The Growing Faith

The expectation in Christianity



FREDRICK G. OMONDI

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Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

Faith is a very important thing in life without which one is lacking. To live without faith is God in to be half-living because only the soul and the body is living but the spirit is dead. It is to be half-dead. (Ephesians 2:1-2, 1Corinthians 15:45). Real life (abundant life) is found with one having faith in God, who is the truth and the life. (John 14:6; 10:10b).

God is a living God and any one that has faith in God is truly living. Life without trust in the Almighty God is but superficial living. To live half-dead means soon you will not be living but will be fully dead. God is the creator of heaven and earth and all that is therein and therefore to live in faith in God is creative living. (Genesis 1:1). Because God is ever living, therefore those with faith in God will be ever living and will not die. (John 11:25-26, 1 Corinthians 15:48-49). To live in faith is to live actively without passivity. Faith is a living word and to stop believing (having faith in God) is to stop living. (James 2:17). Therefore, one must continue to have faith and trust in God to be

spiritually alive. I can sum it up that faith is a continual belief in the Almighty God. (Habakkuk 2:4). Faith in God is a treasure. To them that will believe in God through Christ Jesus God will give them a measure of faith. (1 Corinthians 1:24, Romans 4:16-17; 12:3). The faith so given need to be well taken care of as it is very precious and can also be tried. (1 Peter 1:6-7)

In this book and in all my other books, I have endeavored to restrict myself in King James version of the Holy Bible in quotations and the subsequent texts, as it is the best ever translation in English and in case you are uncomfortable with of don't despair, as all is well and not lost. Whenever you find I have given a scripture quotation, just go to your Bible (whatever version it is) and read and you will be in the same page with me in your reading.

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Chapter One

What is faith?

Faith is believing in God and that God will do what he says as he means it. Faith is the beginning of a holy walk with the Lord it is therefore the foundation of the Christian walk and the very pillar of salvation. It is to have full confidence in God. It is to depend on God relying on Him. It is to trust in God wholly and to remain steadfast and faithful to Him.

Faith can be equated to the fear of the Lord as well as righteousness. Let us now take a look at some scriptures touching on the same.

AFTER these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this El-i-e'-zer of Damascus?

And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

And **he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.**

Genesis 15:1-6

WHAT shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

For **what saith the scripture?**

Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

Romans 4:1-5

NOW faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

For by it the elders obtained a good report.

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

Hebrews 11:1-3

The above scripture too I believe is self-explanatory in what faith is.

NOW the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house unto a land that I will show thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Har'-an.

And Abram took Sar'-a-i, his wife, and Lot his brother's son and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Har'-an; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Genesis 12:1-5

AND it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Mo-ri'-ah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Genesis 22:1-3

From the above two incidences we see that Abraham, obeyed God. It infers therefore that obedience to the word of God or the voice of God is equated to faith and same to being faithful to God.

Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth.

But as they sailed he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were in jeopardy.

And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, Master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm.

And he said unto them, Where is your faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! For he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.

Luke 8:22-25

Faith is believing the word of God irrespective of current situations or circumstances. No wonder in the above scripture Jesus asked his disciples “where is your faith?” The disciples had not believed Jesus on his word of going over the other side of the lake and therefore they had no faith then (they had panicked) when they saw the circumstance at hand in the lake. You can also read other case in 2 Kings 7:1-2

Chapter Two

The importance of faith

Faith is so important just as love such that the Bible has allocated a whole chapter on faith (Hebrews 11) just as love too (1 Corinthians 13) and for that reason, I saw it fit to detail the meaning of faith in chapter one for one to have a better understanding of the same.

Faith is a factor of life without which one cannot get far and cannot get much in life.

Faith is a key in life to spur one's life to the peak. It is a big treasure stored in one's heart if one has it and one can do exploits with it. You need faith for God to release to you your necessities and also it is impossible to please him without it. It is only by faith in God that one receives freely from him without paying any money. Jesus Christ many a times told those who were needy, "according to your faith let it be". Therefore, it is something worth contending for as the scriptures portray it.

Simon Peter, servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with

us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ:

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:1-11

From the above scripture we do find that faith is precious and leads a Christian into the everlasting kingdom of God.

PETER, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Blessed be the God of our Lord Jesus, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us

again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

1 Peter 1:1-9

From that scripture we do see that it is only in believing in Christ Jesus one receives the saving of one's soul and have a lively hope of the kingdom of God in heaven at rapture and that is why apostle

Paul kept the faith in Christ Jesus to the end as is recorded below.

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Apostle Paul contended for the faith for he found it worth it. How about you?

JUDE, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:
Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.
Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should

earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

Jude 1-3

That scripture too tells us that one who is saved must contend for the faith in Christ Jesus as we have seen in the earlier scriptures. Let us now explore other scriptures on the importance of the faith in Christ Jesus.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:14-16

By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

By faith E’-noch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of righteousness which is by faith.

By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Through faith also Sarah herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Therefore sprang there even one and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the seashore innumerable.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

But now they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.

Of whom it was said, that in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

By Faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

By faith Jacob, when he was a dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph; and worshiped, leaning upon the top of his staff.

By faith Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Israel, and gave commandment concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

By faith Moses, when he was come to years refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.

Through faith he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

By faith they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned.

By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.

By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.

And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gid'-e-on, and of Bar'-ak and of Samson, and of Jeph'-thah; of David also, and Samuel and of the prophets:

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions,

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong,

waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:

They were stoned, they were sown asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that the without us should not be made perfect.

Hebrews 11:4-5, 7-40

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith

Habakkuk 2:4

The fact that to be justified you need to live by faith make faith to be a very important thing in life.

And when Jesus was entered into Ca-per'-na-um, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,
And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of palsy, grievously tormented.
And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.
The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.
For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.
When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed,
Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and the west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.
But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
And Jesus said unto the centurion,
Go thy way; as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Matthew 8:5-13

You can see from the above scripture that Jesus was quite impressed by the faith of the centurion as it was so great and went on to say that many people of faith shall come in the kingdom of heaven and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (all which had faith in God). It means without faith it is impossible to inherit the kingdom of God. Further, Jesus granted the centurion's request and his servant was healed at that very hour, why? Because he had believed in Jesus. All the unbelieving will be cast into the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:7-8).

