



# REWARDS OF FAITH



***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.***

***-HEBREWS 11:6***

**a 7-day devotional**

## Foreword

Faith is the currency in the Kingdom of God. By faith, we accept Jesus Christ as our personal savior and Lord. By faith, we also receive His promises. Without faith it is even impossible to please Him! As the Bible says :

“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.” -Hebrews 11:6.

Join us in this 7-day devotion to dig deeper in knowledge about faith: why is it important? How do we grow and live by faith in obedience, perseverance, and deeds? What are the rewards that Our Heavenly Father has prepared for His children? Let’s open our hearts for the Holy Spirit to reveal the truth and help us to grow a deeper relationship with Him throughout this journey.

Are you ready? Let’s start!

Prayer Spring Team



## Day 1 - What is faith?

“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.*” Hebrews 11:6

On this first day, before elaborating on practical aspects of faith, we thought it was crucial to start by defining what faith is. We can see from the verse above that without faith, it is impossible to please God, as it is a crucial ingredient that determines the way we seek God and come to Him. We encourage you to read the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews, also sometimes known as the “faith hall of fame”. In it we see examples of people who lived by faith, and it helps us understand what faith is about. But at the very beginning of this chapter, in verse 1 is the definition of faith itself. Here is what it says:

“Now faith is the substance (realization) of things hoped for, the evidence (confidence) of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1

Three key terms here: Realization (or awareness/knowledge), confidence (or trust), and things not seen (or invisible/not proven). As we read through Hebrews 11, or even the Bible as a whole, we see that these three terms are always present when faith is manifested. It starts by a realization, revelation or knowledge about something or someone which is believed to be true even though it cannot be proven or explained, even though it cannot be perceived by our five senses. Basing themselves on this “irrational” knowledge, the men and women of faith demonstrated their confidence by performing acts, which are the evidence of their trust in the promise and its giver.

It is by faith that we are saved. We accept and declare the unproven revelation that Jesus took all our sins at the cross and that He will raise us from the dead and we will spend eternity with Him. And because of this unshakeable confidence in His resurrection power, though impossible to prove, we live our lives to glorify Jesus and point people to Him. It is by faith that every day, Christians worldwide defy all rationale and break all odds by believing that impossible things can happen and seeing them come to pass! Examples include healing from incurable diseases, barren women conceiving, financial debts being completely paid off etc. Where there is faith, there is an effusion of God’s miracles! But then again, we should not lose focus: If faith is just about having a strong hope or confidence in things not seen, and acting out of trust as though they were already there, then what is the difference between Christian Biblical faith and positive thinking, where one affirms the things they hope will come true in their life, like buying a new house or car? The difference lies in the source of your faith; what it is built on. Consider a building: no matter how well-built it is, it is only as solid as its foundation. So where does genuine Christian faith come from? Go ahead and read [Romans 10:17](#) and we will discuss this tomorrow!

**Prayer:**

God, I humble myself before You this day so that You may renew and strengthen my faith in You and fill me up with a Your Spirit. Please, grant me the understanding I need to apply faith in my everyday life. May I recognize that in every circumstance, all I need is to wait on You and believe in that no matter is too hard for You to handle. Help me prevail over every obstacle that comes my way. Teach me your ways, O Lord, and continuously remind me to walk by faith, and not by sight. In Jesus' name, amen.



## **Day 2 – Where does faith come from?**

“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” [Romans 10:17](#)

Yesterday, we discussed what faith truly is and ended the day by realizing that, like a building’s strength is dependent on its foundation, our faith and its rewards depend on its source. Genuine Christian faith is indeed quite irrational, and would be completely crazy, but for the fact that it is true. Though it speaks of things which now, cannot be seen, the fact that these things come to pass in due time prove it true. But what then is genuine Christian faith? It is faith that comes from the word of God, or, in even simpler words, faith in what God says. Genuine faith can only be faith that comes from God and is based on what He says. Only God has the ability to do all things, and Him alone is faithful to stick to His word and fulfil His promises.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.” [Hebrews 10:23](#)

As Christians, because we know our God is almighty, we also know that He is worthy to be trusted. We can trust Him to do things that would otherwise be impossible to do without Him. But read the above verse one more time. Though God is able to do all things, He will only do those He has promised. Sometimes we drift away of true faith by thinking God is some kind of wish-granter, who will make all our dreams come true because we asked them insistently, by praying and fasting and calling on the name of Jesus but that is not true. God is almighty and He can do all things, but He will only do the ones He wants, as His will is rooted in perfect justice and wisdom.

