

#35 faith is knowing the will of God

1 This evening we will examine how that are Faith is based upon knowing and understanding the Will of God.

From his sermon The Spoken Word is the Original Seed 42 brother Branham tells that our Faith must be based upon God's Word, and knowing the will of God is found only in His Word. "It's there, the Truth, all the Truth, and nothing but the Truth, and our faith rests right there, right there on what God said. Don't try to interpret It; just say it the way It says it. Don't put any private interpretation, ..."

Now, this evening I would like to speak concerning Faith and how that it must be based on an understanding of God's Word. Because we are told in Hebrews 11: 6 that without faith (revelation) it is impossible to please God: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

So not only is our Faith based on our belief, but also on an understanding that God rewards our believing.

Now the word believe is defined as: having confidence in the truth, the existence, or the reliability of something, although without absolute proof that one is right in doing so:

Therefore having faith is essential to the Christian experience with God and is necessary to have in order to please God. In other words Faith is an assurance and a confidence and a trust in God and What God says in His Word. And therefore without Faith we are told that "without faith we can not please God." Why? Because if you do not trust someone then you do not value that person, nor do you believe that person is right. Therefore if we are to receive anything from God we must first have faith and believe God for what we seek.

But the reason people do not have faith concerning receiving from God is because many times they are not certain if what they are asking is even the will of God to begin with. The reason they are not sure what the will of God is, is because they do not know what the will of God is.

In order to have faith then, we must first have knowledge of what God's will is concerning the matter we are wishing to have faith for. Before one can have faith for any circumstance in our life we must first know what God's will for us is in that area that we are seeking faith for, whether it be for healing or finances, or for other more specific blessings. "So then, Faith cometh by hearing and hearing the Word of God" Rom 10: 17.

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Therefore this evening we are going to examine what we can do in our life to increase our Faith. We need to understand that God has placed more than 800 promises in His Word for our benefit and all it takes to receive those blessings is for us to know that they are there and that God wants us to have them.

You see, we must have the mind of Christ in us, and we must know the mind of our Father and His mind must be in us as sons and our minds must be brought into harmony with the mind of God if we are to receive what God has in His mind for us to receive.

Let me rephrase that to simplify what I am saying. If you do not know what God's will is, then you cannot ask according to his will because you simply do not know his will.

So the very first principle we must come to in building up of our Faith is to know what God said about our need. Br. F.F. Bosworth said in *Christ the Healer Those Needing Healing*, before people can have a steadfast faith for the healing of their body, they must be rid of all uncertainty concerning God's will in the matter. Appropriating faith cannot go beyond one's knowledge of the revealed will of God. Before attempting to exercise faith for healing, one needs to know what the Scriptures plainly teach, that it is just as much God's will to heal the body as it is to heal the soul.

And that goes for every other promise God has given us in His Word which is His Will.

Now, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 1:11 For what man knows the things of a man, except the spirit of man is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God knows. So unless you have the Spirit of God in you it is literally impossible to understand the things of God, and thus appropriate the Faith of Christ in your Life.

Now, concerning Faith in God's word, in Romans 10:17 Paul tells us how to appropriate our faith. He said, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Br. Branham took this one step further and preached a sermon entitled, hearing, recognizing and acting upon the word of God.

So you see, faith comes by hearing the word of God, what God says about it. Then if you hear and recognize it to be God's Word, then you appropriate that by acting upon what you hear.

So it all begins with whether God made a promise or not, for if he did not make the promise, then you might as well forget it. But if he did make a promise in his word, then we want to know what he said about that promise.

Brother Branham taught us that Faith begins in the mind and then when we receive it into the heart, then God can come down and anoint that faith and it becomes a dynamic revelation. So you must first fill your mind with His Word.

The Word of God must first come to the Mind, before it settles down into the Soul. So we see that first we have a mental faith or recognition of the word of God. Then when God anoints His Word in our Mind by His Holy Spirit, it moves down into our Soul and becomes a Spiritual or dynamic Faith.

In fact Brother Branham said in the *Message Blasphemous Names*, pg. 23, Coming to your mental faith, right here, comes the Holy Spirit, coming down into your mental faith making it a Spiritual Faith. Then the Spiritual Faith only recognizes the Word."

Now, this evening I want to talk to you about how to appropriate Faith in God's Word, because many people say they believe but when it comes to Faith it is more than just believing. You must step into it or it is not yours.

