

Where Does Faith Come From?

Rick Railston

Recorded on November 11, 2023

It is interesting, Gordon mentioned the subject of the sermon several times during his sermonette—we hadn't collaborated at all—but he mentioned the subject of faith. We know that faith is one of "the big three", as it's called. Let's go to 1 Corinthians 13:13 and we'll see that. Scriptures that are quoted will be out of the King James unless otherwise noted. We're going to quote this out of the New King James.

1 Corinthians 13:13 *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.* (NKJV)

The Greek word for *abide* is Strong's #3306 and is the Greek word transliterated into English *meno*. It means "to stay in a given place or a given state" but it also means "to endure". What endures is faith and hope and love. The New Living Translation translates verse 13 as this:

13) Three things will last forever. Faith, hope, and love, and the greatest of these is love. (NLT)

Faith is also, as we know, one of the weightier matters of the law—we can see that in Matthew 23. The whole chapter is Jesus' railing on the hypocrisy of the scribes and of the Pharisees. He is telling them they need to pay attention to the weightier matters of the law. Matthew 23:23, I'll also read this out of the New King James.

Matthew 23:23 *Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.* (NKJV)

So, we see in just these two scriptures, how important faith is. It's so important that if we don't have faith, we can't please our Father. It's very clear. Let's go to Hebrews 11:6, it's stated very plainly that if we don't have faith, we cannot please God Almighty. That's a pretty serious requirement.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him: ...* (KJV)

The Jewish New Testament translates the beginning of verse 6 as, *Without trusting it is impossible to be well pleasing to God.* Without trusting in Him. Going on in verse 6, I'll read this out of the NIV.

Verse 6) continued ... because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (NIV)

Meaning with salvation. We must believe He exists and that He also rewards us through salvation. So, if we don't have faith, we can't please our Father and that's a scary situation to be in, for all of us. If we can't please Him, we're not going to be invited into His Kingdom. So, faith is crucial to our salvation.

By way of introduction, let's look at the example of Abraham's faith. You know where we're going, Genesis 22—one example of Abraham and Isaac. We're going to read the first two verses and then we'll read verses 6-12. I'll read this out of the New King James.

Genesis 22:1 *Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham ... (NKJV)*

If we're honest with ourselves, we understand that God will test us quite often in our walk.

*1 continued) ... and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
2) Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering [your alive son] on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." (NKJV)*

Can you imagine Abraham's shock? Absolute shock, when God Almighty told him to do to his son, what the heathens all around were doing to their sons and Yehovah did not permit that. Now all of a sudden, He's saying, I want you to go and sacrifice your son. He has to be confused, thinking

"That's what these other people do who don't know You. They are sacrificing their sons and You want me to go sacrifice my son? My only son? By the way, You've made all these promises to me so how does that work?"

You can imagine just what went through his head on that journey that they started. In verses 3-5 they started the journey. We'll pick it up in verse 6.

*6) So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.
7) But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" (NKJV)*

You can imagine—Isaac's not stupid; he's looking and saying "Everything is ready except the sacrifice; I wonder what that is. Could it be me?"

8) And Abraham said [this is crucial in the matter of faith], "My son, God will provide [three words] for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together. (NKJV)

So, Abraham had the faith that somehow, some way, Yehovah would provide for them. He didn't understand how it was going to work, didn't understand what Yehovah had in mind but he had the faith that somehow, He will provide a way out of this.

9) Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. (NKJV)

We know Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born. You can see that in chapter 21:3. Now let's just pick a number and say Isaac was 20 years old and his dad was 120 years old. If Isaac wanted to resist, he could resist. His father wouldn't have had the strength to hold him down and bind him and tie him down and all of that. He needed Isaac's acquiescence to make the sacrifice and do the job. That's exactly what Isaac did because he trusted in his physical father and he obviously trusted in his spiritual Father.

*10) And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.
11) But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So, he said, "Here I am." (NKJV)*

He's hoping against hope now that maybe this is the end of this.