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Si'-don.

And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

But he answered not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Then came she and worshiped him, saying, Lord, help me.

But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs.

And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Matthew 15:21-28

This Canaanite woman's faith took Jesus by surprise and granted her what she had requested from him. At first Jesus was not bothered by the woman's request (verses 22-24) and it is only by her worship and answer that moved Jesus into action (verses 25-28). So, faith is something very big before the eyes of God making it important for us as well.

Probably you could still be wondering why Jesus was amazed at the faith of the centurion and that of the Canaanite woman.

It is because many people don't have faith and even those who have it only have some little faith and so not many have great faith. A good example is the case of a man who had a son with a dumb spirit (Mark 9:14-24) and the disciples of Jesus (Matthew 14:22-33; 17:14-21).

LET not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 14:1-6

Jesus re-affirmed to his disciples the need to continue believing in Him which is the way to going to God the Father in heaven.

THEREFORE being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: But whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

Faith is very important because it is by it that one can be justified before God and have access to God's grace to make us stand. Now look further at these two other scriptures on justification by faith.

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.
Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.
But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:6-7; 11

Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I win Christ,
And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Philippians 3:8-9

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;
Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

1 Timothy 1:18-19

We are in a spiritual warfare on earth as Christians and must hold on our faith. If we do not, we will not go far - we will have made shipwreck in our walk with the Lord. (Ephesians 6:10-12).

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Te-ko'-a: and as they went forth, Je-hosh'-a-phat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

2 Chronicles 20:20

Now these are very powerful words which king Jehoshaphat uttered before the Israelites when their enemies ganged up and gathered together to wage war against them. Although this was a physical war, the king nevertheless drew their attention to God who they had to believe in to be established (be victorious, be secure) and if they believed also in God's prophets (they shall prosper). That tells us that faith is paramount in life (faith in the one and true God). Therefore, if as a Christian we continue in faith in God, God will establish us. Now who doesn't want to prosper? If you want to prosper wholesomely, then you must believe in the true prophets of God.

Now let us look at other scriptures and see the importance of faith. It is only faith in God that will make him move and do something in his life as he honors faith directed to him.

And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Si'-don, and entered into a house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.

For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

The woman was a Greek, a Sy-ro-phoe-nic'-I -an by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.

And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

Mark 7: 24-30

Jesus Christ honored that woman's faith and the devil left her daughter instantly.

NOW when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Ca-per'-na-um.

And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

For he loved our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he

goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

Luke 7:1-10

Again here, the Lord Jesus honored the faith of the centurion and had his servant who was about to die-(very sick) healed.

AND as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the might cometh, when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Si'-lo'-am, (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

John 9:1-7

Now that is faith. Jesus had but to honor and heal the blind man who showed his faith by obeying the command of Jesus (although still blind, he went his way, and argued not).

And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gid'-e-on, and of Bar'-ak, and of Samson, and of Jeph'-thah; and David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:

Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions,

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong,

waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

Hebrews 11:32-34

Faith is that important. With it you can obtain promises and can be an overcomer (strong in different situations). So you and I are better off being in faith (believing and trusting) in God, the Almighty.

Now let me come to something that is the opposite of faith, that is, unbelief and the consequence of that and you can compare them.

THEN E-li'-sha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Sa-mar'-i-a.

Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be tomorrow about this time in the gate of Sa-mar'-i-a:

And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.

2 Kings 7:1-2, 18-20

Now as you can see, it is that painful. Unbelief (faithlessness) is not good at all. May the Lord help us not to doubt what he says. The Lord could not prosper - could not go far and had to be trod on as he believed not in the word of God spoken by His prophet Elisha. (2 Chronicles 20:20). Let us look yet at another example, the consequence of which was not as severe.

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a certain priest named Zech-a-ri'-ah, of the course of Abi'-jah: and his wife was Elisabeth.

And they were all righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

And it came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And Zech-a-ri'-ah saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him, Fear not Zech-a-ri'-ah: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Eli'-jah, To turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

And Zech-a-ri'-ah said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings.

And, behold, **thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.**

Luke 1:5-20

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

Daniel 11:32

If one knows his or her God, one can do exploits and that can only be done in faith and nothing else By knowing God (by believing in him) one is able to do exploits by one's faith.

HO, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Isaiah 55:1

From the above scripture you can see that God was not addressing only the Jews who he had chosen as his people, but to the nations of the world that they go to him and buy without money!! It is because the currency of heaven is faith by which one can get his/her needs from God without paying a penny or a cent. God is both so gracious and so generous

to mankind. If he was not that loving how could mankind survive as not all have money and even many that have money have only little and not much.

If you thought I am out of my mind talking like that read these scriptures what Jesus told: the woman of Samaria (John 4:9-14), the Jews (John 7:37-39), his disciples (Matthew 10:7-8), the apostate Church (Revelation 3:14-18) and the glorified Church (Revelation 21:6; 22:17).

From all the above you can see for yourself that faith is so important in the sight of God. His principle is that we receive freely from him by just our genuine faith in him (Hebrews 11:6).

For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

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,

Romans 4:13-16

It is faith that makes us heirs in the kingdom of God. Abraham as the father of faith lived by faith in God and thereby received God's promises and hence the need to live by faith to freely by God's grace receive his promises concerning your life as a believer / a child of God

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

God attaches more weight on faith and that is why he was pleased with Enoch and he rewarded him by taking him away from the earth to be with him in heaven (Hebrews 11:5). Therefore, faith is

mandatory with God as we are going to see in some other scriptures that follows hereunder:

LET not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:1-3

People are troubled in heart in this earth because of many things but in the above scripture Jesus Christ gave his disciples an advice that they continue with believing in God and by extension in him in life and by so doing, have an opportunity to ultimately be with him in heaven as what they go through is temporary and those who chose to come back to God they were destined for heaven as what they go through is temporary and those who choose to come back to God they were destined for heaven. Let us see what he had said to them again.