You must hear it, and faith comes by Hearing the word of God, therefore to really know whether you heard it or not, you must recognize what it is that you heard. Because many who hear do not recognize nor do they perceive what it is that they are hearing. So you must hear which means to understand it, then you must recognize it, and the word recognize means To know to be something that has been perceived before: recognize a face. 2. To know or identify from past experience or knowledge:

So then we must ask, if to recognize has to do with knowing because of an experience of the past, then we must ask Whose past? Because Faith is the Substance of things hoped for, and yet Hope that is seen is not hope. That is what the Apostle Paul said in Romans 8: 24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

But let's look at this thought from Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. So Faith is The substance. Now, in order to understand this we must ask ourselves what is this substance that we call Faith? Is it matter like in science and physics? Is that what the words substance means? The English Dictionary defines substance as 1. a. That which has mass and occupies space; matter. b. A material of a particular kind or constitution. But this is not what it means, so let's look at what else the dictionary defines Substance as being. 2. a. Essential nature; essence. Now, that is more like it. Therefore if Faith is the nature of something or shall we say someone, or the essential nature, then it is the essentiality and intrinsicity of God.

And I can prove it by God's own Word. The Greek word for Substance in which Faith is The Substance is the Greek Word "hupostasis" which literally means: essence, confidence, assurance and person. In other words, this word "hupostasis" is translated here as the word substance and it is the same word that is translated as the word "person" in reference to God.

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, (hupostasis) and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

So Jesus being the express image of God's very "person", is the express image of the very "substance" of God, which is what Faith is all about, expressing the very mind of God. That is why substance which is what Faith is, is not substance as if it is matter, but it is the essence of Who and what God is. Faith is the very out-lying or expression of the Divine will of God.

The same word "hupostasis" is also translated as the word "Confidence" as we see in Hebrews 3:14 "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;" Notice, not hold fast the beginning of confidence, but our confidence. Our confidence referring to our being, and our trust. Faith has to do with trust. and you trust people not things. When you trust your breaks, you are not trusting the metal or material, but you are trusting the people who designed them and put them on. We do not place our trust and confidence in things, but in people.

And so we see that Faith is the substance. Faith is the Person we hope for. And Christ is our Hope. That's what the Scripture teaches us.

1 Peter 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a living hope (How?) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

Titus 2: 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his parousia?

1 Thessalonians 1:3 Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Doxa. Christ in you by being baptized by one Spirit into one body is the hope or the earnest expectation of receiving the doxa of God, his opinions, values, and judgments.

1 Corinthians 15: 19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

So Faith is the substance of Christ that we hope for. So Faith has to do with Christ, and since this substance is also the person, then Faith is the nature and essentiality of Who and What God is.

Now, let's look at this a little bit closer in. If Faith is the substance or person of Christ, then faith, genuine Faith is based not on what we think, but what God thinks.

Faith then, is knowing what God said. Then to appropriate Faith we must first find out what God said concerning any Divine promise, and then recognizing His will concerning that Divine promise, and then we must plant them as seeds into our mind, and water them by His own Word, and we do that by reciting them over and over again until they settle down into our heart and then when that happens, the nature of that Word Seed takes over and does what it was intended to do. The nature of the seed, (God's Word Seed) takes over.

In Galatians 3:13 we read, "Christ hath (past tense) redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us."

Notice that the Word of God speaks to us of the Divine Promises as though they are already done. God places them in the past tense, not future tense. And our Faith comes into manifestation when we do the same thing that God did, placing his promises in past tense as though they already are.

God wants us to appropriate the past tense of His Word regarding any Divine promise. For what God thought before the foundations of the world is already finished in His mind as though it has already materialized. When God puts a promise to us in the past tense He expects us to do the same. That is having the mind of God concerning that promise. You cannot appropriate something that is in the future, you can only appropriate that which is already given. The word appropriate means: To take possession of or make use of exclusively for oneself, often without permission:

Why do you have to ask permission when He has already promised it to you. Therefore the words, "if it be thy will o Lord" shows you don't believe that it is His will for you. And therefore it negates His Promised Word to you by your unbelief.

If I give you something, you do not need my permission to use what I have given you. And God does not expect us to counter His promise with the words, "if it be thy will o Lord." Those are not Faith appropriating words, those are faith diffusing, faith negating words. God wants you to know His Word and when you know it and know that it is His will for you to have it, then it is already done. Then appropriate that promise. Take possession of it, claim it as your own, make exclusive use of it. That is what Appropriating Faith is all about. The things hidden belong unto God but those things revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever....

So what God has given you let no man take away from you.

Jesus spoke of this when he said, "the father has given them to me, and therefore no man can pluck them out of my hand."