12) And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." (NKJV)

So over Abraham's life, Yehovah brought many tests of faith to him, if we read that story. Look at the result. Multitudes of nations and people resulted from Abraham's faith. At this time, in this day, just as with Abraham, our Father tests each one of us on a daily basis sometimes, very frequently He tests our faith. He wanted to see with Abraham—He wants to see with us as He did with Abraham—if we will truly and always trust Him. He tests us often to make sure we're on the right track. Over the years, during trials, it's been my experience that brethren have tried to work up faith at the last minute. Maybe they've been given a diagnosis of some disease or something and then they start to try to gin up faith and put the foot on the pedal as far as faith is concerned asking "Give me more faith." It's interesting that in many cases it doesn't happen until the last minute. In my experience, it's often after the crisis starts, then the subject of faith comes up and how to get more faith. It's not a subject beforehand, which is where it should be. It only comes up after the trial starts.

That begs the question—people ask,

"Give me more faith, where do I get more faith, how can I have more faith?"

Where does faith come from? Does it come from within us? Or is it from some higher power? That leads into our title for today:

Where Does Faith Come From?

We're going to cover it in three points. In the first point we want to define our terms.

1. What is faith?

I think you know but I think it will be a good review for all of us. Let's go back to Hebrews 11:1 where the biblical definition of faith resides.

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for ...* (KJV)

The Greek word for *substance* can mean "assurance or confidence". We can see that if you use those words, *faith is the assurance or the confidence of things that we hope for.* We are absolutely confident and assured that what we hope for will come to pass.

1 continued) ... the evidence ... (KJV)

The Greek word means "the proof"—in a court of law you have to have evidence or proof that this or that happened.

1 continued) ... of things not seen. (KJV)

That is faith. The Greek word for *faith* is Strong's #4102 and is the Greek word transliterated into English as *pistis*. Strong's tells us it means "moral conviction of religious truth or the truthfulness of God; especially reliance on Christ for salvation."

It can mean "assurance" or it can mean "belief". The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament by Spiros Zodhiates says this about Hebrews 11:1:

Faith is a substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen means that [this is a very good definition] persuasion is not the outcome of imagination but is based on fact, such as the reality of the resurrection of Christ and as such, it becomes the basis of realistic hope.

Faith is the basis of realistic hope, of what we absolutely know to be fact.

The NIV translates it as: *Now faith is the confidence of what we hope for and the assurance of what we don't see.*

The Philips Translation says: *Now faith means that we have full confidence in the things we hope for and it means being certain of things we cannot see.*

That is faith.

As we read in the introduction to the sermon, in Hebrews 11:6, just as a reminder, without this faith it's impossible to please our Father. We have to believe that He exists and that He rewards with salvation, those who seek Him. If we believe our Father's promises for our future—each one of us—then those promises become an everyday reality for us, through faith. We are absolutely convinced that those promises are an everyday reality for us.

Now to our main point—the second point—we'll spend most of our time here.

2. Where does faith come from?

I was thinking back for examples and I remembered a lady in New England who called me up one day when we were living in New England. She attended church by herself and her husband wasn't called or converted. She obviously wished he was but that just wasn't God's will at that time. She told me she had just been diagnosed with appendicitis and she was just shaken to the core. She was conflicted—absolutely torn apart—because the church in those days, especially the church in New England, if you went to a doctor, if you darkened the door of a doctor, the whispering would start that they have a lack of faith. "They don't trust God; they're going to a doctor." She knew that if she went and had the operation that many in the church would look down upon her or she would be viewed as a secondclass Christian or the minister would not be well disposed to her. Yet at the time, she didn't have the faith to not go to the doctor. So she was just in a panic, she was absolutely torn apart. She desperately asked me, help me to have more faith. Hoping that somehow another human being could increase her faith. It was as though she was asking that somehow faith could come from me to her. Then everything would be alright. But that's not the way it works as we know. It's impossible. for one human being to transfer faith to another human being; it doesn't work that way.

Since it doesn't come from a human being, we have to ask the question,

"Where does it come from?"

