

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Active Faith

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Introduction

Our last issue dealt with the consequences of sin and the impact that it could have on future generations. We mentioned three problem areas created by sin and that it takes active faith to deal with them. In this issue we will look at what it means to have active faith.

The most basic level of faith is given to us in Hebrews:

Hebrews 11:6 NASB And 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 seek Him.

The beginning of faith is believing that God is, that He exists, and that He rewards those who seek Him; that is, that there is value to us in seeking God. Faith require both aspects of this verse. Just believing in God is not enough because “*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*” **James 2:19 NKJV**. Faith also requires that we believe that there is value in seeking God.

Categories of Faith

I am going to attempt to categorize faith into various areas. I am only doing this to help us understand. Faith is faith and in its operation it is not subject to differentiation as I am about to do.

The first area has to do with *specific faith*. You have probably heard someone say “I am believing God for _____” This is specific faith that relates to a specific problem or provision. It only focuses on whatever we put in the blank for which we are believing God. This type of faith usually relates to our needs, wants, or desires and is self-centered most of the time.

The second area has to do with *crises faith*. We have all been in sudden crises situations where we cry out “O God, help me!” or “rescue me!” or something similar. We are on the verge of catastrophe and, except God intervenes, we will be overcome. This is faith that is born of desperation. We have exhausted our abilities or resources and can only call upon God. This type

of faith relates to our situation or circumstances.

The third area has to do with the fruit of faith or what I call *experiential faith*. As we have walked with the Lord we have had various experiences in which we have seen the provision or deliverance of the Lord. This is exemplified by David's words to Saul concerning Goliath.

1 Samuel 17:36-37 NASB "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God." (37) And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you."

Experiential faith grows from previous experience with the Lord. It expects the Lord to continue to do that which He has done in the past. This area of faith always relates to our walk with the Lord in the past—our experience with Him—and projects it to the future.

The next area of faith is what I call *word faith*. It is based on what God has said concerning various things. It is believing that God means what He says and will accomplish His word in the earth. This becomes functional faith when the Holy Spirit speaks God's word to you. It becomes a “rhema” word; that is, a fresh spoken word to you. This is exemplified by Abraham who believed that God would accomplish His word. Even if he killed Isaac, God would raise him from the dead in order to fulfill His promised word.

Hebrews 11:17-19 NASB By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*; (18) *it was he* to whom it was said, "IN ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS SHALL BE CALLED." (19) He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

This type of faith always relates to God's word and His ability to fulfill His word. It is always centered in God's faithfulness to do what He has said.

All of these areas of faith comprise aspects of general faith. Faith is believing God. Believing Him for His actions; believing Him to accomplish His purpose; believing Him according to His character.

Active Faith

Active faith is living and walking moment by moment believing that God has a plan and purpose for you and that He is working to accomplish this by changing your character, thoughts, and motivations to conform to His Son in order that you might be a son of God. Active faith always relates to God's plan and purpose and our place in it. It is rooted in four key facts.

1. God redeemed us for a purpose (and it wasn't to just to save us from Hell or that we go to Heaven when we die.) (2 Timothy 1:9)
2. God gave us the Holy Spirit so that we might have the power to accomplish His purpose. (Acts 1:4-8)
3. God leads us by His Spirit so that we might be able to function as His sons. (Romans 8:14)

4. God causes all things to work together for our good because we love Him and are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Active faith involves knowing that we have received grace and mercy from God. It is knowing that the past is past and is now forgiven through the blood of Jesus. We confess our sins as we boldly enter His throne room through the veil of the flesh of Jesus. We know that we are His sons and that we have purpose in Him both now and in the future.

Active faith knows that God is at work in us and in our circumstances to bring us into the fulness of our inheritance and our purpose, Nothing happens to us by “accident”. All things are orchestrated by the Lord to work for our good in the end.

Active faith doesn't just cry out for healing; but, believes God for health and strength. It doesn't just fight resistance and rebuke the Devil; but, expects to overcome through the power of the Spirit. It doesn't believe God for comfort and prosperity; but, believes the Lord will do His work through us and provide the necessary resources to accomplish it.

Active faith is not centered in us and our needs, desires, goals, ambitions, comforts, or lifestyle. It is centered in the plans and purposes of the Lord and our part in them. It is not dependent on our circumstances or feelings but only on the word and the work of the Lord.

Active faith always produces the work of the Lord in us and our circumstances.

James 2:20 NASB But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

James 2:22 NASB You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

James 2:24 NASB You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

Let us believe God and let us live our lives in such a way that our belief is reflected in our works. Let the world and our fellow believers see our active faith for we serve the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings.

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