

EFFORTLESS FAITH

By Phillip Hayes

Effortless: *requiring no physical or mental exertion.*

"I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. nevertheless when the son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" [Luke 18:8].

"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 filled with water, and 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].

The Bible tells us, *"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].*

Some years ago, I heard someone use this phrase, "Effortless Faith" and it has stuck with me all this time. The definition of the word "effortless" is above. When connected to the word "Faith" my personal definition would be, "The faith of a Child".

Jesus asked two questions of His disciples and I believe

He is asking the same today. Where is your faith and shall He find faith on the earth when He returns?

Jesus was a man of faith. He healed the sick, raised the dead, walked on water, and the winds and the seas obeyed Him. These incredible acts of Faith seemed effortless for our Lord! Not once do we find Him struggling or wrestling with devils! Not once do we find Him crying out to the Father in desperation for a person to be healed! As a matter of fact, we don't find Him praying over the people! We find Him speaking the Word and commanding the devils to leave the people! Jesus had effortless faith and I believe we can have the same faith!

When Jesus and His disciples embarked on a ship to cross over the sea, He made this statement, *"Let us go unto the other side!"* Now in Christ's mind, there was no doubt; they would go to the other side! Jesus spoke it, and He believed what He said would come to pass. His every action, His every thought, His every movement was an act of faith! He was the Master of every situation.

After boarding the ship, Jesus went to sleep; without a care as to winds, storms, or turbulent seas. There was no doubt or fear in Him! The kind of faith Jesus had was similar to a child's confidence in what is told him or her. A child simply believes without questioning how or why. They don't worry about what they are going to eat, or what to wear! Their parents provides for them. We have a Heavenly Father that is our Great Provider! If we truly trusted God as a child trusts their parent, I believe we would also have the effortless faith Jesus demonstrated! Faith is Believing. Faith is also Trust!

While Jesus was sleeping down in the hold of the ship a storm began. The sea pitched the small ship from side to side, but Jesus still slept in perfect peace! When the waters of the sea began to drench the disciples and to fill the ship; Jesus still slept in peace! It seemed all was lost to the disciples and they

became afraid. Fear gripped their hearts and they began to think they would all perish, but Jesus continued to sleep!

He was demonstrating the realm of perfect child-like effortless faith! As He drifted off to sleep, He knew they would go to the other side! He had spoken it! Isn't it remarkable, even though utter destruction seemingly was all about Him, He continued to sleep! His disciples out of desperation and fear finally woke Jesus up! Mark recorded their words in Mark 4:38: *"Master, carest thou not that we perish?"*

"Jesus rebuked the wind and the sea and said, peace be still, and they ceased, and there was a great calm". (See Matthew 8:26. When the Master spoke, things happened, didn't they!

They asked, *"What manner of man is this that even the winds and water obey him?"* They were awe stricken of Him and this awesome display of power. But children of God, they had overlooked one very important lesson the Master was teaching them, and I am afraid we have also overlooked it.

What was overlooked? The answer is a startling revelation to many in the body of Christ. There is no doubt that what the Lord did in this instance was a great act of faith. However, the question Jesus asked them was astounding! He asked, *"Where is your faith"?*! This is powerful! Was Jesus asking, "Why did you wake me? "Why didn't you rebuke the storm?" "Why didn't you use your faith?"!

I don't believe there is any question! Jesus rebuked them for being fearful and faithless! Jesus was teaching them a lesson in faith!

Matthew 17:17 and Luke 9:41 records the disciples bringing a child to Jesus that was possessed with a devil. Although Jesus had given them power and authority over all devils (Luke 9:1); they told Jesus they could not cast the devil out. Do you remember what Jesus' reply to them was? He rebuked His disciples, *"O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I suffer you?"* And when the disciples asked the

Lord why they could not cast the devil out, He answered them and said, *"Because of your unbelief"* (Matthew 17:20). The lesson learned, is the gift of God operates through faith! Children of God, *"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin!"* It was because of unbelief that the children in the wilderness perished, and they were an example to us.

A few years back, I woke up one morning with these words resounding in my mind, "I rebuke you for your unbelief"! That really disturbed me! I thought I was a believer and I could not understand what my unbelief was. Since then, the Lord has shown me many times how I have failed Him because of my unbelief. Children of God, we have got to begin to doubt our doubts and believe our beliefs! We are at the end of the ages and I can guarantee you, it is going to take more faith than what we have now to overcome the things that are coming. We have got to start believing in what God has given us.

Could they have rebuked the winds and the seas themselves? I believe they could have commanded the winds and the seas and they would have obeyed them! You say, no.

Allow me to remind you of the time when Jesus came walking to them on the water. They had left the Lord behind to pray. They had boarded their ship and were at sea. Sometime during the night, Jesus saw walking on the water and they became afraid, thinking He was a ghost. Here again fear is used to teach us a very important lesson: we should never fear the circumstances we might find ourselves in. Fear is the enemy of Faith!

