



Hebrews 12:1 - 2 (NIV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith,

who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Look to Jesus Christ to Perfect our Faith

Why PERFECT - COMPLETE our Faith?

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Why PERFECT - COMPLETE our Faith?

Doubts

Discouragement

Disappointments

Distractions

The Birds of the air seeking to steal away the word

Spiritual Attacks

Don't want to be disqualified from running the race

Not Sure of the Word

TO PERFECT MEANS

- ✓ To make <u>Complete</u>
 like a missing piece of a jigsaw puzzle.
- ✓ To **Finish** as in not leaving the job partly done.
- To <u>Mature</u> or ripen like a fruit ready to be eaten.

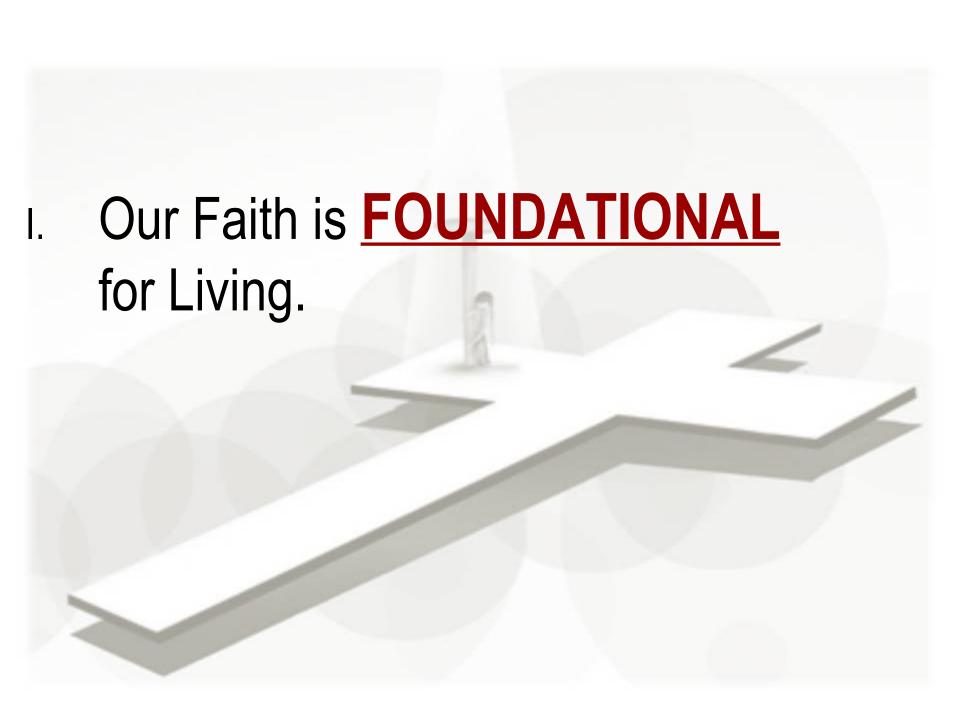
TO PERFECT MEANS

To make Whole as in filling up whatever gaps remaining.

For the **Situation** and the **Issue**.

For the **Journey** of our walk on this earth.





I. Our Faith is **FOUNDATIONAL** for Living.

2 Peter 1:5

But also for this very reason, giving all <u>diligence</u>, <u>add to your faith</u> virtue, to virtue knowledge ...

Matthew 7:24

Therefore whoever <u>hears</u> these sayings of Mine, and <u>does them</u>, I will liken him to a <u>wise</u> man who <u>built his house on the rock</u>





II. Our Faith overcomes the **WORLD**.

1 John 5:4 - 5

⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith. ⁵Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who **believes** that Jesus is the Son of God?

II. Our Faith overcomes the **WORLD**.

1 John 5:19

We know that we are of God, and the <u>whole world</u> <u>lies under the sway of the wicked one</u>.

John 16:33

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.

But take heart! I have overcome the world.

Trouble in the world because of the Fall of Man.

Examples of rain, flood and the wind that comes against us

When our lives are threatened

When your teenage child turns rebellious

When there is a family crisis

When we are retrenched

When you meet a car accident

Terrorists

When a loved one is taken very ill

When someone you depended on very strongly is no longer around

Examples of rain, flood and the wind that comes against us

Fears for **Tomorrow** **Anxiety for** loved ones

Betrayed by a close friend

Falling Sick | Stress of Work | Emotional Conflicts

Strife in the home and work place Loss of a Job

When your "god-father" in your workplace / business venture is no longer around

II. Our Faith overcomes the **WORLD**.

Matt 7:25

and the <u>rain</u> descended, the <u>floods</u> came, and the <u>winds</u> blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was <u>founded on the rock</u>.

- I. Our Faith is **FOUNDATIONAL** for Living.
- II. Our Faith overcomes the WORLD.
- III. Now, Faith **IS** the **SUBSTANCE** of things hoped for, the evidence of things **NOT** seen Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)

1. The word "Faith" is sandwiched between the word "Now" and "S" which indicate that faith involves believing in the God who operates in the **present** tense, as opposed to just believing some historical records of bible stories or that he will do something for us in the future.