One obvious answer is that faith is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, so let's go to Galatians 5:22 just to see that, as a reminder. We often think of love, joy, peace, long-suffering and gentleness but we forget that faith comes from the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith ... (KJV)*

Because faith is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, it means that it can be grown inside of us just like the other fruits—like love, joy, and peace. It can be grown. But also, faith is a spiritual gift. Paul tells us that in 1 Corinthians 12:7-9. I'm going to read this out of the New Living Translation.

1 Corinthians 12:7 *A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.*

8) *To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. (NLT)*

Somebody who has the mind, the memory, and the desire to research and study and can help others with knowledge.

9) *The same Spirit gives great faith to another ... (NLT)*

It's a spiritual gift. Faith is a gift from our Father through the Holy Spirit to each one of us. Since faith is a gift, just as the Holy Spirit is a gift, where does faith originate? Can a human being on our own work up faith? No, we can't. Or is it faith from a higher power, as we're hinting at here. Let's go to Galatians 2:14, 16, and 20. We're breaking into the context where Paul is challenging Peter because he's not eating with the Gentiles. He withdrew himself once the Jews came in and instead of sitting with the Gentiles, he went over and sat with the Jews. Paul took umbrage about that.

Galatians 2:14 *But when I saw that they [Peter and the Jews] walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel ... (KJV)*

The truth of the gospel was that the Father would call all nations before Him and that we should love all people as much as we love ourself. That was "hit yourself in the head with sledgehammer" new truth—a wakeup call—to the Jews of the day. So, they weren't walking according to this new truth.

14 continued) ... I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews [and he went to eat with the Gentiles but when the Jews came he withdrew himself], why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? (KJV)

Meaning to separate. By your own example, you're separating yourself. How does that work, he was saying. The Jewish tradition was, it was unlawful to have dealings with Gentiles and clearly not to eat a meal with Gentiles. You're rubbing shoulders with evil.

Going on in verse 16) ...

16) Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ ... (KJV)

By the faith of Jesus Christ. I'm emphasizing the word "of" because we're going to see that that has caused some problems in Christianity for a while.

16 continued) ... even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ ... (KJV)

Justified means "To be put in a right standing with our Father", meaning "to have all of our sins forgiven so that we are clean and just before the Father."

16 continued) ... and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (KJV)

So, we see that we're *justified by the faith of Christ*. Justification means that we don't have sin imputed to us—it's washed away. We are justified by the faith Jesus had when He walked this earth and has today and has had for an eternity. His faith led Him in being obedient unto death. His faith in His Father to be resurrected after He died. He had absolute faith that He would be resurrected. He had absolute faith that He was doing His Father's will and that was part of the plan of salvation—He didn't worry about that. Yes, humanly in the garden of Gethsemane He said,

“If there is a way for this cup to pass from Me, I would like to know about it, but nevertheless, Your will be done.”

He had the faith that His Father's will was what was important.

Here, we are going to take a little digression because some modern translations—New King James, NIV, NLT—translate instead of “*faith of Christ*” they translate it as “*faith in Christ*”. Of course, that sums up the belief of modern Christianity. That we are justified or made right, in a right standing with God Almighty if we just believe in Christ. It's all we have to do. We can go out and sin and then repent and re-repent and sin and sin and as long as we believe in Jesus Christ, everything is fine—I'll be in the Kingdom of God, I'll be an eternal being. It's the human belief that Christ was God, He became flesh and died for our sins. So modern Christianity takes that word “in” literally and says that's all you have to do. Just believe He existed, believe that He walked the earth, believe that He died for your sins and your works don't matter. The problem is, there is a mistranslation of that. You can go to virtually any interlinear, but the one that is easiest for me to use is [Bible Hub Interlinear](#)—it's online. Their interlinear shows us that the word “in” in the sentence, “*faith in Christ*” just isn't there. The word is not there. The Greek literally reads, *justified by faith from Christ*. Not *in* Christ, but *from* Christ—a gift. The New King James and the others are just very poor translations in that regard. The Wycliff Bible, The Berean Literal Bible, the Aramaic Bible in Plain English, Webster's Bible Translation, Young's Literal Translation, all say *faith from Christ* or *the faith of Christ*. The New Revised Standard Version and the Holman Bible, in their margins, say *faith of Christ*. The Literal Standard Version says *faith from Christ*.