AND he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:

And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regardeth man;

Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus Christ in that scripture was emphasizing on faith and the need to continue in it despite what

they go through (the disciples) in life. His concern was that some would abandon their faith in him and at his coming back to take them into heaven (in the rapture of the Church) he would find some having no faith. So, it is paramount to remain in the faith, in Christ Jesus. Apostle Paul was equally concerned on the faith of the Christians at the church at Corinth and had to write to them to continue in the faith.

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

2 Corinthians 13:5

The Apostle had to remind them to live a life well pleasing to the Lord in their faith to prove that they are still with him (Christ still lives in them). He further told them that he and Timothy they have continued to live in pleasing the Lord and therefore the Lord is still with them and that they too need to live likewise (verse 6 onwards). Apostle Paul went

on further to remind Timothy to continue in the faith in Christ Jesus, in the following epistle.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.
For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.
I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:5-8

Apostle Paul prior to his departure (his death) which he sensed it was imminent, he reminded Timothy what he needs to do and encouraged him to remain in the faith under all circumstances in life. He himself he was confident before God for he endured all in life and finished the work the Lord gave him and remained in the faith. So it is keeping the faith / remaining in it that guarantee a Christian

entry into heaven and even receiving a reward as well.

It should be appreciated that it is only remaining in the faith that a Christian grows spiritually and end up maturing and only a mature Christian is going to be raptured into heaven.

And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us.

And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them,

Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea Lord.

Then touched he their eyes, saying, according to your faith be it unto you.

And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it.

Matthew 9:27-30

God does honor faith and act. Here were see that Jesus wanted to confirm from the blind men if they have faith in him before he healed them, making faith be paramount in receiving God's healing.

While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshiped him, saying,

My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples.

And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

For she said within herself, if I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Matthew 9:18-22

We see that Jairus had faith that Jesus can raise his daughter back to life (verse 18) and Jesus knew and went with him (verse 19) and the daughter was raised (verses 23-26). Likewise, with the diseased woman she also had faith (verses 20-21) and Jesus knew it and she was healed (verse 22).

And there sat a certain man at Lys'-tra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed;

Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.

Acts 14:8-10

Apostle Paul perceived in his spirit that this cripple had faith to be healed and commanded with a loud voice to stand upright on his feet and truly and surely the crippled leaped and walked. Well, the denominator in all these is faith. Faith is the important factor.

Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

Mark 9:23

Look at the above statement from the Lord Jesus Christ. That one must believe and then all things

become possible. Now, suppose you don't believe (have no faith)? You already know the answer.

And he left them, and went out of the city into Bethany; and he lodged there.
Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.
And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever.
And presently the fig tree withered away.
And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!
Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, if ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.
And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Matthew 21:17-22

Faith is a spiritual entity that can be seen spiritually (Luke 5:16-20)

And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

Luke 5:16-20

Jesus Christ here also saw their faith. Don't ask something from God which you don't have faith he

can do for you, as he will not do it (you have already disqualified yourself from receiving) you need to have enough absolute faith that God is going to do what you have asked for.
Faith has potential and is very powerful in nature. (Luke 17:5-6, John 14:12)

And the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith.
And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Luke 17:5-6

Faith has a big potential and with it one can do great things. Here too one can see the importance of faith by seeing the kind of power / potential it holds.

Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

John 14:12

Now the opposite of faith is fear and fear is an important tool of Satan the opposer of God. God has given those who believe in his Son Jesus Christ the spirit of faith and not of fear and therefore has encouraged them to be bold and courageous instead of being fearful. (2 Timothy 1:7, Joshua 1:9). Greater things can be done by us as promised by the Lord but only if we do believe (have faith)

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

Joshua 1:9

Faith other than in God, is not faith (false faith) and is useless and does not save and has no real power and is but destructive and not constructive. Fear expels faith and faith expels fear (Mark 4:40). For

one to be courageous and strong one must have faith in God. In this case God was simply encouraging Joshua to continue believing in Him.

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

Mark 4:40

Faith in God just means so much. It is very important because although we have a physical body there is a spiritual warfare waged by the Devil on all mankind, which is continuous. By putting our faith in Jesus Christ and only Him, we will be in a position able to fight the enemy by that faith. Faith is a spiritual weapon for a Christian, as for a non-believer, he or she has no weapon against the Evil one.

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians 6:16

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:4-5

We must overcome the world to be able to enter heaven. The Son of God did it by our faith we are going to do it. We must have faith in God or else we will surely perish in the lake of fire. Faith in God with holy and righteous living, of course.

Chapter Three

The source of faith

Faith has a source and there are ways that lead one to receive faith. Faith has to do with God. The scripture says that God gives a measure of faith those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 12:3)

For I say, though the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

The apostle Paul was addressing those who were in Rome and had accepted the gospel of Jesus Christ that God gave each one of them a measure of faith.

In a nutshell, faith mainly comes as a result of hearing the word of God and secondly also, as a result of seeing the manifestation of the power of God. We are going right away to see in the scriptures on each case accordingly.

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

It is quite clear that faith comes by hearing and not just hearing any thing but hearing by the word of God.

And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

Acts 15:7

That was Apostle Peter at the council in Jerusalem where they had assembled to sort out an issue. The apostle has clearly said that God chose them to spread the gospel to the Gentiles for them to believe. The word of the gospel is an agent that brings faith in them that open their ears and heart to hear and receive.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 10:44-48

How beautiful it is in confirming Roman 10:17 and Acts 15:7, that faith comes by hearing the word of the gospel. The Gentiles in Cornelius' house together with that household heard the word of the gospel and believed received a measure of faith and God confirming by filling them with the Holy Spirit such that they spoke with tongues and magnified God.

Let us now look at some scripture touching on seeing the manifestation of the power of God to get faith.

Now after two days he departed thence, and went into Galilee.

For Jesus himself testified, that a prophet hath no honor in his own country.

Then he was come into Galilee, the Galileans received him, having seen all the things that he did at Jerusalem at the feast: for they also went unto the feast.

So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Ca-per'-na-um.

When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

John 4:43-48

From the above account we see that the Galileans received Jesus because they had seen all that he did at Jerusalem at the feast.