In Mark 11:24 Jesus taught us Therefore I say unto you, What things so ever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Believe they are yours. First believe the promise that God has given you, and then believe that He wants you to have it, and then believe that you have already received it, and only then can you appropriate that promise, and make use of it for yourself.

We need to only begin praising Him and thanking Him for what He has already given to us. The farmer must get his seed into the ground, and before he can receive his harvest he must have a past tense sowing of the seed into good ground. But once that seed of the Word is planted into your mind and heart, then you need only to look for the harvest to come, and it will come in its proper timing. And not even that is a mystery. The timing of the sowing and harvesting is not a mystery to anyone who has studied and understands sowing and reaping. The farmer knows that when he sows, he shall reap. So he sows in a certain season knowing he shall reap in the proper time for the seed to gestate and go through it's cycle. Human seed takes 9 months, horses 11 months, and elephants 22 months. All seeds have a cycle time for sowing and reaping...

In John 12:24 Jesus said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Believing what God said and giving back to God what He said is how we get the Seed of His Word into the proper soil. And when we do that, all we need to do is wait on the law of reproduction to bring into materialization the Word seed that we planted.

Remember, when Lazarus was laying there rotting in that grave? What were the words of Jesus concerning those circumstances? He said, John 11: 41-42 "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me." (notice that He is speaking of the past tense. He has already prayed for the raising up of Lazarus. He already sowed the Word Seed into good soil. Now, he is only acknowledging what he has already sowed. Look at the next verse) 42 And I knew (past tense) that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

And John said in 1 John 5:14 And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us:

Notice what he said here...And this is the confidence that we have in him. There you are. Our confidence is in Him... Faith is the substance...Faith is the person... Faith is the confidence we have in Him.... What He already thought and What He has already spoken, is already a done deal.

Solomon put it this way in: Ecclesiastes 3:15 That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past.

Faith then can rejoice before seeing any change in circumstances. Because Faith does not look to circumstance, Faith looks to the Word of God.

If God said it, then Faith considers it is finished. It's all over. It's done...

Faith refuses to even look at anything that is contrary to the promise.

The Apostle Paul in speaking of Abraham, said in Romans 4:16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

And the reason it might be by grace is because it is already done in the mind of God even before you ask.

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. 18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, (past tense) So shall

thy seed be. 19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. 22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. 23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; 24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; 25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Now, look, what I am trying to say is this. Faith looks at what is already done in God's Word and knows God's Word is God's will. Because God would not have promised if he did not mean what he said. Therefore if God said it, it is as good as already done. It is finished.

Faith is taking God at His Word. Faith is believing what God said before you see the manifestation of it. Faith is the sixth sense and it does not need the other senses to appropriate the promise.

I do not need to see you to know you are here in this church. I do not need to hear you to know that you are alive in your seat right now. I do not need to physically go out there and touch you to know that you exist. I do not need to smell you to know you are here. And I do not need to taste either. So then why do we rely so heavily upon our five senses when it comes to believing what God has said? In fact you don't have to rely on even one of your five senses to believe what God said.

When God told Mary that she was to become the mother of His Son, she didn't say, "I can't believe what I'm hearing". She said, "Be it done unto me according to Thy Word". "Be it done unto me according to what you have promised." That's it, hearing, recognizing and acting upon the promise of God. That is appropriating what God said for yourself.

Look we also had an angel from the Lord come down from heaven, stand before groups of men, and tell us that we are the Elect Bride of Jesus Christ. And we are the ones that will be conformed to the image of the first born son. Now, my question is this? You have heard it, but have you recognized it is a promise of God to you personally? If so then are you begin acting upon it.

When Jesus went to Gethsemane, brother Branham said that God was waiting on His Son Jesus to make up His mind.

Brother Branham said that the cross was not the victory, but the battle in Gethsemane is where Jesus received the victory. For had it not been for the Faith He received from the Father, there could very well have not been a Calvary experience. For after wrestling with his own mind, and his own will that night, he obediently declared, Father it is my will that you take this cup from me, but nevertheless, "not my will, but Thy will be done." He never said if it be thy will, but he said, "not my will but thy will be done." And that is the Victory right there. When Jesus gave over his own will to the will of the Father.