As Jesus approached the ship, walking on the water, Peter said to Jesus, *"Lord if it is you, let me come out to you."* Jesus said only one word to Peter, "Come!" Praise God, Peter stepped out of the boat and placed his foot on the water; then as he steadied himself, he placed his other foot on the water and raised himself up and *began to walk on the water*. Praise God! He was actually defying gravity! Peter was doing it!

(See Matthew 14:29). And if you will read the next verse, you will find that it was only when Peter became afraid that he began to sink. Fear! Fear is the greatest enemy you will face!

How could Peter have done such a thing? By faith of course! He simply believed and obeyed our Lord's word to come! Effortless faith is manifested by believing you can do what Jesus said! Peter walked on the water. Why doubt they could have rebuked the storm and calmed the sea?!

Some might say, Jesus was with them and that's why they could do those things. Yes, Jesus was with them, and I say, Jesus is with us now unless you are a reprobate!

"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?" [2Corinthians 13:5].

Examine yourself, is Jesus IN YOU? Examine yourself in light of the fact that Peter walked on the water, and there were also seventy disciples of Jesus, that healed the sick and cast out devils, all of which did not have the Holy Ghost! Examine yourself in the light of those after Pentecost that raised the dead, healed the sick, cast out devils and performed many great miracles, signs and wonders in the name of Jesus. Where is your faith?

People's faith today is not in Christ! The doctors' offices around the world are full of sick and afflicted Christians! Visit any hospital and ask every person in there if they are a Christian and 90% of them will tell you they are! Where is their faith? I'm not just speaking about border line Christians, I am talking about Blood Bought, Born Again, Holy Ghost filled Christians. Multitudes of God's people are addicted to prescription drugs of which many of them are narcotics! There is a medicine seemingly for whatever ails you. I am not condemning anyone! I know people are sick and hurting. I realize some medications may be necessary. However, there is a prayer of faith God honors. Strung out on narcotics is not

your answer. I don't believe God's people should be bound by these things!

What has happened to the old time Christians that placed their trust (their faith) in God rather than man?! Where are the Christians that use to call for the elders of the church when they became sick? When sickness invades your body, who do you call for my friend? Wake up! If you cannot trust God now, how will you be able to trust Him when times are hard?

What has happened to Holy Ghost filled people? Do they no longer believe that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever? Do they not believe that Jesus Christ is IN THEM! Yes, many have fallen into unbelief! They are filled with fear and have become overwhelmed with unbelief!

There is little doubt in my mind that God has and does use doctors and nurses. I have met many wonderful caring medical professionals. They can help you, but they cannot heal you. I thank God for them! But my faith is not in their human skills. My faith is in my God Who Alone can heal and deliver. I believe God made this body and there should be no doubt: He can do exceedingly abundantly above all that I might ask of Him! He can still heal my body or yours without the help of carnal man! Where is your faith? Can't you see that Satan has been successful in deceiving many into believing that God doesn't perform miracles any longer?

Where is your faith? Is it in God, or man? The example of faith we find in the Bible is simply believing that God will do the work! Believing shouldn't take any effort!

The Word of God plainly tells us in Isaiah, "*By His stripes you are healed*". In the New Testament the Apostle Peter tells us, "*By His stripes ye were healed*". Praise God! Isaiah's was a prophecy and Peter's a proclamation of the fact that it has already happened.

They beat our Lord Jesus with many stripes! He suffered the pain of those stripes for you and I. Yes, because

of His stripes, we were healed! But, just as you must believe for your salvation, (we are saved by faith), you must believe for your healing, (we are healed by faith)! I have said many times, "It is the same faith"! If you can believe for your salvation, you can believe for your healing!

Some years ago, I was called to the hospital to pray for a young lady that had been diagnosed with a heart attack. The young girl, about the age of 16, was in the emergency room. The family was told the tests had shown she had the heart of an elderly person. They were in the process of sending her to a larger hospital with a special cardiac unit. As I approached the girl in the emergency room I immediately felt the spirit of fear and it was dominated that room. I rebuked the fear and began to speak peace and encouragement to the girl. I asked her this question: "Do you believe God will heal you?" Her response to me was the same response I get almost every time I ask that question. She said to me, "Yes, I believe God can heal me." I said unto her again, "Do you believe God will heal you?" She answered again, "I believe God can heal me." The third time I said to her, "You don't understand the question." My question was, "Do you believe God will heal you?" "I didn't ask you if you believed God can, but if you believed God will heal you?"

Look, it takes no faith whatsoever to say, "I believe God can heal!" Where faith is exercised is when we CONFESS, "GOD WILL HEAL ME"! Praise the Lord. Can you see it? I told her we can say we believe God can do anything, but the question is "Do you believe God will heal you, right now?"