Further, we see the statement of Jesus to the nobleman who had a sick son at Capernaum, that except he sees signs and wonders, he will not believe. That simply means that some people will have faith only after seeing the power of God at work, unlike the first group that receive faith by hearing the word of God. Jesus Christ said of the first group that they are blessed. (John 20:24-29)

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Did'-y-mus, was not with them when Jesus came.

The other disciples therefore said unto him, we have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hitcher thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

John 20:24-29

Faith does not come about as a result of seeing but by believing in what God says (2 Corinthians 5: 6-7, Romans 10:17)

Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his

eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

And I knew 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 when he had thus spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Laz'-a-rus, come forth.

And he that was dead came forth bound hand and foot with gravecloths: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

John 11:39-45

Verse 45 above tells us that the Jews that came to Mary and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him (had faith on him).

And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lyd'-da.

And there he found a certain man named Ae-ne'-as, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

And Peter said unto him, Ae-ne'-as, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

And all that dwelt at Lyd'-da and Sar'-on saw him, and turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:32-35

We see verse 35 that the people who saw the healing of Aeneas turned to the Lord (had faith in the Lord God).

So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Se-leu'-ci-a and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.

And when they were at Sal'-a-mis, they preached the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister.

And when they had gone through the isle unto Pa'-phos, they found a certain sorcerer, a false prophet a Jew, whose name was Bar-je'-sus:

Which was with the deputy of the country, Ser'-gi-us Paulus, a prudent man; who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

But El'-y-mas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?

And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Acts 13:4-12

In verse 12 above we see that the deputy saw what was done by the power of God and straight away believed.

I believe the above is enough account of how faith comes to an individual and from what source.

Chapter Four

The growth of faith

It can be said that faith is both expandable and contractible and that depends on how an individual treats / nurtures it; by giving it less or more attention. At the time of conversion an individual receives a measure of faith which can be said to be basic, minimal or little faith. (Romans 12:3, Matthew 14:25-31). Now the faith that one received at conversion must be nurtured by the word of God daily to keep it fresh and to confess of any sin and asking to be cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:7-9).

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Romans 12:3

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, it is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

And he said, come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Matthew 14:25-31

Anything that has life is active and grows. It can grow from one state to another state, from a small beginning to a big ending, from infancy to maturity. Giving an example for man, one grows from childhood to adulthood. A new convert (newly born-again Christian is likened to a spiritual baby)

as salvation comes as a result of having faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of one's life. Therefore faith is but a spiritual entity (baby) that can grow to maturity.

Faith can grow and grow and reach its peak. But it takes time and cannot grow overnight. As a human being takes much time to grow into an adult so is with faith, as long as it is properly attended to. The faith one has grow/is built in one's spirit. Faith comes by hearing the word of God and is fed by the word of God which serves as its food. Faith can and need grow to perfection/maturity. We need to continue in the word by both study and practice as well. (Romans 10:17, 1 Peter 2:2-3, 2 Timothy 2:15, James 1:22-25, Ephesians 4: 11-15).

So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 10:17

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

1 Peter 2:2-3

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:22-25

And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:
That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
But speaking the truth in love may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Ephesians 4:11-15

Faith is a spiritual seed that is created in a person's heart by the word of God and in a conducive environment germinate and begin to grow. Let us look at a few scriptures on the same.

THE same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.
And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they had no deepness of earth:

And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 13:1-9

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and a non with joy receiveth it;

Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

But he that received seed into good ground is he that heareth the word and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Matthew 13:18-23

From these two scriptures in the book of Matthew we are clearly shown how faith grows in a person's heart, one who has believed in the word of God and end up being fruitful depending on how good the soil was (how deep the word has sunk in the person's heart).

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:
Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Matthew 13:31-32

Here we get an illustration of how the word of God which is compared to a seed when it is well received in the heart of a person who had heard it, can grow to full maturity and be of much use to the world.

Chapter Five

Companions of faith

Ideally faith in God need not work alone but need some companions to supplement and establish it. In this chapter I am going to list the most common companions of faith as recorded in the Holy Scripture and some briefs on each of them.

1. Hope

One of the companions of true faith in God is hope as faith cannot operate alone except if it is dead faith, which is no faith at all.

We all know that faith is active and not passive (Hebrews 11:1-6, James 2:14-26). Let us now look at some other scriptures as well.

THEREFORE being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5:1-2

From the above scripture we do see that with faith comes hope to accompany it as true faith must have hope / trust in God who is truly faithful always. But the opposite is true, which is, without Christ there is no hope (Ephesians 2:11-13).

PAUL, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;
In the hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Savior;
To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

Titus 1:1-4

From the above scripture we do see that through preaching any one that acknowledges the truth which is after godliness (by genuinely repenting of one's sins believing in God of course), by that faith, hope is also birthed that accompanies it, as God

who is faithful had promised eternal life through his Son Jesus Christ (John 3:16, Ephesians 3:1-21, Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Acts 4:10-12, 2:36-41, 1 John 5:9-15).

For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.
And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.
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 if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

Romans 8:22-25

Faith in God in true (genuine) repentance brings salvation packed with hope as God is faithful in his promise for eternity with him if we remain faithful in him – Colossians 1:21-23. Now the last verse above brings us to yet another companion of faith

which we shall look at in due course. But before it, let us look at the following:

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

1 Corinthians 13:13

In the above scripture we do see yet another companion of faith which is listed after hope.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

By believing in the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus we have a lively hope of inheriting everlasting life in heaven which God has prepared for the holy saints, (John 3:16) and therefore we

must have hope in addition to faith in order to be true heirs of God up there.

I now give you two samples from the Scriptures of those who added hope to their faith namely Abraham (Romans 4:13-18) and David (1 Samuel 17:31-37).

MOREOVER, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

And that he was seen of Ce'-phas, then of the twelve:

After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

After that, he was seen of James; then all the apostles.

And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

For I am least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Therefore whether it was I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.

Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up

Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

And if Christ be not raised your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept.

For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom of God, even the Father, when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:1-26

From the above scripture we are guaranteed resurrection from the dead (all of us who have believed in Christ Jesus) for he Himself also was resurrected by God the Father and we who sleep in him too will follow suit and that is why our faith is not in vain and we have a lively hope even after our death (sleep).

