

# MARRIAGE BY THE BOOK

## THE SHIELD of FAITH

### 1. REVIEW:

#### A. QUESTION ABOUT FEELINGS AS THEY APPLY TO FAITH.

1. FEELINGS MAY BE INVOLVED IN OUR FAITH AT SALVATION.
2. FEELINGS ARE NOT A PART OF OUR FAITH DURING SANCTIFICATION.

#### B. DISCUSS

### 2. The KEY TO VICTORY in OVERCOMING STRONGHOLDS, ADDICTIONS, BATTLES IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE, and MUCH MORE is FAITH.

#### A. WHAT IS FAITH?

1. The simplest DEFINITION OF FAITH IS THAT FAITH IS ACTING AS IF GOD IS TELLING THE TRUTH.
  - a. FAITH is DIRECTLY TIED to an ACTION done in RESPONSE TO A REVEALED TRUTH.
  - b. The BELT OF TRUTH was the FIRST piece of SPIRITUAL ARMOR listed because the OTHER PIECES OF SPIRITUAL ARMOR are ALL INTERCONNECTED with TRUTH in some way.
2. If you do NOT KNOW THE TRUTH, OR if you do NOT ACT ON THE TRUTH, the SHIELD of FAITH is IMPOTENT.
  - a. In ORDER TO HAVE FAITH, you have to KNOW AND RESPOND TO THE TRUTH which is GOD'S VIEWPOINT (HIS WORD) on a matter.

#### B. IF FAITH it is NOT ATTACHED to GOD'S TRUTH WE will NOT be able to ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING!

1. IF YOUR FAITH is TIED TO YOUR FEELINGS - that is, IF you have only as much faith as you FEEL... you may NOT FEEL like ACTING because you really DO NOT BELIEVE in what you SAY and you FEEL.
2. FAITH is NEVER BASED on how much FAITH you FEEL.
  - a. FAITH is ALWAYS BASED on your FEEL... WHAT you DO in RESPONSE to WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

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3. FAITH is ACTING on the TRUTH whether:
    - a. You FEEL the TRUTH, or NOT.
    - b. You UNDERSTAND the TRUTH, or NOT.
    - c. You LIKE the TRUTH, or NOT.
    - d. You AGREE with the TRUTH, or NOT.
    - e. 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NASB) for we walk by faith, not by sight—
  4. **FAITH is a FUNCTION of the MIND that SHOWS UP in the FEET.**
- C. When we allow our FAITH to be DEFINED by our FEELINGS, DURING SANCTIFICATION, NOT be successful in SPIRITUAL WARFARE.
1. FAITH IN GOD must have an OBJECTIVE STANDARD by which it is defined.
    - a. THAT OBJECTIVE IS TRUTH... HIS WORD.
  2. When FAITH IN GOD OPERATES by the OBJECTIVE STANDARD of TRUTH, it WILL eventually DICTATE our EMOTIONS rather than the reverse.
  3. As we continue to WALK BY FAITH in the direction God has called us, OUR EMOTIONS/FEELINGS WILL SOON FOLLOW.
- D. EXAMPLE: Of FAITH ACTED ON REGARDLESS of FEELINGS.
1. In GOD'S WORD, JESUS tells us we are to LOVE OUR ENEMIES and PRAY for those who PERSECUTE US.
    - a. Matthew 5:44 (NASB) "But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,
    - b. Proverbs 16:7 (NASB) When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
  2. IF we CHOOSE, by FAITH IN GOD'S WORD, to do an ACT of KINDNESS to someone we perceive to be our ENEMY...

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- a. The **EMOTION** of **KINDNESS** toward that person will one day **OVERRIDE OUR EMOTIONS** of **PAIN, HATE, AGER, or BITTERNESS** that we **FEEL**.
    - 1) That may become **TRUE FOR BOTH PARTIES!!**
  - b. Our **FEELINGS** will eventually **catch up** with our **ACTIONS**... **IF** we **continue ACTING BY FAITH IN GOD'S WORD**.
3. That is only one **EXAMPLE** of **FAITH IN GOD'S WORD ACTED ON WITHOUT REGARD TO OUR FEELINGS!**
4. CAN YOU THINK OF **OTHER EXAMPLES??**
- E. **PROBLEM:** One of the greatest **HINDERANCES** to **LIVING** a **LIFE OF FAITH** is that many of us simply **HAVE TOO MUCH WORLDLY KNOWLEDGE**.
1. If we were half as educated in the **WORD OF GOD** as we are in the **WORLD**, we would be further along in living a **VICTORIOUS LIFE**.
    - a. **FAITH BEGINS** by **KNOWING** the **TRUTH** and then **ACTING ON the TRUTH** so we can **SEE GOD MOVE**.
- F. **NOTE: OUR FAITH does NOT MAKE GOD MOVE**.
1. All **FAITH** does is **ACCESS** what **GOD HAS ALREADY DONE FOR US AT SALVATION**.
  2. IF we **BELIEVE** that **FAITH MAKES GOD MOVE**, we are going to be searching for a way to **GET MORE FAITH**.
    - a. **We DO NOT NEED MORE FAITH**.
    - b. We **DO NEED** to **KNOW MORE TRUTH**... because **FAITH** is the **POINT of ACCESS, NOT the SOURCE** of **POWER**.
  3. All **FAITH** is doing is drawing on the **GRACE** that God has **ALREADY** put on deposit in our account at **SALVATION**.

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- a. **Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)** For by **grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, it is **the** gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.
4. **FAITH ACCESSES** the **GRACE** that God has **ALREADY DEPOSITED** for us at **SALVATION**.
- G. **FAITH** is only as **VALUABLE** as the **OBJECT** of that **FAITH**.
  1. When the **OBJECT of FAITH** is **GODS REVEALED TRUTH (HIS WORD)**, even the tiniest amount can move mountains.
  2. **REMEMBER... FAITH ACCESSES** the **GRACE GOD DEPOSITED** at **SALVATION**.
- H. Sometimes, we believe we **NEED TO DO GOOD WORKS** to **ACCESS** what God has in store for us in His **GRACE**.
  1. **BUT** our **WORKS** actually just **EXHIBIT OUR FAITH**.
  2. They **PROVE** the **EXISTENCE** of our **FAITH**.
    - a. **WORKS DO NOT ACCESS GRACE** because once we **attach WORKS to GRACE**, it's **NO LONGER GRACE** because **GRACE "IS THE GIFT OF GOD"**.
      - 1) **James 2:18 (NASB)** But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith **by** my works."
      - 2) **Romans 11:6 (NASB)** But if it is by **grace**, it is no longer on the **basis of works**, otherwise **grace is no longer grace**.
    - b. **WORKS EXHIBIT FAITH**, and **FAITH ACCESSES GRACE**

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**Matthew 5:44 (NASB)** "But I say to you, **love your enemies** and **pray for those who persecute you,**

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**Romans 11:6 (NASB)** But if it is by **grace,** it is no longer on the **basis of works,** otherwise **grace is no longer grace.**

**Hebrews 11:1 (NASB)** Now **faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.**

**2 Corinthians 5:7 (NASB)** for we **walk by faith, not by sight—**