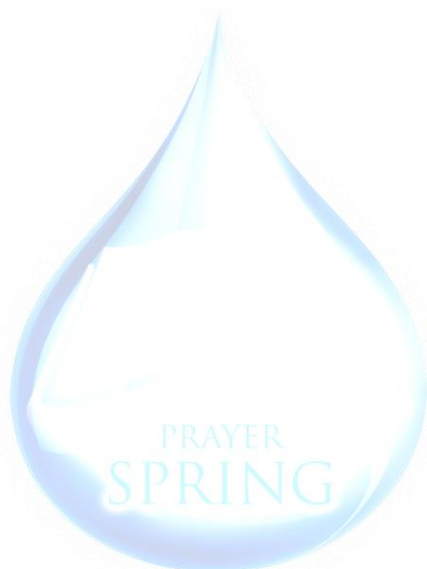
“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.” [Psalm 37:4-5](#)

God promised to give us the desire of our hearts, but He only makes this promise to a heart that delights in the Lord, that commits and surrenders its ways to Him. God answers all prayers He inspires. He satisfies all desires that He instigates. As king Solomon puts it, He fulfils with His hand what His mouth has spoken ([2 Chronicles 6:14-15](#))

As believers, our faith should be on what God says: His revealed word in our lives, and the only way to hear His voice and know His heart is by intimacy with Him. Genuine Christian faith comes by hearing the word of God and that only happens by communion; spending time with Him by meditating the Bible, praying and worshipping. Then, His promises in your life will become unquestionable and your faith, unshakable. Now that we have established that Faith comes from the Word of God, have you ever wondered why, though we are exposed to the word of God, Faith does not seem to bear fruit in our lives? Any ideas why? Read [Matthew 13:1-23](#) and we can discuss that tomorrow!

**Prayer:**

Lord, thank You for Your Word that brings life and promises. Thank You also for the gift of faith by hearing Your Word. I want to commit myself to spend time with Your Word, as I know it is essential for my faith. Please help me to do that, as sometimes I don't find it easy. Holy Spirit, teach me and sanctify me with Your truth, Your Word is truth. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen



## Day 3 – Faith and obedience

“Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: “Behold, a Sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But 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 sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” [Matthew 13:3-8](#)

Yesterday, we established that the only true source of faith is the Word of God. God does what He says He will do, not what we want or expect Him to do. Thus, to have a genuine faith that bears fruit, we need to hear what God says, both the generic promises that apply to all His children and the individual ones that are unique to each person. But after hearing the word of God, what’s next? You might ask. Obedience is next. As we read in the parable of the Sower, the same seed (word of God) may or may not bear fruit depending on the soil (heart) on which it falls. Though we may listen to the word of God Sunday after Sunday, our faith will never grow to bear fruit if we do not have receiving, understanding and obedient hearts to God’s word. In [Matthew 13:18-23](#), the parable is explained, and we realize that the heart that bears fruit is the one that hears the word of God, understands it, grows roots in it and endures through persecution, and is not choked or distracted by the cares of this world or its riches. If not coupled with obedience, the word of God will not bear any fruit in our lives, not because there is a problem with the seed – as it is complete and carrying all that is required to bear fruit- but rather with the soil. Like James said ([James 1:22](#)), we should not only be hearers of the Word, but doers, otherwise we are deceiving ourselves and our faith will never bear the fruit it was purposed to bear.

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” [Matthew 7: 24:27](#)

Practicing obedience in faith is not a one-time thing or a singular event, rather, it a lifestyle, a journey, a practice at which we get better as we persevere in it. The bible says, “**Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, my soul has no pleasure in him.**” But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.” [Hebrews 10:38-39](#)

How do we make faith our lifestyle? Let’s meet here again tomorrow to discuss this!

### **Prayer:**

Father, grant me the faith to always act in obedience to Your will and help me know my faith comes from You. In times of tribulation, may my faith in You not be shaken nor fail, but may

I remain obedient and faithful till the end, even amid the storm. I seek to hold unto this unwavering faith of Yours forever and ever. God, give me the grace to obey without hesitation when I hear Your word, and strengthen my faith daily. In Jesus name, Amen!