2. Patience

This is another companion of faith and which must be there before we finally receive God's promises which are true but don't come within a day but at God's appointed time. Meanwhile we will go through many mixed experiences before we receive the promises but need not lose hope but wait upon God to bring it to us. Patience in enduring all that we go through in life will make us get what God promised us in this life or in the life ahead of us (eternity). We need to know that genuine faith in

God will be tested over again and again and it is one's patience through the trials being steadfast in the faith that will count (1 Peter 1:1-9).

For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.
For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.
For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

1 Peter 2:19-21

Believers in Christ Jesus must be ready to suffer for Christ's sake enduring patiently in order to reach their final destination in the journey of faith.

THEREFORE being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;
And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:1-5

When we are saved we have peace with God through Jesus Christ who we have put our faith in, but we have no peace with the world as we are no longer of the world but of heaven (John 16:32-33) and Jesus Christ has prayed for all his believers (John 17:9-21). Tribulations will come our way but we need patiently persevere unto the end for our good (Romans 12:9-12).

And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to full assurance of hope unto the end:
That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.
For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiply I will multiply thee.

And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

Hebrews 6:11-15

From the above scripture we see that, faith and patience enduring in life one obtains the promises of God.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

now the just shall live by faith: but if any draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 10: 35-39

By not being patient enduring in reproaches and afflictions, we thereby cast away our faith in God

drawing back from him and end up receiving his promise. Let us all be patient in life by faith hoping and waiting for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to take us home, as soon and very soon he will come for sure, for us who keep on believing (John 14:1-3). I now give you two samples from the Scriptures of those who added patience to their faith namely Isaac (Genesis 25:19-26) and Job (James 5:10-11).

Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.
Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

James 5:7-8

Christians have to be patient in life in whatever situation as they wait to be rewarded by the Lord for their patience in waiting for him.

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be though faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; he that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:8-11

Sufferings await believers right here on earth because Satan who is the god of this world is not happy with them and will do all sorts of things to them in order to discourage them from pursuing their eternal goal but the Lord has promised very big things to overcomers you and I- let us grasp them now!

3. Love

This is another companion of faith which need to work in hand with faith. As I said earlier, faith is active and therefore all activities of faith need to be done in love for them to be treated as righteous deeds, as God is love and is righteous and holy (1 John 4:7-11, Genesis 18:22-25) as by acting in love is to act whole heartedly and is a pleasing thing to the Lord (Numbers 32:10-12 Matthew 22:34-40).
The following scriptures I believe tells it all.

THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have no charity, I am become as a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.
And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understanding all mysteries, and all knowledge; and **though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.**
And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have no charity, it profiteth nothing.

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not, charity, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

1 Corinthians 13:1-8

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; **but the greatest of these is charity.**

1 Corinthians 13:13

From the above two scriptures it is obvious that faith minus love (charity) is nothing. Therefore, faith must operate in God's love to be of much use or else it is disqualified from the word go. Let us look at other scriptures for some enlightment.

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.
Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;
Not slothful in businesses; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Romans 12:9-11

Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.
For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal,
Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.
Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:8-10

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another as he gave us commandment.

1 John 3:23

Please let us keep our faith in some safe box if we don't want to operate in love as it is of useful then.

Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Let all your things be done with charity.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

The above scripture underscores it all; That everything we do as Christians must be done with charity (love).

I now give you two samples from the Scriptures of those who added charity to their faith namely Moses (Exodus 32:1-14) and Joseph (Genesis 50:1-21).

4. Prayer

This is yet another companion of faith and work hand in hand with faith to have some relevance. The Scriptures tell it all in the life of Jesus Christ whose life revolved around prayer and service to his Father.

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:
For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?
Or if he ask a fish will he give him a serpent?
If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Matthew 7:7-11

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your heart and minds through Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

Apart from our faith we need to add prayer to it in asking God to do things for us and request for things to happen.

God has the power to do all that we ask if it is in his divine will (1 John 5:13-15). In serving the Lord it is not only our faith that makes things to happen but by the power of the Holy Spirit and which is released in prayer. Also of much importance is that in prayer, we have a closer relationship with the Lord and have the opportunity of fellowshipping together. Suppose we don't have a close relationship with the Lord in prayer and he is the one that releases power to us to serve him, how can our faith alone be of use to us? Let us look further

at some scriptures touching on prayer to accompany our faith.

AND he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;
Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man:
And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.
And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regardeth man;
Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.
And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.
And **shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?**
I tell you that **he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?**

Luke 18:1-8

Verses 1, 7 and 8 tell it all –faith plus prayer all need to go hand in hand and not faith alone or prayer alone. Prayer supplements faith for effectiveness.

Rejoice evermore.

Pray without ceasing

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

By faith we need to pray continually.

Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

Colossians 4:2

Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; **continuing instant in prayer;**

Romans 12:10-12

But the end of all things is at hand: **be ye** therefore **sober, and watch unto prayer.**

1 Peter 4:7

From the above scriptures it is clear that after we have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, we need to be prayerful the rest of our lives. From all the foregoing it is quite clear that faith need not be operated in isolation.

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray, Is any merry? let him sing in psalms.
Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:
And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.
Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

James 5:13-18

Going by that scripture we do find something else apart from faith and prayer and it is righteousness. Praying in faith without having righteousness in life is vain in itself and that brings us to yet another subject which is a companion of faith.

I now give you two samples from the Scriptures of those who added prayer to their faith namely Hannah (1 Samuel 1:1-19) and Elijah (1 Kings 18:1-29).

5. Righteousness

Righteousness is another pillar of faith as it serves as a support and establishes faith in its operation. Righteousness in simple terms is to always obey the word of the Lord which is essentially the will of

God. Therefore, faith without righteousness deeds in life can't save as it comes to nought.

When righteousness is lacking in life, one's faith becomes dysfunctional and one end up not getting the desired result. For faith to function pretty well just as we saw in the case of Elias/Elijah (James 5:17-18) one must come out of unrighteousness (sin) and live a righteous life as Joshua (Joshua 11:15) whose faith saved them and the Israelites against their enemies by commanding the sun to stand still until they overcome their enemies and the Lord granted him and that came to pass (Joshua 10:12-14). Let us now navigate through the scriptures so as to get more clarity on this pillar of righteousness.