Some people will say,

“*Faith in* or *faith of*, what difference does it make? It's not a big deal.”

Really? They dismiss it as semantics. It reminds me of the question, “Who is the God of the Old Testament?” People will say,

“What’s the difference—doesn’t make any difference—you just have to obey and it doesn’t make any difference who Yehovah is or who the Almighty is or the Most High or the Living God is. It doesn’t make any difference. It’s just semantics.”

Same thing is applied here. There is a huge difference, as we’re going to see.

The huge difference is, the faith *of* Christ is the faith that Jesus has at this very moment. The faith that He had when He walked this earth. Faith *in* Christ begins with a human. A human’s ability to believe. Is a human’s ability to believe going to give us salvation? When you think about that, it starts and ends in a human? No, it doesn’t work that way. Faith in Christ means our human faith in Christ. But the faith of Christ means the faith that Christ has today or had when He walked the earth and that begins with Him. Not us, not a human being—it begins with Him. It can be and is inside of us through the Holy Spirit. Having Jesus’ faith reside in us is made possible by the Holy Spirit residing in us. Therefore, Jesus lives in us and His faith lives in us. That is a huge difference than a human just technically acknowledging that Christ exists or that He walked this earth.

Going on in verse 20)...

20) I [Paul] am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me [being through the Holy Spirit and part of that, “living in me”, is His faith lives in me]: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (KJV)

At present, literally several billion people believe that Christ came to the earth, He lived, He died, He was resurrected—they believe that with every fiber of their being—billions of Christians. Many have zero doubt that Christ lived, so in that sense they have complete faith in Jesus Christ. Meaning they believe He exists or existed and walked this earth. But does that justify them in our Father’s eyes? Does that wipe away all of their sins and make them have a right standing with God Almighty? The answer is no, it just does not do that. We said the faith *of* Christ. That comes from Him. It doesn’t come from a human being; it comes from Him. But the faith *in* Christ begins with a human being and ends with a human being. Can things that are being with us, with a human, save us or reconcile us to God? Paul gives the answer; let’s go to Galatians 5:19-21. I’ll read this out of the New King James.

Galatians 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh ... (NKJV)*

He chose this word *works* as we’ll see, for a definitive purpose.

*19 continued) ... are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,
20) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,*

21) *envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.* (NKJV)

The point is that Paul called these *works of the flesh*. *Works* here is Strong's #2041 and is the Greek word *ergon* and it's very simple, it means "the deed or the doing or the labor". So *the labor of the flesh, the doing of the flesh, the deeds of the flesh*, are evident and are listed here. Going on in verse 22, back to the King James.

22) *But the fruit of the Spirit ...* (KJV)

He specifically, instead of using *works*, uses the word *fruit* and that's important.

22 continued) *... is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.* (KJV)

So, he used the Greek word *fruits*, and that is Strong's #2590, the Greek word *karpos* and it means "the fruit as plucked from the vine". It's ripe, it's ready to eaten or stored away. It's not early fruits, it's a complete fruit—it's ready to be consumed. He uses that instead of the word *works*. Why does Paul use the phrase *works of the flesh* versus *fruits of the spirit*. It tells us something important.

The *works of the flesh* as we all know we can do on our own. We don't need God Almighty to do the works of the flesh; we are perfectly capable of doing that. We spank ourselves from behind, every once in a while, when we do those things. We do so constantly in thought or in deed. We don't need any help from outside, any spiritual help—to produce the works of the flesh. The works of the flesh begin with us and end with us. Satan is always around stirring that pot of course. But they begin with us and end with us. So, the key is, *spiritual fruit cannot be grown on its own*. Since faith is a fruit of the spirit, faith can't be grown on its own. It can't be grown in isolation—it's impossible. It takes the Holy Spirit in us to make faith grow. Just like *love* and *goodness* and *gentleness* and *kindness*. It takes the Holy Spirit in us and we have to be exercising that Holy Spirit to make it grow. We cannot conjure up faith through our own willpower.

