our eyes steadily on the cause; we are lost in the winds and waves of appearances.

5. How is a consciousness of faith in God, the good, developed?

5. A consciousness of faith in God, the good, is developed through use. Man learns to use his faith rightly by disciplining his thoughts, feelings, words, and actions to express such faith. Our consciousness of faith is stimulated through reading of the demonstrations of others. However we must expand our faith in God, the good, by releasing our false beliefs about God, about ourselves and our fellowmen and conditions as they appear to be. As one thinks on Truth and prays, uses denials and affirmations, meditates, lives, and acts in the consciousness of his oneness with God, the only Presence and Power, he is well on his way to developing and establishing a consciousness of faith in God upon which to base his life and living in all his human experiences. This process is a constant activity, making faith in God, the good, a living reality.

6. Why is it unwise to wait for a great consciousness of faith before using faith at all?

6. It is unwise to wait for a great consciousness of faith before using faith at all, because our faith is expanded and strengthened as we use it, in all departments of our thinking and doing. We attain a greater consciousness of faith as we use the faith that we are aware of at the moment we need to exercise it. Since faith is one of man's twelve mental faculties or spiritual powers, he has all the faith that he can possibly need or use, but his consciousness of it needs to be expanded and strengthened. It is through our vision and our use that our consciousness of faith grows into a great expression of faith.

All through the Bible we find records of the great things done by the men of God, and always we find that they used what they had a hand and thanked God for it and it was increased. The Bible is full of God's promises, but there is always something for man to do in order to receive the blessings mentioned in the promises. God must work through man, the man must develop the consciousness through which this work can be done, and he does this with his thinking and feeling, through prayer, affirmation and denial, meditation, and right living. Keeping his mind stayed on God, man uses the God-powers which are his divine heritage.

One cannot gain a great consciousness of faith unless he begins to use the small faith that he seems to be expressing at the beginning of his awakening. We know that a grain of mustard seed is very small, but it is also very prolific, and it can bring forth abundantly when planted under right conditions in rich soil,

because it has within it all the elements, the God-ideas, it needs for its fulfillment.

As we recognize, accept, and begin to use the God-qualities, the spiritual powers, the divine ideas that are ours, our consciousness of faith grows. Our praise, our interest, and our attention, given to them, attract the substance that causes them to become active in us, because we are using the power that we have to bring them forth in abundant manifestation and measure.

As an example, we can think of what an athlete has to do to his muscles, in order for him to remain a fine, strong, capable athlete. In the same way, we have to use our faculty of faith positively and constructively, because it is in the constant use that our consciousness of faith grows and grows and grows. Praise God!

7. What results are obtained by man when he uses faith and love together?

7. When man uses faith and love together, he obtains notable results in prayer, in life, in living. As he realizes the power of divine love active in him, freedom from fear is often immediately apparent, because we are told that "There is no fear in love: but perfect love casteth our fear."--I John 4:18. A consciousness of faith in God or good grows in man; his emotions, his attitudes, his thoughts, his actions change for the better. He abides in peace, knowing inwardly that "Only good can come to me."

Peter and John were the two disciples very close to Jesus Christ. Peter represents faith, and John represents love. It takes both faith and love to accomplish anything worthwhile.

Love is the great attracting power of the universe, and when faith is coupled with love, that which we have faith in is drawn to us. If faith would produce works, it must have love, because the nature of love is to attract, unify, equalize, harmonize, bind, heal, and prosper us.

Faith works through love. The love nature is the feeling nature or emotional nature of your being. When you feel deeply, when your feelings run high, you liberate an enormous amount of energy which in the Absolute is God substance. Combine deep feeling with a cheerful, faith-filled attitude of mind and you will be invincible in producing that which is positive, joyous, and constructive in your human experience.

Love is that great quality, that unifying idea that gives you faith, that inspires you. You have faith in that which you love. Then love your body temple, your business, your mission in life, your work, humanity, every living creature.

