

FAITH



2. More on Faith

(Leader's Notes)

How are we going to receive all God has promised us? Just as God told Joshua that the Children of Israel had to believe his word in order to enter into their inheritance, we must believe his word too. In our previous study we learnt that we can't produce faith by our own efforts, it comes from the Living God. Let's learn more about faith now.

1. Faith has an object

- ♥ What or who must our faith be in? John 14:1, Mark 11:22
(Our faith or trust must be in God and Jesus Christ.)
- ♥ How is faith and prayer related do you think? Mark 11:23-24
(Unless we believe, our prayers cannot be answered.)
- ♥ How much faith do we need, according to Jesus? Matthew 17:20
(We only need faith as small as a mustard seed. This was the smallest seed that an Israeli farmer used in the time of Jesus.)

It isn't our faith that changes things, it is when we put our faith in the Living God. He changes things! Nor is it the size of our faith that is important! What is important is that we believe that God is able to do what he says he will. Faith reaches out beyond itself and takes the hand of God, and trusts him.

2. Faith is specific

- ♥ How do we receive faith according to Romans 10:17?
(Faith comes by hearing the message which comes from Christ, or by hearing the word of God.)
- ♥ When Joshua was about to lead the armies of Israel into the Promised Land God spoke to him. What specific word did God give him? Joshua 1:2-3
(They were to get ready to cross the Jordan River to enter the land God was giving them.)
- ♥ Can you think of any other examples in the Bible where God spoke specifically to his people and they believed his word?

Faith is not simply believing anything, it is believing something that God has said to us personally and specifically.

3. Faith has actions

Faith that is real is not something that is passive, it is followed by an action. This proves that the faith is genuine.

- ♥ What action must follow faith according to Romans 10:9-10?

(We must confess what we believe.)

- ♥ There were many occasions when Joshua confessed his faith in what God had said to him. Can you think of any examples?
(One example is the time when he and Caleb returned from spying out the land, and he declared that with God's help they could possess it. Numbers 14:6-7. Joshua also told the leaders he believed God would give him the land, as God had promised to do so. Joshua 1:10-11)
- ♥ What else must follow faith according to James 2:14, 17-18?
(Deeds must follow faith.)

Living faith includes hearing and receiving the word from God, confessing and speaking out that faith, and then doing what God has said. These are all part of genuine faith.

4. Faith deals with the unseen

- ♥ How does Hebrews 11:1 describe faith? What do you think this means?
(Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This means that faith deals with things in our lives which we have not yet seen or experienced, but we believe they will come to pass.)

Faith is fulfilled when we experience or see the thing we have been believing for come to pass. For example, Joshua told the people God had promised to give them the land. He believed the promise, spoke about it and then acted upon it. Finally the land was theirs! Faith was fulfilled.

- ♥ Share a time in your life when God has spoken to you about something specific, and you have seen his promise fulfilled in your life. What did you do to put faith into action?

When God speaks to us, faith is produced in our hearts by his Spirit. It is then our responsibility to confess it and act upon it. This shows our faith is genuine, and we will see God's promises come to pass in our lives.