Over the years I've seen people in agony because they get in a trial and after the trial starts, they then start thinking about faith and then they don't know how to press the faith "button"—the start button—and get it revved up, so they are in a turmoil, like that lady I mentioned earlier. We can't conjure up faith with our own willpower. That's the lesson of Ancient Israel, isn't it? When Yehovah said, in Deuteronomy 5:29, *I wish they had such a heart*. They didn't have the heart because they didn't have the Holy Spirit. They couldn't do it on their own. So, if *faith* is a *fruit of the spirit*, it's clear that it's something that we cannot work up on our own. We can't do it, it's impossible. Even though billions have faith *in* Christ, it doesn't mean that they have the faith the Father wants. The very faith that Christ has. Because they don't have the Holy Spirit. It's impossible to have the faith our Father wants apart from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, those who do not have the Holy Spirit, do not have the faith that the Father wants—true

faith. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit; it is the same faith that Jesus had when He walked this earth and has today.

Now let's go back to Galatians 2:16 and 20 again, out of the King James. Let's read it with the understanding that we cannot produce faith on our own. We have to grow faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. (KJV)*

Continuing in Verse 20) ...

20) I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless, I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (KJV)

We are not justified by faith *in* Christ, but by the faith **of** Jesus living inside us through the Holy Spirit. Which enabled Him—remember when He was tested by Satan for 40 days and 40 nights—that faith was essential in resisting Satan. Also, it was essential for Him at the Garden of Gethsemane when He asked God, “Is there a different way? Is there some way around this?” And then said without pause, “Nevertheless what I want isn't important but what You want is everything and I will do as You want Me to do.” Then when He was being scourged, beaten and crucified, He did not quit. He said He could call down legions of angels but that would be quitting on the job He had to do. He did so through faith in His Father.

That's proven by the analogy Jesus used just hours before His death. Let's go to John 15:1-8. This takes on a new meaning when we're talking about faith and the context of faith. Christ is talking to His disciples on His last night on earth.

John 15:1 *I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it [we would say prunes it], that it may bring forth more fruit.

3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4) Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. (KJV)

Apart from us being the branch, Jesus living inside us, there's no true love, there's no true kindness or gentleness or mercy and certainly there's no true faith.

Continuing in verse 6)...

6) *If a man abides not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.* [Obviously talking about the lake of fire]

7) *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

8) *Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.* (KJV)

The point is, no amount of effort by the *branch* in and of itself, will cause it to produce fruit. It has to be connected to the vine. If it's separated from the vine—we've all seen that when a limb of a tree cracks off and landed on the ground or some flower or plant we have in the yard and a branch broke off and isn't connected to the root system, in a matter of a day or two it's going to shrivel up and die—Jesus is using this for a very dramatic point. If we are separated from Him—the vine—we are going to shrivel up and die. The key is, He is the source of faith, love, kindness and gentleness living in us. Of course, the Father too, I'm not dismissing the Father in any way in this. If separated from Christ, who is "the Vine", we as "a branch" will wither up and die.

No amount—talking about the subject of faith—of physical work, trying to generate faith on our own, is going to be successful. Faith has to come from the Father and His Son, as we've read earlier. It's a gift; it's a fruit and it has to be developed. Faith is indeed a gift from our Father through His Son. Let's go to John 14:17 and then verses 22-23. Jesus is speaking to the disciples—His last chance to communicate with them.

John 14:17 *Even the Spirit of truth* [talking about the Comforter that will come after His death and resurrection]; *whom* ["which", not whom] *the world cannot receive, because it seeth him* ["it", not him] *not, neither knoweth him* [it]: *but ye know him* [it]; *for he* [it] *dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.* (KJV)

Coming on the day of Pentecost. Verse 22.