Faith in an ideal and love of that ideal keep one unswervingly loyal to that ideal. Faith in and love of a course of action keep one sustained in that action, however prolonged it may be. Faith in and love of a spiritual principle bring forth in tangible form the idea encompassed by that principle, the reality embodied in that principle.

Faith is the intangible but very real divine power that perceives ideas, lays hold of them, puts them into action, and brings them into expression and visible manifestation, on whatever plane the faith is centered. Faith and love working together will accomplish wonders, determining what your future will be, because they glorify and increase your consciousness of substance.

8. Explain: "According to your faith be it done unto you."
--Matthew 9:29.

8. "According to your faith be it done unto you"--Matthew 9:29.
is the great law of the universe. The Hebrews were told that they might have "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, to you have I given it."--Joshua 1:3. All that man can have faith in is his. Man is a free will agent, cannot be forced by Spirit against his will, cannot be given anything except he lays hold of it through faith. All that the Father has is man's, and still he starves because he does not believe that it belongs to him, does not lay hold of his divine inheritance through faith.

9. What is the difference, if any, between faith and belief?

9. Belief is a degree of light revealing to the mind a measure of evidence that it can accept and on which it can assume the truth of a statement. It might be called the childhood of faith. Faith is maturity, the child grown to manhood. What we believe may be true or it may not; genuine mature faith is an inner knowledge. Through progress, development, revelation and experience we acquire an understanding that can proceed with certainty. This is real faith. It knows of the existence and operation of the undeviating law through which all things are possible and is able to hold steady though appearances are against it. Hope and trust are good, but knowledge and realization are better.

10. What place has faith in the ministry of healing?

10. Faith has to perceive wholeness of body because it knows the principles of life, and that by its nature of direction, it must be included in the healing ministry in order to draw the attention of the one seeking healing to the LIFE IDEA.

The healing principle always responds to the act of faith in the divine completeness already within. If we would be the means of helping others we must be conscious at all times of the Presence within ourselves and in the one needing help. Jesus had great faith in the ability of the Father within Himself and referred often to the works of His indwelling Father.

11. What is patience? How is it related to faith?

11. Patience is that phase of faith that has had its companion power of strength added to it, for strength is endurance because it knows why it is steadfast.

Patience is not a negative acceptance of evil conditions as is sometimes supposed. It is a positive quality, a self-control that springs from an inner consciousness of oneness with God, the source of good. One who has spiritual patience does not waste his energy in quarreling with other persons or with conditions that seem all wrong. Rather he holds his peace and works to make things right as directed by Spirit.

Patience is born of faith. One could hardly endure certain conditions that appear unless one had faith in the presence and power of Spirit and knew that by working with the spiritual law the seeming evil could be eradicated.

12. Explain how an affirmation of Truth is "the prayer of faith."
--James 5:15.

12. Affirmation is mentally taking that which is desired.
Faith intuitively perceives all things as ours in Spirit to be taken when desired. So an affirmation is the taking of things desired through the faith we have that all good is now ours in Spirit.

13. What is meant by the "trial of . . . faith"?--I Peter 1:7 (A.V.).

13. Through faith we intuitively discern the essence of the truths that we seek, but this discernment takes place before we are able to bring it into the fullness of expression. Faith encourages us to make trial or to prove what we have seen intuitively as a possibility. In time we see the reason for the faith that is in us, having proved what we foresaw. We now have a better understanding of the law and conditions.

14. What is it to have faith in God?

14. To have faith in God is to have unshakable faith in the perfect outcome of every situation in life, to have faith in the ultimate good regardless of appearances. It is to have the faith of God, to know the loving Father by bringing His attributes into manifestation in the outer. If we would exercise our unlimited powers, we must have unwavering faith in the Presence and Power within us until the very substance of Spirit appears in consciousness as a living reality.