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.

Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.

Psalm 34:13-15

The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.

Proverbs 15:29

Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.

To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the LORD: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of the goats.

When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with: it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me: I am weary to bear them.

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Wash you, make you clean: put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

Learn to do well; seek judgment, releave the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Isaiah 1:10-17

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

John 9:31

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19

From all the above it is quite clear that without righteousness though we have faith, our prayers will not be answered by God meaning our faith will be of no use to us as we have rendered it dysfunctional. Our faith needs to be supported by righteousness to be of use to us as the following scripture suggests.

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

2 Peter 1:5

God is righteous and so is his Son and we too must be living righteously to remain in God for our faith to function properly to benefit others and us as well. Jesus was always with the Father for he always did the things that pleased his Father (John 8:29), the same applies to us as we are the branches and Jesus Christ is the true vine (John 15:1-5).

David the son of Jesse when he went to a physical battle against Goliath of Gath, he armed himself with a sling and five smooth stones and because of his faith in God he prevailed against Goliath.

All those who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ face spiritual battles on a daily basis and apart from their faith (a sling) they need to add to it the above five pillars of faith (five smooth stones) in their Christian walk in order to be able to accomplish well their calling in the Lord finishing doing what God intended them to do in life here on earth and can therefore boldly say as apostle Paul told Timothy in his second epistle to him (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:
Henceforth there is laid for up me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Now Let us have a look at the life of David which incidentally was characterized with the five pillars of faith and that is why Christians need to put their feet in David's shoes by emulating his life.

1. Hope (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

Although David knew that Saul was still the king over Israel, he still had hope in God after he was anointed to be king that God is faithful and will bring it to pass in his life as he had total trust in him (*1 Samuel 17:32-37).* David hoped in God to deliver him from the giant Goliath of Gath.

When judgments were pronounced to him (David) by God through his prophet, he hoped and trusted in God and chose to be in God's hands instead of men's hands (2 Samuel 24:1-14).

2. Patience (2 Samuel 2:1-7, 5:1-5)

David waited on God's time to rule over Israel and Judah after he was anointed by the prophet Samuel and had to go through many hardships in the hand of Saul who was always looking for an opportunity to slay him because of envy and David had to wait until the death of Saul (quite a long time I believe).

3. Love (1 Samuel 18:1-4)

Jonathan loved David and David too loved Jonathan by extending it to Jonathan's son

Mephibosheth after Jonathan's death and had great favor on Mephibosheth's life. David showed that he really had loved Jonathan by extending it to Jonathan's son Mephibosheth after Jonathan's death and had great favor on him *(1 Samuel 25:1-10, 26:1-25).* Although David had an opportunity to revenge on Saul who was always after his life, instead he preserved Saul's life. David because of his love on Jonathan and Saul, he mourned over their death (2Samuel 1).

4. **Prayer (1 Samuel 23:1-14, 30:1-10, 2 Samuel 2:1-7, 5:17-25, 21:1-6)** David proved that he was a prayerful man going by the above scriptures.

5. **Righteousness (1 Samuel 13:13-14)**

For the scripture above to record that David was a man after God's heart and God is righteous, it follows therefore that he loved righteousness and probably that is why he is regarded as the greatest king Israel ever had in history (*1 Samuel 24:1-22).*

The fact that David did no evil to Saul though he had an opportunity shows that he was a righteous man (*2 Samuel 8:15).* David's reign was characterized with righteousness on the people (*I Samuel 30: 21-31).* When David and the men with him returned from battle and came with spoils from their enemies, David was categorical and allowed the sharing of the spoils with those who had not accompanied them to battle as he saw that God was the one that preserved their lives and they came back alive.

Lastly because David had all the above five companions or pillars of faith, when he went to battle, he won all of them (1 Samuel 17: 1-54, 30:1-20, 2 Samuel 3:1-25, 8:1-14 and 10:1-19).

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according o his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, **that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.**

Titus 3:3-8

With faith comes good works by/through the Holy Spirit and which must be maintained.

From the above facts it is quite clear that the five pillars of faith are quite vital and should not be underrated or ignored at all in the walk of faith.

I now give you two samples from the Scriptures of those who added righteousness to their faith namely Noah (Genesis 6:1-22) and Elijah (James 5:17-18).

Chapter Six

Types of faith

Just as the anointing of the Holy Spirit come in levels. So is faith. Faith is in levels and we are going to see the various levels/ types as we explore the Holy Scripture.

1. Mustard seed faith

THEN said he unto the disciples, it is impossible but that offenses will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come!

It were better for him that a mill-stone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones.

Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.

And if he trespass against thee seven times a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.

And the apostles said unto the Lord, increase our faith.

And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamore tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.

Luke 17:1-6

The issue Jesus brought to the attention of the disciples in verses 3 and 4 was too much for them to bear and hence the request they gave to Jesus in verse 5. But Jesus surprised them the more in verse 6. Here we learn that faith is more qualitative than quantitative. The disciples need was but a small genuine faith that is alive (active) to make anything possible even those that might seem to be impossible. So, Jesus did not increase their faith in their context. Genuine faith in God however small can take root and grow, as it has high potential for growth.

2. Little faith

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold

to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them.

And ye not much better than they?

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field; how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

And yet is say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of those.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

Matthew 6:24-30

Little faith as we have seen in this scripture can result in few achievements in life. Jesus Christ was advising his disciples not to be unnecessarily worried of things in life but to believe God to provide as he is the source of provisions to His creatures.

And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.
And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.
And his disciples came to him, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.
And he said unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?
Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

Matthew 8:23-26

As I have just said little faith may result in few achievements, here is proof enough as the disciples could not rebuke the winds in the sea and had to

depend on their Master Jesus Christ to do it for them for calm to prevail.

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.
And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.
But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.
And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.
And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.
But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; It is I; be not afraid.
And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me came unto thee on the water.
And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on water, to go to Jesus.

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Matthew 14:22-31

By doubting it means having just some little faith in one's heart.