Communion 57-0418 14 Now, if God did not spare His Own Son from the cruel testing, then He will not spare you or I from the cruel testing. And Jesus was here confronting the greatest test that He had ever had. Gethsemane laid just before Him, where that once and final all-sufficient test must come, when the burdens of the entire world laid upon His blessed shoulder. There was no one in all heavens or earth could ever stood it but Him. And to know that all of the sins, of past sins, and present sins, and future sins, rested upon this decision. And it was one of the most greatest victories that Christ ever won or proved His great Messiahship, as when He said to God, "Not My will; Thine be done." That was the greatest victory He had ever won. All the demons of torment was around to tempt Him and try Him. And when we get right with God, when our hearts become pure and the Holy Spirit

has taken Its place in our heart, it's the most glorious thing to have testing. The Bible tells us that our testings and trials are more precious to us than silver and gold of this world. So we should be thankful.

Conference 60-1125 43 Now, Moses cried to the Lord and the Lord said, "Rise up and go forward." And when Moses went right straight and stepped his foot into the water, when that taken place, the Red Sea opened back, and Israel crossed over to a great victory. They had a conference. That's the way we always have to do, is have conferences. Now, I want to speak of another one right quick. There was a conference. There's many of them we could speak of, but let's just not pass this one by. There was a Gethsemane conference one time. When it had to be brought after a victorious life had defeated sickness, defeated everything in the world, He came to Gethsemane, and Father had to check up to see if He really wanted to go through it or not.

So you see when Jesus looked at the promise of God that God had this lamb that was slain in God's eyes before the foundations of the world, and when he stepped into that role, then he could say at the cross, "it is finished."

Why are we not a denomination? 58-0927 P:145 Now, the Bible said that Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God. Now, listen real close, so if some of you won't be in tomorrow to hear it finish up. The Bible said that Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. Is that right? When was He slain? From the foundation. That's the world, if it's made out of a bunch of broken up atoms, pulled off the sun yonder, before it was that. Then before there was an atom ever first broke in the sun, if this was a meteor off the sun, which would be a hundred billion trillion trillion trillions of years back before there was even one light meteor, Christ was slain. When God's great mind settles on one thing, it's a finished product. When God said, "Let there be," it's already finished if it taken a hundred billion years to run out, it's already finished as soon as He said it. And when the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world, the same Bible, the same Spirit wrote and said, our names were put in the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the world. So the man that wrote the song, "There's A New Name Written Down In Glory," he had good meanings, but he was unscriptural. See? That name was wrote down in glory when before the world ever begin. When the Lamb was slain, our names were put on the Lamb's Book of Life.

Then you say, well what about me brother Brian? All I can say my brother and sisters, is let's read Ephesians 1: in closing... It's all there, and it is as much finished in God's own mind and it ever will be. The question is. Do you believe it? Can you see yourself there? Do you believe this is personally about you? I can tell you, I do...

Ephesians 1: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as he hath (he's already done it, so it is finished in God's eyes...) According as he hath chosen us in him (there's your eternal life) before the foundation of the world, that we should be (that means that he has already set it in motion. He has ordained it to be that you are) holy and without blame in His Presence. Then in love He has (past tense) predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

So you don't have to ask Him if it is His Will, you know it is the Good pleasure of His will, o hallelujah!!!) 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace,(that means now, even before we see it with skin on it we should be praising God for what he has already done...) wherein he hath (past tense) made us accepted in the beloved.

It's not you making yourself acceptable. He made you acceptable while you were still in Him before there was even one atom to fashion the world into existence. He already has done it, so start planting that seed. Start praising Him for what He has already done. So don't look at the circumstance...Look at His promise...

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; 8 Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having (past tense) made known unto us the

mystery of his will,(so you know His will, and it is no longer a mystery...) according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: (and He is so happy to have made known His Will to us by His Shout, by His Message to us...)

10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance,(notice we have already obtained an inheritance...How? By) being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (Notice again he is telling you that this is all His own Will and He is so glad to let us in on what His will for us is. And the response we should have is to praise Him...) 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Then he tells us in verse 13 how this is all to come about, but we do not have time to get into that this morning, but we know that He gives us the earnest of our inheritance when we receive the baptism of His Holy Spirit, and then in verse 17 - 20 he tells us that when God Himself comes down with a shout, it is to give us the very mind of God which gets us ready for the placing of sons, for we can not be adopted and placed as sons and receive the inheritance itself until we have the mind of our father. So He comes down with the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation in the Knowledge of Himself so we as sons can receive our Father's mind that we might know His mind and know His Word and His will and thus do only what His will desires. Because we are sons, He has given us the spirit in our hearts that we might cry abba Father, and Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, (that's His Great Appearing among us in this hour)when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. and by seeing Him as he truly is, we come into His image and are like Him,. That's His plan...That's His will. Do you see yourself in it? Then can you step into it?

Let us pray...