## Day 4 - Living by faith

We all have exercised faith in one way or another. We have faith in the bus drivers to drive safely, or the car drivers to stop when pedestrians are crossing the street. When someone accepts Jesus as one's personal Savior and Lord, faith in God comes to its first existence in one's life. However, faith is not a one-time event or a seasonal fruit. Instead, it is a conscious choice to adhere daily. As you exercise regularly to train your muscle and keep yourself fit and active, faith needs to be exercised and trained daily to keep your "faith muscle" flexible enough to stretch when challenges come. As you may have realized, our lives are full of challenges. We face challenges every day and even many times a day. What do we rely on when facing challenges or making difficult decisions? What thoughts or ideas come to mind in such circumstances? And where do they come from? Are they from God or from the world?

The Bible is full of examples of people living by faith. Hebrews 11 gives many examples of how people showed their faith in action. And they were all normal human beings like us. However, they knew their God well and relied on Him. The better we know a person, the better we can tell how dependable or trustworthy they are. The same applies to our relationship with God. The better we know Him, the more we realize who He is, the more we taste His greatness and faithfulness, and the more we depend on Him.

**"Therefore, know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments"**  
Deuteronomy 7:9

We know that He will never put us to shame (Joel 2:26-27). No matter how big the "mountains" are in front of us, He is much bigger. No matter how impossible a situation may seem, nothing is impossible for Him. Faith shifts our eyes from the challenges to God, who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than what we can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

As Hebrews 12:1-2 says, **"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."** Let's make a conscious decision every day to lay aside every weight and sin and get closer to Him. No matter what you face today, choose to trust His promises and rely only on Him. Look only unto Jesus who is above all! Let's meet again tomorrow to discuss how we can stay rooted in faith, especially during seasons of trials, tribulation and persecution.

**Prayer:**

Lord, I realize that I do not always have faith in You. Please forgive me for trusting other things than You. Give me faith to always rely on You with everything, every hour, and every minute of my life. Today, I choose to trust You, whatever comes my way. In Jesus' name. Amen



## Day 5 - Persevering in faith

Jesus has freely given us salvation; we just need to receive it by faith. However, for many of us, we don't go to heaven right after we receive salvation. We still live in this world and there are days when things don't go as planned. We now live as ambassadors of Christ, walking under a different set of rules than the ones in this world. The world will now hate us as we are not of it anymore. Jesus said, **"If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you"** [John 15:19](#). We will still face challenges, trials, and temptations. But all these sufferings are not without any purpose.

**"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."** [Romans 5:3-5](#)

Nonetheless, Jesus has promised that He will always be with us ([Matthew 28:20](#)) and will never leave nor forsake us ([Hebrew 13:5](#)). If He is with us, who can be against us ([Romans 8:31](#))? All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus Christ ([Matthew 28:18](#)), and the same power has been given to us.

**"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."** [John 16:33](#)

Hence, we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us ([Romans 8:37](#)). So now by faith, we may boldly say: **"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"** [Hebrew 13:6](#). By faith, we can hold onto these promises and are strengthened to persevere in all things, including the great commission Jesus gave us: to make disciples of all nations ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)). While on this mission, let's continue to wear the shield of faith as a part of the full armor of God and persevere till the end without wavering ([Ephesians 6:14-18](#)). He who promised us eternal life is faithful ([Hebrews 10:23](#)), He will do what He promised and make good what He has spoken ([Numbers 23:19](#)).

**"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown"** [Revelation 3:10-11](#)

Yes! We have a glorious crown on our heads, and great rewards await those who persevere in faith! We will discuss this here tomorrow, stay tuned!

**Prayer:**

Lord, please forgive me for my unbelief and unfaithfulness. Give me faith to always trust You and to walk boldly as Your ambassadors on earth, doing Your will and persevering till the end. Thank You for being faithful, and for keeping Your promises. In Jesus' name. Amen



## Day 6 – The rewards of faith

Yesterday, we left off reading a passage from the book of Revelation, where Jesus is speaking to His church in Philadelphia, an ancient Asian city. Though this book might not be one of the most popular in churches nowadays, let's peek at chapters 2 and 3, where Jesus is speaking to seven Asian churches, in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea. Though each of these churches have different contents in their letters, the structure remains the same: Jesus starts by introducing Himself, then He encourages, rebukes, corrects and counsels the church, and He ends by promising a reward to the faithful ones, the ones who conquer by living and persevering in faith.