THE Pharisees and the Sad'-du-cees came, and tempting desired him that he would show them a sign from heaven.

He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather; for the sky is red.

And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but

the sign of the prophet Jonah. And he left them, and departed.

And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sad'-du-cees.

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

How is it that you do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sad'-du-cees?

Matthew 16:1-11

3. Great faith

NOW when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Ca-per-na-um.

And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.

And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

For he loved our nation, and he hath built as a synagogue.

Then Jesus went with them. And when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldest enter under my roof:

Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

For I also am a man set under authority, having under me soldiers, and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

When Jesus heard these things, he marveled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.

Luke 7:1-10

Great faith totally believes in God's word and unquestionably it brings results.

Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Si'-don.

And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have Mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

But he answered her not a word.

And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Then came she and worshiped him, saying, Lord, help me.

But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

And she said, Truth, Lord; yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Matthew 15:21-28

Great faith is highly expectant and for sure receives results

4. Exceedingly growing faith.

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth.

So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:

2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

Exceeding growing faith is exemplified by the ability to patiently endure persecutions and tribulations undeterred in the faith, of which apostle Paul saw in the church at Thessalonica and commended the brethren for it.

5. Grounded and settled faith.

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

Colossians 1:23-24

You can read the epistle of James (James 2:20-22).

Apart from the above levels of faith we also have faith as the fruit of the Spirit and faith as the gift of the Spirit. This I can call it as the climax/apex where faith has reached home (have totally settled in one's heart) and is at rest and completely unmoved.

6. Faith as the fruit of the Spirit

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law

Galatians 5:22-23

This is the faith as manifested by the Holy Spirit in a Christian.

7. **Faith as the gift of the Spirit**

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

1 Corinthians 12:9

This is the faith of God that God imparts directly in the body of Christ in some believers as He chooses and which gives supernatural enablement in

confronting problems or difficult situations in life with confidence without wavering. One with the gift has unusual measure of trust in the power of God and through this gift one can get the result of the working of a miracle in a situation though it may not come immediately, all the same God can bring it to pass. Let us look at a few examples in the Scripture.

And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:
And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.
And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.
And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.
And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig three which thou cursedst is withered away.

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

For verily I say unto you, That whosesoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

Mark 11:12-14, 20-24

As I said not all Christians have this gift and that is why some Christians easily get results, yet others seem to struggle to achieve things in life.

AND Eli'-jah the Tish'-bite, who was of the inhabitants of Gil'-e-ad, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

And Eli'-jah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Eli'-jah went up to the of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

And it come to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand.

And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

And it came to pass in the meanwhile, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jez'-reel.

And the hand of the LORD was on Eli'-jah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jez'-reel

1 Kings 17:1; 18:41-46

Here we see that Elijah had the faith to pronounce drought and it came to pass for a period of three

years and six months then later prayed and there was a great rain.

Earlier we saw that Jesus was not amused with the fig tree that had no fruit while he was hungry and had the faith to curse it and it withered away and dried to the root within a day.

Christ had all the gifts of the Spirit including faith (Ephesians 4:5-8)

IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

And God said, Let there by light: and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3

We see that at creation God used faith to create by just saying a word in each case for things to happen. That was the faith of the Holy Spirit, the faith of God itself. If you continue in the same

chapter after verse 3, still God just said a word and there was some creation.

And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.
And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Par'-an, to Ka'-desh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land.
And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.
Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the city are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.
The A-mal'-ek-ites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hit'-ti-tes, and the Jeb'-u-sites, and the Am'-o-rites, dwell in the mountains: and the Ca'-na-na-ites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.

And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

Numbers 13:25-30

We see that after giving out an accurate report of their mission where they were sent by Moses it seems obviously the congregation had lost hope in the promised land and Joshua had to still the people and encourage them (verse 30). Although all the report was true, Joshua was nevertheless not perturbed by the circumstances and he had the audacity and told the congregation that they move at once to possess the land, as they are able to overcome the land, eh! Now that is faith. Now that is the gift of faith as one believes in a thing that seems impossible by the naked eyes.

And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:
But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.
Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles which I did in Egypt and in the

wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

But my servant, Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereunto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

(Now the A-mal'-ek-ites and the Ca'-na-an-ites dwelt in the valley.)

Tomorrow turn you, and get you into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea.

And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto, Aaron, saying,

How long will I bear with this evil congregation, which murmur against me? I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel, which they murmur against me.

Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your

whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,

Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, Save Caleb the son of Je-phun'-neh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

Numbers 14:20-30

Chapter Seven

Enemies of faith

Faith has enemies because it is both important and very precious (Hebrews 11:6, 1 Peter 1:7; 2 Peter 1:1)

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

That is how important faith is.

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 1:7

That is how faith is precious.

SIMON Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious

faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ

2 Peter 1:1

That is how precious faith is. There are many enemies of faith the main one being sin generally. We may have faith but still fail to get from God because of sin in us. Sin is a stopper or a blocker of the things we ask from God and therefore one need to remove it out of one's life to expect to get one's request from God. Now we are going to look at some of the things that are hindrances to faith.

a) Ignorance

Ignorance of the word of God is an enemy. It is a stripper of faith, whereas on the other hand the knowledge of the word of God is a dresser of faith as by hearing the word of God brings faith. (Romans 10:17)

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing

thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hosea 4:6

The children of Israel rejected / refused to hear the words of the Lord and therefore lacked knowledge and became ignorant. An ignorant person is a disadvantaged person.

b) Disobedience

Disobedience to the word of God is an enemy of faith.

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

But whoso looketh into the perfect law of the liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a

forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

James 1:22-25

c) Doubt

Doubt is an enemy of faith

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

And he said, come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Matthew 14:28-31

We can see that by Jesus command for Peter to come on the water, Peter had faith then and could walk on water until the time he doubted and began to sink (verse 31)

d) Sight

Sight is also an enemy of faith.

(For we walk by faith, not by sight)

2 Corinthians 5:7

Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

Habbakkuk 2:4

But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

And they brought up and evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, though which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Numbers 13:31-33

These ten other spies apart from Joshua and Caleb were but men of sight and not of faith and were but walking in the flesh (faithlessly). Their report was just sight, sight, sight and with it comparing with themselves (their flesh/body). Their report "sight" and "comparison," just removed faith from the congregation and resulted in hopelessness and murmurings which seriously displeased God such as he swore unto them that they will not enter that land.