2. **Faith** and **Hope** are distinguished in this passage as being **different** from one another.

3. Hope comes from our <u>belief</u> system - bible knowledge and doctrine that give us the foundation for knowing the promises of God, appropriating the grace of the divine exchange, etc.

- 4. Faith converts our belief (hope) and makes it a present reality.
- 5. Hope is believing that something will happen in the future.
 - Faith does this by giving "substance" to hope i.e. it makes it something tangible for the "now".

III. Now, Faith **IS** the **SUBSTANCE** of things hoped for, the evidence of things **NOT** seen.

Faith is the **title** deed of things hoped for. A title deed is something that assures us or guarantees that the house we have purchased is ours even if we don't physically see it, touch it, or have it in our possession.

7. This title deed or substance is <u>unseen</u> i.e. it is not in the <u>natural</u> realm.

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 Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV).
- IV. Our Faith comes from hearing the WORD OF GOD.

Romans 10:17

So then <u>faith</u> comes by hearing, and <u>hearing by the word of God</u>.

Rhema - specific direct word for our life at that time / season / situation.

This means that faith is:-

- 1. Born out of our **Relationship** with God.
 - i.e. faith is not a formula, ritual or procedure to follow.
- 1 Timothy 1:19 faith and conscience

This means that faith is:-

2. Based on **Revelation** knowledge of the Word of God.

Revelation comes as we partake of the <u>Word</u> of God in our relationship with the <u>Holy Spirit</u> - John 15:7



Five forms of intake of the Word

1 Peter 2:2 - 3

²as newborn babes, desire the pure <u>milk</u>
<u>of the word</u>, that you may grow thereby,
³if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

The **GOAL** of the intake of the **MILK** of the Word is to **EXPERIENCE** the reality of the Promises of God / Word in your life.

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

The **GOAL** of the intake of the **BREAD** of the Word is to regularly hear what the Lord is **SPEAKING** to you in your daily living.

Hebrews 5:14

But <u>solid food</u> belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

The **GOAL** of the intake of the **MEAT** of the Word is to sharpen **DISCERNMENT** as you apply the Word to the situations of your life.

Unless you are continually partaking the LOGOS Word, you are unlikely to hear and receive the RHEMA Word.

What are the ways the **LOGOS** become the

RHEMA for you?

- 1. During prayer or worship in the Presence of God, you sense the Holy Spirit **speaking** to you about something He wants you to do, thus giving you faith for it.
- While meditating on the scriptures, a verse becomes <u>alive</u> to you which God is using to speak directly to you.

3. Someone gives you a "Word from the Lord".

Weigh it and if it bears <u>inward</u> witness, receive it as such.

4. While you are sitting under the Word, the message **speaks** to your heart and the Holy Spirit convicts you or exhorts you.

5. While in fellowship, someone encourages you and <u>faith</u> arises in your heart to believe God for something.

IV. Our Faith comes from hearing the **WORD OF GOD**.

John 6:63

... the <u>words</u> that I speak to you are <u>spirit</u>, and they are <u>life</u>.

Greek - Rhema =
Spoken word which you hear
that creates Faith

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Romans 5:2

through Whom [JC] also we have <u>access</u>
by faith into this grace in which we stand,
and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

V. Our Faith is **KEY** to access the abundant provision of the Grace of God.

2 Peter 1:3

... His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness ...

Ephesians 1:3

... blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ

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- Our Faith comes from hearing the WORD OF GOD.
- V. Our Faith is the **KEY** to access the abundant provision of the Grace of God.
- vi. Faith is released by the **SPOKEN** word.
 - This is the **Spirit** of faith.

VI. Faith is released by the **SPOKEN** word. This is the **SPIRIT** of faith.

2 Corinthians 4:13

And since we have the <u>same spirit of faith</u>, according to what is written, "I <u>believed</u> and therefore I <u>spoke</u>," we also <u>believe</u> and therefore <u>speak</u>

VI. Faith is released by the **SPOKEN** word. This is the **SPIRIT** of faith.

e.g. 1 - Genesis 1 : God <u>spoke</u> creation into being.

e.g. 2 - Proverbs 18:20 - 21 : power of the **tongue**.

e.g. 3 - Mark 11:23 : we will have whatever we say if we believe and do not doubt in our heart.

The Principle of the Spirit of Faith is to:

Believe and Speak in order to Receive

The Principle of the Spirit of Faith is to: Believe and Speak in order to Receive.

We grow in the spirit of faith as we:

Meditate and Confess

Believe and Speak forth

the Revelation of the Specific Word

in our hearts

Believing and Receiving Meditate and Confess Word

Example 1:

Being Saved

Believing and Receiving - Meditate & Confess Word Example 1: **Being Saved**

Romans 10:8 - 10

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Believing and Receiving - Meditate & Confess Word Example 1: Being Saved

Romans 10:8 - 10

¹⁰For <u>with the heart one believes</u> unto righteousness, and <u>with the mouth confession</u> is made unto salvation.