She said: "Oh, I see what you mean. Yes I believe God will heal me now!" Glory to God, that's all it took, I laid my hands on her and commanded her heart to be made whole and the glory of God came down in that little emergency room and Jesus Christ proved once again that He didn't need any doctors, nurses, or medicine to help Him! Praise His Holy Name, all He needed was someone to take Him at His Word;

just for someone to believe that He is still the same! Thank God for the victory!

Praise God, it's time to doubt your doubts! Doubt, fear and unbelief is of the devil! Jesus lives! He is alive, and He is still a miracle working God! That little teenager was healed! As I left the hospital, I told them all, "She is healed, believe God!"

Later that day, the girl's relatives called me and told me that the girl was at home and didn't even have to go to the special cardiac hospital! They said when I left they had asked the doctor to re-examine her, as they believed God had answered prayer. When the doctor examined her, he was amazed. He found nothing wrong with her heart! There was no evidence of deterioration of any kind. Her heart was in perfect condition! Why did this happen? Was this just a freak incident? No, no, it was no freak; this has happened many times, as I have witnessed the Power of our God through faith in the Name of Jesus!

What made it happen was the girl glimpsed for a moment what our Lord was teaching His disciples long ago. There was nothing impossible to him that believes! She not only believed that God can heal, but she went the next level in which we must all take if we are to have victory: she believed that God not only could heal; He will heal if you can only believe! This is a wonderful testimony of effortless faith! She believed and it moved God! He is the I am, the ever present help in time of trouble!

You have probably heard or perhaps you have made this statement, "Prayer changes things." Haven't you? Sure you have, but very few really believes it! Can prayer really change things? Do we have to be sick when the Word of God tells us we can prosper and be in health? *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth"* [3John 1:2]. You cannot be sick and in health at the same time my friends!

Why are so many of God's people sick? Why are so many that can't seem to make ends meet? Is it possible that it is because unbelief? I believe it is! Having faith is knowing that God's will for you is to be blessed and be in health! God answers prayers of faith! It doesn't matter when or how long it will be before He answers. Just hold on and believe! He will answer! What is important is that you break through the realm of unbelief that surrounds us today and hold on to the promises of God! We must believe God will! Not just God can.

"Death and life are in the power of the tongue" [Proverbs 18:21]. There is awesome power in what you speak! Jesus spoke to a fig tree and it died!

"And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. and Jesus answering saith unto them, have faith in God. for verily I say unto you, that whosoever 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 you desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" [Matthew 11:21-24].

The key to having what you desire is believing you have whatever you ask for before you receive it! Do you remember what the book of Hebrews tells us faith is? *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"* [Hebrews 11:1].

Faith produces the substance of things not seen! Substance is the evidence of your faith! When you pray in faith, you are actually believing you have what you ask for before you receive it! This is what happened to the little girl with heart trouble: I was able to reveal faith to her! Faith is believing God will! She believed she was healed before she was actually healed. Those things that are hoped for when

praying in faith become reality!

Matthew chapter nine records a woman that was healed of an issue of blood. But it wasn't Jesus' faith that healed her, it was hers! Jesus told her, *"Thy faith hath made thee whole."* *"For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole."* She prophesied her deliverance!

Stop doubting; believe, and say what's in your heart! Say it out loud! We can prophesy our deliverance! If you really believe, it should be easy for you to speak it! *". . . 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"* [Mark 11:23]. This is what the woman with the issue of blood did!

I want to believe God! I am fed up with a church world that has forgotten God and has absolutely insulted the King of Kings with their unbelief! These modern day preachers and lay people couldn't cure a headache. And what makes it even a greater insult to God is they refuse to even ask Him! Their confidence is in the flesh. Many have rejected the healing, miracle working power of God!

I know some will laugh and make fun of anyone that takes a stand of faith. When you refuse to go running to the doctor, they call you a fanatic and they act as if there is something wrong with you mentally. It is a reproach today to even believe that God still heals. The Bible speaks of a time they will have a form of Godliness but deny the power thereof. (See 2Timothy 3:5). Multitudes of professing Christians believe God Can, but few believe God Will!

Sometimes I will ask this question in the meetings we are privileged to minister in: "Is there anything that God cannot do?" Usually the answer is, "There is nothing impossible for God". Then I will ask this question, "Is there anything that man cannot do through faith in God?" Usually there is little or no response! Why? It is because we want to believe that God

can do anything but we refuse to go the next level and believe God will when man acts upon His Word and believes Him! God can do anything! BUT WILL HE?

I want you to get this. "What moves God from I Can, to the place of I Will is YOUR FAITH in His Word!" Jesus was teaching the disciples of old and us also: Faith produces miracles! Through faith you become a doer of the Word and not just a hearer! (See James 1:23). You must believe!

"Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth" [Mark 9:23]. If we believe what Jesus says, then nothing is impossible for him that believes! That should settle it for every Christian! I am going to take Jesus at His Word! Through faith in Jesus, man can do all things through Christ that strengthens him! Right now I want you to believe God for your miracle! Don't doubt! Remember, Jesus said it! It cannot fail.

The devil is a liar! Yes my friends, there is a Word of Faith. God placed it in you! *"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" [Ephesians 3:20].*

You have the power! "All things are possible to you!" Only believe, "God wants you healed"! *"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" [2Corinthians 1:20].* GOD SAYS, "YES!"

Are you a believer my friend? Or have you also been duped by lukewarm preachers of today into believing that God is dead. Let's see what a believer can do! Not just preachers, but anyone that is a believer . . .

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. and these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"

[Mark 16:16-18].

Are there any believers left? Remember now, Jesus wasn't just speaking to preachers! He was talking to you! Believers have power! Don't you ever forget it! All things are possible to him that believes! The mark of a real Christian believer is the signs will follow them! The trouble today is most Christians think they are supposed to follow the signs. You have power! Only believe, and THE SIGNS will follow YOU.

Christ in you is the hope of glory! Not just Christ in the preachers, but Christ in you! There is power in you if you have the Holy Ghost! Jesus said, after the Holy Ghost has come upon you, you will receive power! Look about you! This is the most powerless generation of Christians ever! Why? Because they have been taught the opposite of what you have read in this message. Faith in God has been removed through unbelief by deception!

We are living in the age of restoration! One thing that must be restored is faith! Without faith, the Bible says it is impossible to please God! Jesus is searching for those that will take Him at his Word! Who will believe His report?! Who will believe His Word?! Are all things still possible? Has Jesus changed? Is God dead?

Another question that must be asked is: if we believe that Jesus has not changed; what is the requirement for man to activate this positive faith? Is there hope for this end time church? As always the Word of God has the answers:

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. if ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. herein is my father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" [John 15: 5-8].

From these scriptures we learn the secret of true

discipleship! Abiding: to abide means to live! To abide in Him is to live in Him! Praise the Lord, this means we must live in His Word for He is the Word!

Most preachers today will preach that you must receive Christ in your heart to be saved, but how many preach you must also live in Him?! You are un-fulfilled with just Christ in you! You also must be in Him! Jesus said if you live in me and My Word lives in you, then you can ask what you will, and it shall be given you! Praise God! I'm putting His Word in you now! The Word of God is a seed! It must be sown in you in order for you to believe!

Most of you have received the seed of the serpent which is his perverted gospel! He has sown unbelief and false doctrine in your heart and now I must with the power of the True Gospel cast him out of your heart and replace his lies with God's truth! All things are still possible! JESUS CHRIST IS THE SAME! Satan is a liar! Wake up and believe God!

How do we exercise the power? First of all, make your calling and election sure. Make sure you are in the faith! And if you find that Jesus really lives in you by the Holy Ghost; then you must now begin to live in Him through His Word! God is not a liar. If you abide in Christ and He abides in you, you will be able to ask what you will! And children, it will be done!

When you have this relationship with Christ, your desires will become His Will and His desires. You will no longer be asking for foolish carnal things, but rather you will be asking according to His will! This is how the Father is glorified! God wants to answer your prayers! God is not glorified by not healing and working miracles! He is glorified when miracles happen!

Remember, He wants to answer your prayer! But you must approach Him in faith believing that He will perform that which you ask of Him. Here is how James said it. *"But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not*

that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways" [James 1:6-8].

James also tells us the prayer of faith shall save the sick! SHALL save the sick? It doesn't say that the prayer of faith might save or could save the sick! It says, "FAITH SHALL SAVE THE SICK". He goes on to say that the Lord SHALL raise him up (James 5:15). This is God's Word! It cannot fail.

How should we approach God? It's really not that hard. *"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].*

Look closely at this verse . . . First, we find that faith is what pleases God! You must have faith, you must believe! Now you must believe that God is God! (There is nothing impossible for Him)! Do you believe that? Alright, now you must believe that He is a rewarder. Remember, Jesus has already told us that His will is to save, heal and deliver! Therefore, He most assuredly is a REWARDER. And who does He reward? Those that diligently or earnestly seek Him.

Is there a way that we can know for sure that Jesus hears us and will give us what we ask? Yes there is! The answer is found in I John 3:22: *"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*

There it is: Whatsoever we ask, WE RECEIVE. The Word of God is plain. We receive what we ask for, "Because" we keep his commandments and do the things that please Him!

You may say, "Oh brother, I have failed God so many times, and this is why I'm not healed". My question to you dear friend is, "have you asked Him to forgive you? Have you accepted His forgiveness? If your answer is yes to these questions, you have obeyed Him and now ready to receive His healing. Believe it! Receive it!