And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou comest not within the days

appointed, and that the Phil-is'-tines gathered themselves together at Mich'-mash;

Therefore said I, The Phil-is'-tines will come down now upon me to Gil'-gal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD has sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

1 Samuel 13:10-14

Here king Saul was not walking by faith but by sight because he acted foolishly by what he was seeing-people scattered away from him and the Philistines gathering together for battle.

e) Impatience

Impatience is an enemy of faith and make one act prematurely.

And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gil'-gal; and the people were scattered from him.
And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings.
And he offered the burnt offering.

1 Samuel 13:8-9

King Saul was a bit hasty and could not wait a bit longer for the prophet Samuel and went ahead to offer a burnt offering. There are many reasons that can make one not to be at an appointed place in time but can come a bit later as the case of Samuel who came just after king Saul had offered a burnt offering. (verse 10). King Saul could have waited just a bit longer for the prophet's arrival.

AND when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him,

Up, make us gods, which shall go before us. For as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

And Aaron said unto them, Break off the gold earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said,

These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt

And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.

And they rose up on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings: and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

Exodus 32:1-6

Here it is all to do with impatience. The people of Israel ended up doing a heinous act. The same people had affirmed that Moses brought them up out of the land of Egypt and now they were impatient waiting for him to lead them and wanted other gods (idols) to lead them. They had gone to the lowest level of their walk with God, they became that faithless. (had lost their faith in God).

f) Fear

Fear is still another real enemy of faith and Satan uses it so much on people especially when one is bereaved, is distressed, has fallen sick or is in an awkward situation, the enemy brings. Fear such that one is incapacitated in one's faith. Fear is the opposite of faith and when it comes in one, faith goes out. But God the Creator is a faithful God and expects those who believe in Him to be men and women of faith in their lives. Remember in chapter five under the title 'Types of faith' I told you how

God created the heaven and earth and all that were therein simply by saying a word for creation to take place (appear). God was just using His faith. The scripture is full of God's word telling his people not to be afraid, not to fear and instead admonishing them to be brave and courageous.

God knows that the moment you are afraid or fearful, you have fallen prey to His arch-enemy Satan and your faith is made void because you become passive but faith need to be active all the time as it is alive. If you keenly look at the Scripture you will find that God has said probably hundreds of times these words:-'Fear not' and also 'Do not be afraid' because he knew that Christians will be faced with many challenges in life and only faith in Him will sustain them. The following scripture is just one of those that encourages faith and courage instead of being fearful and afraid of situations in life.

NOW after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake, unto Joshua that son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying.

Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all these people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

From the wilderness and this Leb'-a-non even unto the great river Eu-phra'-tes, all the land of the Hit'-tites, and unto the Great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

Only be thou strong and courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein; for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever goest.

Joshua 1:1-9

You can see for yourself that God has encouraged Joshua to be strong and courageous three times between verses 6 to 9. You cannot be brave or courageous or strong in fear, but only in faith.

g) Unbelief

Unbelief equally is an enemy of faith. Where there is unbelief there is no faith.

THEN E-li'-sha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, Tomorrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shek'-el, and two measures of barley for a Shek'-el in the L gate of Sa-mar'-i-a.

Then a Lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shall see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

And the people went out, and spoiled the tents of the Syrians. So a measure of fine flour was sold for a Shek'-el, and two measure of barley for a Shek'-el, according to the word of the LORD.

And the king appointed the Lord on whose hand he learned to have the charge of the gate: and the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died, as the man of God had said, who spake when the king came down to him.

And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a Shek'-el, and a measure of fine flour for a Shek'-el,

shall be tomorrow about this time in the gate of Sa-mar'-i-a;

And that Lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof.

And so it fell out unto him; for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.

2 Kings 7:1-2; 16-20

Poor man, he heard the word of the Lord and would have received faith in believing. But because of unbelief, he ended dying. He might have reasoned in his mind "Are the windows in heaven so big as to make such a thing possible?" Yes, the windows are super big for both heaven and earth. God Himself is Almighty and cannot be compared to mortal man or anything else (Isaiah 40:12-26).

h) Acceptance of negative reports

And, behold, there came a man named Ja-i'-rus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell

down at Jesus' feet and besought him that he would come into his house:

For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.

While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.

But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.

And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden.

And all wept and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth.

And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.

And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise.

And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway; and he commanded to give her meat.

Luke 8:41-42, 49-55

When Jairus went to Jesus for her daughter's healing already he had faith in him. But when he received a negative report of death of her daughter, Jesus knew that his faith would be affected and that is why he advised Jairus to hold to his faith and it will be well with her daughter, and Jairus took the advice and clung to his faith and was not moved by the negative report and his daughter was restored back to life by Jesus. Same case as that of Job who did receive many bad (negative) reports but was steadfast in his faith in God (Job 1) and at long last God rewarded him (Job 42). Unlike the children of Israel who heard of a negative report about the size of the inhabitants of Canaan and lost their faith in God who promised them the land which he swore to their fathers and they murmured and cried before Moses and Aaron (Numbers 13:26-14:4).

In life we will get negative reports from people for sure but we need not lose our faith in God but believe him in all circumstances. Moreover, God says all things are possible to them who believe. Unfortunately, many of us when we receive a

negative report, we let it sink deep in our hearts and our faith is weakened, dissolves or is lost completely in us. Negative reports when accepted they become potential danger to the faith one has in God.

Notes to the reader

Thank you for reading this book. If by now you had not yet given your life to Jesus Christ, you can do so now be repeating this prayer of repentance believing with all your heart for God to save you. "Lord Jesus, I come to you now, as a sinner and do repent now of all my sins. Please forgive me and save my life. I thank you for saving me today, in Jesus name, Amen"

Take a step further and join a church where the word of God is preached and practiced. Ask the Pastor to have you baptized in much water and be prayed for to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Any views, comments and accompanying scripture is welcome.

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