Believing and Receiving Meditate and Confess Word

Example 2:

Receiving Provision

Believing and Receiving - Meditate & Confess Word Example 2: Receiving Provision

Matthew 6:25, 27, 31, 34

- Do not Worry -

Matthew 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Philippians 4:19

Psalm 23:1

Believing and Receiving - Meditate and Confess Word

Example 3:

Protection

Believing and Receiving - Meditate & Confess Word Example 3: **Protection**

Psalm 91

Psalm 27

Believing and Receiving Meditate and Confess Word

Example 4:

Faith To Move Mountains

Believing and Receiving - Meditate & Confess Word Example 4: Faith To Move Mountains

Mark 11:22 - 24

²²So Jesus answered and said to them, "Have faith in God.

²³For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, <u>but believes</u> that those things he says will be done, he <u>will have</u> whatever he says.

Believing and Receiving - Meditate & Confess Word Example 4: Faith To Move Mountains

Mark 11:22 - 24

²⁴Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

SUMMARY

- I. Our Faith is **FOUNDATIONAL** for Living.
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SUMMARY

- v. Our Faith is the **KEY** to access the abundant provision of the Grace of God.
- VI. Faith is released by the **SPOKEN** word.
- VIII. Faith requires **ACTION**.

VII. Faith requires **ACTION** i.e. Works of Faith - James 2:14 - 26

e.g. 1 - Luke 5:16 - 18

THE PARALYTIC AND 4 FRIENDS

Jesus saw the faith of the paralytic and the faith of his four friends.

VII. Faith requires **ACTION** i.e. Works of Faith - James 2:14 - 26

e.g. 2 - John 5

THE MAN AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA

e.g. 2 - John 5: The Man at the Pool of Bethesda

- He lost the will to be healed, has fallen into despondency and selfpity.
- To get up and walk would be an act of faith.
- Jesus was steering a faith response from this man to do something to demonstrate faith.

VII. Faith requires <u>ACTION</u> i.e. Works of Faith - James 2:14 - 26

e.g. 3 - John 9

THE BLIND BEGGAR

e.g. 3 - John 9: The Blind Beggar

- Jesus spat on the ground, made clay, anointed this man's eyes, told him to go to the Pool of Siloam to wash it in order to be healed of his blindness.
- Jesus was giving this man a way of acting in faith.
- The Pool of Siloam was over half a mile away.

e.g. 3 - John 9: The Blind Beggar

- The man could have succumbed to embarrassment and written the whole thing off as foolishness, wiped the clay from his eyes, and resumed begging.
- The fact that he obeyed Jesus' instruction revealed that there was faith in his heart.

e.g. 3 - John 9: The Blind Beggar

Some degree of faith have always to be present: in the **person ministering** the healing and / or in the one who is receiving the healing and / or in an **intercessor** who is standing in for them.

- e.g. 3 John 9: The Blind Beggar
 - Some degree of faith have always to be present:

In Jesus' hometown - Mark 6:5 - 6,

Jesus COULD not (not WOULD not)
do any mighty works
because of the people's unbelief.

VII. Faith requires **ACTION** i.e. Works of Faith - James 2:14 - 26

e.g. 4 - Luke 8:43 - 48

THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD

e.g. 4 - Luke 8:43 - 48 : The Woman with the Issue of Blood

- Many needing healing around Jesus but this woman is the only person mentioned who received healing.
- The difference was the touch of faith.
- She <u>believed</u> that she would be healed if she could just touch Jesus.
- This is the <u>Law of Faith</u>.

e.g. 4 - Luke 8:43 - 48 : The Woman with the Issue of Blood

- God is already willing to heal.
- What is left is for the sick to seek Him in faith.
- This instance illustrates that it is not just prayer that saves the sick but rather the <u>prayer of faith</u> - James 5:15.

e.g. 4 - Luke 8:43 - 48 : The Woman with the Issue of Blood

- Healing is governed by <u>law</u> and not by any random feeling or act of God.
 - This woman received her healing by the Law of Faith even before Jesus knew anything about her – "who touched Me?"
 - Healing requires Faith.

VII. Faith requires <u>ACTION</u> i.e. Works of Faith - James 2:14 - 26

e.g. 5 -

PETER WALKING ON WATER JESUS SAID: "COME!" PETER DID AS JESUS SAID.

e.g. 5 - Peter walking on water

Jesus said: "COME!"

Peter did as Jesus said.

That word by **Jesus** - **God Himself** - contains the power and anointing for Peter to walk on water.

Today, if we believe and act on God's Word, we will release the same power and anointing.

Time to leave the security of our natural senses (get out of the boat) and put ourselves in a position where there has to be a miracle from God to hold us up!



Instead of looking at
the waves of our situation,
Look to Jesus the Author & Finisher of our
faith!

CONCLUSION

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

COME and stand on the water of His Word!