22) *Judas* [not Judas Iscariot] *saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?*

23) *Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.* (KJV)

That's a promise of the Father and Son living, dwelling, with them as it was when these words were spoken. But *shall be in you*. If Jesus lives in us through the Holy Spirit, then the faith of Christ also lives in us. It's the faith that He had, and if He lives in us then that faith lives in us. If the Father lives in us, His faith lives in us. Faith is also a fruit of the Holy Spirit and it's up to us to develop that fruit and make it grow. How do you do that? We don't wait until the crisis is upon us and then want to magically start pumping iron to grow faith. It doesn't work that way. It's up to us to bear fruit every day of our life. How do we do that? We do it by exercising the Holy Spirit. If we don't exercise the Holy Spirit, it will become dormant in us and eventually go away. But if we exercise the Holy

Spirit, it gets stronger in us and that includes faith. It includes love, kindness, gentleness, and mercy but also faith. That's why Jesus said what He did in John 5 so let's turn there. The context is that Jesus had just performed a miracle at the pool of Bethesda, healing a man who had been lame for 38 years. John 5:19 and 30.

John 5:19 *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, [referencing the miracle that just occurred] but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. (KJV)*

He repeats it in verse 30.

30) *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. (KJV)*

It all comes back to our Father. Jesus looks to Him for His needs, including faith and then the two of Them dwelling in us pass it to us through the Holy Spirit, by dwelling inside us. It all comes back to our Father and I'm just speaking personally. I start every prayer by acknowledging who the Father is and then who I am. I always bring that out. You are the Most High, You are the Almighty, You are the living God, You are Yehovah, You have had no beginning, You will have no end and You live right now. You are eternal with Your Son eternal, living right beside You, in front of the sea of glass, between the cherubim. Millions if not billions of angels at Your disposal, singing praises to You with the 24 elders—that's God Almighty. I'm just a temporary human being that has a finite life span. Looking at that contrast, we begin to establish the fact that we are nothing and we cannot generate anything of ourselves, any fruits of God's Holy Spirit, because we have to go to Him for them. Where does faith come from? It comes from the Father, to the Son and then from the Son to us, because they dwell inside us.

The message is, we need to grow and develop faith every day of our lives, because we don't know when the next crisis is going to be tomorrow. It might be too late to generate faith. You can't generate it overnight just like you can't all of a sudden decide to lift weights and want to be buff in a week. It doesn't work that way.

The third and last point—we're going to end with a blessing that comes from faith.

3. Faith brings peace.

If we have the faith of the Father and the faith of the Son dwelling in us, we will have peace. Let's go to Romans 5:1. Paul is writing and says it directly, talking about being justified by faith again.

Romans 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: (KJV)*

What he's saying is, that if we are justified to our Father—that means there's no barrier between us and our Father, our sins are wiped away, so there's no barrier that way; Christ has died for our sins and those sins are wiped away when we repent of them—we can have peace because, what could happen to us? What horrible thing could happen to us that would separate from the love of God and from salvation? Nothing unless we allow it. Paul says, *I'm justified by faith. From that point on, I can have peace.* We know how much Paul suffered physical abuse, suffered unto death. He's saying, what effect does that have on me and my ultimate goal of being eternal in the presence of God Almighty.

Then again, he says in Philippians 4:6-7, I'll read this out of the New King James.

Philippians 4:6 *Be anxious for nothing [anxious can mean "worry" or "fear"], but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; (NKJV)*

Here comes *peace* again, verse 7.

7) and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (NKJV)

In the middle of a terrible crisis, we can have peace and tranquility and contentment if we simply put our trust in our Father. If we will just do that. So, what helps us have peace? We must have faith in our Father's will. If we have faith in our Father's will, then we can have peace. As Christ could do nothing apart from the Father, we can do nothing apart from the Father and the Son. If we want to be the bride of Christ, we have to have the very faith that Christ had when He walked this earth. So, what should we be trusting in our Father to do, in order to have peace? Why does faith bring peace? We know the answer to that, let's go to Romans 8:28, a very familiar scripture. Why does faith bring peace? It says it right here. If we have faith in these words, we will have peace. I'll read this out of the New Living Translation.