15. Why should man have faith in himself?

15. Man should have faith in himself because he is the offspring of God and he is learning that he is the living expression of God, the Father. The very Spirit of God expresses through man as life, substance, and intelligence and all the other God qualities, attributes, powers, faculties, or ideas.

Without faith in himself man could never have accomplished the wonderful things that have already been brought into manifestation. Back of everything that has been done by man has been the assurance, the firm conviction, that he had the power and ability to do it. Man would not produce along any line of endeavor unless he had faith in himself.

16. What is the basis for man's faith in himself?

16. The foundation principle for man and all creation is that there is but one Presence and one Power, God, Absolute Good, in man and in all the universe. In man this Absolute Good is the image of God, the Christ.

The basis for man's faith in himself is his divine origin. Man is made in the image and after the likeness of God, and God has placed His Spirit within man and given him dominion and the power and ability to express that dominion, in order that he might consciously be God's highest expression in all creation, the Christ, the Son, the Divine Idea, I AM, the Word.

As man realizes who and what he is, a spiritual being having

the same character and nature as God, Absolute Good, by divine inheritance, he establishes in his consciousness a firm foundation (understanding faith) through which he is able to do all things.

17. What is the Christ righteousness?

17. The Christ righteousness is the immanent quality of divinity that man inherits as a Son of God, it is man's true nature inherited from his divine Father. The Christ righteousness is "inwrought righteousness." This means that all the qualities of the Father--light, life, love, peace, joy, plenty, purity, holiness, goodness, and so forth, are involved in the Son, man, as his divine right, and are nothing for which he has to "work" to attain, except that he must attain in his consciousness the purity and holiness of this indwelling Christ if he is to become in manifestation what God ideated him to be.

18. How is the Christ righteousness established in man's consciousness?

18. The Christ righteousness is established in man's consciousness by his right use of spiritual ideas in every thought, feeling, word and action. Being made in the image and after the likeness of the Father, the Son is of the same character, Absolute Good, and is essentially of the same substance, Mind Essence. Therefore the Son, in order to establish the Christ righteousness in his consciousness must pray in faith and understanding, must live in love, peace, and harmony, must act in joy and with Godliness of Spirit, must abide in Christ and let the Word or Christ dwell or abide in him. Man must have faith in the purity and perfection of the indwelling Christ and realize his oneness with that perfection. The ideal or perfect man was imaged by the Father, and that perfect man is His Son, the Christ. So man in turn must image his own perfection in order to bring it into expression, in the conscious and subconscious phases of his mind, and into manifestation in his body temple. The Christ righteousness or right use of all the qualities, attributes, or ideas of God is the creative law of God in action in man. In attaining the Christ righteousness, man recognizes this great truth, accepts it and lets it have full sway in his mind and heart, thoughts and feelings, body and affairs. This is what spiritually awakened man is learning--HOW to use these IDEAS of God-Mind in right relation in his own consciousness. Prayer, denial, and affirmation play their part.

Paul also tells us how to let the Christ righteousness be established in consciousness: "Put on therefore, as God's elect, holy and beloved, a heart of compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, long-suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving each other, if any man have a complaint against any; even as the Lord forgave you, so also do ye: and above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to the which also ye were called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God. And whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
--Colossians 3:12-17.

19. Explain the relation that faith bears to the demonstration of eternal life.

19. Jesus Christ established a new consciousness in the earth through His demonstration of eternal life. By faith we can lay hold of this consciousness, this direct knowing and make it ours. Faith is counted to us as righteousness while our own righteousness is being worked out in us, or until we are lifted up out of adverse conditions into the perfect Christ Mind, or the consciousness of the fullness of life and righteousness in Christ.

20. Why should we have faith in all men?

20. To have faith in others is to have faith in the spiritual self of each one. Every person at some time feels the desire to help others. One may do things for another in an outer personal way, but the real and lasting help comes through one's helping another to find the center of his being. This help cannot be given until one has a living faith in the Christ within every one.