

# Winning the Fight of Faith

## Bill Scheidler

### I. The Importance of Faith

A. Romans 1:17

*“The just shall live by **faith**...”*

B. Matthew 9:28-29

*“And when He had come into the house, the blind men came to Him. And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ They said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord.’ Then He touched their eyes, saying, ‘**According to your faith** let it be to you.’”*

C. Matthew 21:21

*“Assuredly I say to you, **if you have faith and do not doubt**, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but also if you say to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.”*

D. Mark 11:22

*“So Jesus answered and said to them, ‘**Have faith in God!**’”*

### II. The Fight of Faith

#### A. There is a Fight of Faith

1. Timothy 6:12

*“**Fight the good fight of faith**, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed a good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”*

2. II Timothy 4:7

*“I have **fought a good fight**, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”*

3. Jude 3

*“**Contend earnestly for the faith** which was once delivered to the saints.”*

4. James 1:2-3

*“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that **the testing of your faith** produces patience...”*

5. I Peter 1:6-7

*“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”*

**B. The Word “Fight”**

1. To contend perseveringly against opposition and temptation.
2. To strive, as in a contest, for the prize, straining every nerve for the goal.
3. To put forth every effort.

**C. There are Opponents to our Faith**

**1. The Voice of Satan**

Just as in the Garden, whatever God says to us, Satan will put a question mark upon.

**2. Mental Doubts**

Just like when Peter stepped out of the boat and into the water. He was fine until he began to doubt that he could really do what he was in fact doing. He began to doubt that the Word of the Lord could sustain him.

**3. Discouragement**

When things don't go as planned or they don't happen according to our schedule.

**4. Insurmountable Circumstances**

When we face obstacle that seem much stronger than we. Just like when the children of Israel faced the Red Sea or when they faced Goliath.

**5. Physical Weaknesses**

When we start looking at ourselves and seeing how frail and weak we really are. Just like Moses when he said “Who am I?” or “I am not eloquent.” Or when Jeremiah said “I am but a youth.”

#### **6. Lack of Financial Provision**

When we see how much money our vision is going to take and we see how little we really have. We forget that God said that all of the gold is His and all of the silver is His. Compared to God, Bill Gates is a poor man.

### **III. Keys to Overcoming Faith**

#### **A. The Key of Exposure to the Word of God.**

Romans 10:17, “*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*”

Galatians 3:2, 5, “*the hearing of faith...*”

1. Faith comes through the avenue of God’s Word.
2. Put yourself in a place of hearing the Word of God.
  - a. Listen attentively when it is preached.
  - b. Read the Word daily.
  - c. Take every opportunity to receive from the word.
3. Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death.
  - a. Feed on relationships that reinforce your faith.
  - b. Feed on activities/literature that are word-based (Magazines, Entertainment, etc.)

#### **B. The Key of Praying in the Spirit**

Jude 20, “*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on you most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.*”

#### **C. The Key of Obedience to God**

1. Faith is demonstrated by obedience (James 2:18,26). Faith is dead faith if it does not lead to action.
2. As we are hearers and doers of the Word and practice a lifestyle of obedience, faith grows in us and we walk from faith to faith (Col. 2:6-7).
3. The Heroes of faith in Hebrew 11 all demonstrated their faith by specific actions.
4. Faith is not an emotional feeling; it is acting on the principles of God work without the evidence of feeling. It is being governed by the Word of God without any other proof (Hebrew 1:1).
5. In a very real sense, **faith is obedience**.

#### **D. The Key of Our Profession**

1. Christianity is first and foremost a “confession”.

*Hebrews 3:1, “Consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession...”*

- a. As such there is a language of faith.
- b. As such there is a voice of faith.
- c. There is a faith that speaks.
- d. The word “confession” means “saying the same thing.”
  - Faith is agreeing with God or saying the same thing as God on each and every point.
  - Confession is the affirmation of the truth that we have received.
  - Jesus only said those things that He heard the Father saying.

2. True Faith Speaks.

Read: Romans 10:6-13

There are two types of Speaking or Confession:

- a. Negative Speaking (“Do Not Say!”) Destroys Faith
  - Do not speak contrary to the Word of God.

- Whatever is not of faith is sin.
  - The Example of Job. He maintained faith, he maintained a good confession, he maintained high standards, and he maintained his principled life in the face of contradiction (Job 1:20-22; 2:10; 19:25-27; 27:2-6).
  - It is a sin to speak other than what God says.
  - We are snared by the words of our mouth (Proverbs 6:2).
- b. Positive Speaking (Saying What God Says”) Increases Faith
- You must hear it (Faith comes by hearing)!
  - You must believe it in your heart (Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks – Matthew 12:34)!
  - You must speak it (The righteousness of faith speaks – Romans 10:6)!
  - The Children of Israel lost out because of a bad confession (i.e. We can’t do it). YES WE CAN!

## **E. The Key of Right Meditations**

### **1. Avoid Vain Babblings**

- a. Shun profane and vain babblings that overthrow the faith of some (II Tim. 2:16-18).
- b. Don’t listen to fables and endless genealogies that do not build faith and cause many to stray from the truth (I Tim. 1:4-7).
- c. Reject seducing spirits and doctrines of devils that will cause some to depart from the faith (I Tim. 4:1-5).
- d. Reject old wives fables which are contrary to faith (I Tim. 4:6-7).
- e. Avoid the contradictions of what is falsely called science or knowledge when cause some to stray from the faith(I Tim. 6:20-21).
- f. Don’t consume yourselves in “doubtful disputations” (Romans 14:1).
- g. Philosophies, vain deceits and traditions of men can also lead us down the wrong road (Col. 2:8).

## **2. Think on These Things.**

Philippians 4:8-9

*“Finally, brethren, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lively, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”*