The rewards Jesus promises us are: the permission to eat of the tree of life ([Revelation 2:7](#)), to not be harmed by the second death ([Rev 2:11](#)), to eat hidden manna and receive a white stone with a new secret name on it ([Rev 2:17](#)), to have authority and dominion over the nations, to have the morning star ([Rev 2:26-28](#)), to be clothed with white garments and have our names forever written in the book of life, to be confessed by Jesus before the Father and His angels ([Rev 3:5](#)), to be a pillar in the temple of God, on whom the name of God is written and who dwells forever in God's temple ([Rev 3:12](#)), and to sit on the throne of Jesus ([Rev 3:21](#)). Hallelujah! What a generous and loving God we serve! As if salvation and eternal life in His presence were not enough, He finds pleasure in giving us rewards, in sharing His heavenly glory with us, in giving us His authority and inviting us to sit on His throne!

As if all these heavenly rewards were not enough, He finds pleasure in giving us even more rewards here on earth; though our lives here are short and like vapor, He wants us to live them to the fullest, and experience joy and peace continually. He makes all things work together for our good, He heals us, provides for us, protects us, sets us apart for His glory and service... He is always with us!

**“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose” [Romans 8:28](#)**

We will say it again: Hallelujah! What a generous and loving God we serve! Consider this verse: **“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” [Romans 8:32](#)**

Do you realize that God gave up what was the most precious to Him, His son, for you? Then there is no other good thing that He will withhold from you. We pray that you understand how loved by God and precious you are in His sight. Do not believe the lies of the enemy, as he tries to convince you that God is the author of your pain and suffering. He took all this at the cross to give you freedom, and life in abundance. He did not save you to abandon you halfway; what He starts He always perfects and finishes! What is our response then, as faith-filled believers who stand in awe before such a gracious God and His amazing rewards? Praise, of course! And something else... Let's meet tomorrow to discuss that.

**Prayer:**

Father, in the name of Jesus, I pray and ask that You, the author and finisher of my faith, will give me a steadfast and enduring faith, that will not be shaken by the storms of life. I ask for a conqueror's faith that will hold on and hope in Your name and promises till You return. I hold on to the knowledge that You will soon return to take me home with You, and I thank you for Your comforting presence with me here on earth, all the days of my life. My most precious reward is Your presence in me, through Your Holy Spirit. Amen.



## Day 7 – Faith in deeds

We left off yesterday in awe of God's love and generous rewards for us, both in this life and the life to come. Considering the revelation of who God is, what He has done for us and what He has in store for us, our natural response is none other than praise and worship. Like the 24 elders and the heavenly hosts, we realize He alone is worthy of our praise and adoration, and we give it to Him through songs, prayers, shouts and dances etc...but it does not end there. Unlike the heavenly hosts, we are still here on earth and worship cannot be the only response to God's love. Because we are still living in a broken world with broken people who are yet to taste and embrace God's love, we need to couple our worship with acts of love. Our faith in God must bear fruit. Not only fruit that are for our personal nourishment, like we discussed in Days 4 & 5 (living and persevering in faith) but fruit that will nourish others, "our neighbour". James illustrates it beautifully in the passage below:

"If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Depart in peace, be warmed and filled," but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what *does it* profit? Thus, also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:15-17

After all we discussed in the past 6 days, we believe that you are now grounded in what faith is about and what rewards await those who live and persevere in faith in God, but our faith will be dead if it is not followed by works. These works emanate from the overflow of love that has now been poured in our hearts as a result of our faith in the one true God.

"Therefore, be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma." Ephesians 5:1-2

Because we have faith in God and believe that we are His children, we ought to behave like Him and walk in love! If we truly believe that He has forgiven us, we ought to forgive others. If we truly believe that He is our provider, we ought to be generous: If we truly believe that encountering Him changes life then we ought to talk about Him so more lives around us are changed for the better. We are now Christ ambassadors, and we ought to live up to this calling.

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20

Always remember this: Faith that does not produce deeds or works of love is dead. So go out there and live a faith filled life, that bears much fruit in your personal life and that of all those who will cross your path! We bless you in the name of the Lord: may He keep you; make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may He lift His countenance upon you and give you peace.

### **Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, may You perfect my faith in You and enable me to daily put my faith to work by practicing deeds inspired by Your Spirit and rooted in love. May my light shine forth before

others, so they may see the good deeds You perform through me, and they may glorify You and turn to You. Lord, uphold me with your righteous hand so that my faith may be clothed with love and humility, and that I may not stumble. Father, as my love for You grows, I pray You may also increase my faith in You. In Jesus' name, amen!