Romans 8:28 *And we know [we have faith in, we trust] that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose to them. (NLT)*

So, we can have peace even in the middle of a horrible trial because we know our Father will never do anything for our harm. Never do anything for our harm and in fact, everything that He causes or He allows to come to pass in our lives, is for our ultimate good. If we have that faith in the nature and character of the Father and His Son, we can have peace. We can trust in our Father's will. If we trust in our Father's will, we will have peace no matter how severe the trial might be.

Let's conclude now. We've seen that faith is the simple trust in our Father and His Son. Trust without reservation, knowing that whatever our Father's will is, it's best for us. That our faith comes from the faith of Jesus. Not from ourselves, not from another man,

but the faith that Jesus has, which is available to us today through the Holy Spirit. Our job is to exercise that Holy Spirit, thereby, when we exercise the Holy Spirit we grow and grow in faith as a fruit of the Holy Spirit. It's a gift. We exercise faith in us through the Holy Spirit by reminding ourselves in our Bible study and prayers, in our interactions with the brethren, every day, who we worship, who we surrender to, who we fall down on our knees before. That is the Almighty, that is the Most High, that is the living God and His Son who walked this earth and set a perfect example through faith.

Faith is the simple trust in our Father's promises for our future. If we have that simple trust, then They become a present-day reality for us. We're not wringing our hands and hoping or wondering if God can pull it off. No, we have absolute confidence, absolute trust that His promises will come to pass. If we do that, then those promises are a reality for us. Our ultimate faith is our trust in our Father's promises for the future. When we die or are transformed—if we live that long—then those promises, those future promises become an everyday reality for ourselves.

We also learned that in and of ourselves, we can't do anything. That includes growing our faith. We can't do it on our own. We've also seen that human faith in Christ will not save us, cannot save us. But the faith of Christ, the faith that Christ had, that same faith can be in us, Christ living in us through the Holy Spirit will save us. Faith begins—this kind of faith—with the Father and the Son coming to dwell inside us. Then exercising that faith. We've seen that living faith is a gift from the Holy Spirit and in reality, is a gift from our Father to us, because He loves us. He's going to place that faith inside us and then as with Abraham, He will wait and see what we do with it. Do we exercise it, do we call upon that? Do we incorporate it into our everyday life or just put it on a shelf and ignore it. Let's look at one scripture—we have two in closing—Revelation 14:12.

Revelation 14:12 *Here is the patience ... (KJV)*

The Greek word for *patience* can mean “endurance” or “patient waiting”.

12 continued) ... of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, [why would this be added?] and the faith of Jesus. (KJV)

We keep that faith that's in us through the Holy Spirit—we nurture it, we develop it, we exercise it. Let's learn from the example of Ancient Israel. The Old Testament is filled with the weak faith of Ancient Israel. They didn't have the heart, as we talked about before. What was the result of their lack of faith? Captivity, destruction, and death. If we don't have the faith that will be the result for us. Captivity to Satan, physical life destroyed, and then ultimately spiritual death and we obviously don't want that to happen. Rather than look to Israel, we need to look to Jesus Christ and follow His example because He used the power of the Holy Spirit from His Father in Him. We need to grab hold of that faith that Jesus had that gave Him the ability to be tortured and die for our sins and then after His death, be resurrected to eternal life. He trusted His Father to resurrect Him.

As we go forward from here, let's remember that we can do nothing of ourselves. The only good that we can accomplish is by the power of our Almighty Father. We're going to need this gift of faith that will enable us to endure what is coming our way down the road. If we have that faith then we can have *peace that passes all understanding* in the middle of a crisis. Let's look at one final scripture, Hebrews 11:13 and 16. I'll read this out of the NIV.

Hebrews 11:13 *All these people [referring to Noah through Moses in the previous verses] were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. (NIV)*

Continuing in Verse 16) ...

16) Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God ... (NIV)

Wouldn't we want to get to the point where our Father is never ashamed of us and is very pleased to be called the God of each one of us?

16 continued) ... for he has prepared a city for them. (NIV)

So, let's live by the faith that Jesus lived by, who is *the forerunner of our salvation*. He set the example—the perfect example. He demonstrated that faith every day of His life on earth. If we do that, then we can become the bride of the son of God through the living faith that Jesus had.