**FAITH**

***Written by: Tommy Romans May 2018***

 Thank God for FAITH! Faith in God has worked wonders and miracles for over 6,000 years. We understand that this whole world was framed by the Word of Faith. The greatest thing Faith has ever done in our lives is brought us Salvation! From Genesis through Revelation, this precious gift by Grace has wrought Righteousness, it’s moved mountains, crossed stormy seas, brought miracle births, raised the dead, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, made the weak strong – it has driven back enemies, brought victory in battles and won wars. Hell could not stop this genuine Faith. The devil can’t defeat it - it’s healed the sick, opened prison doors and set captives free.

This God given Faith has brought the Lord’s people through many hard times and rough places, made ways when there wasn’t any, made highways through deserts and seas, it’s fed the hungry and brought rivers and streams flowing in the desert. Faith has labored, it has climbed, dug and fought till it finds the answer and achieves success in every circumstance and difficulty. Faith built Noah’s boat, caused Abraham to pack up and travel 1,100 miles on horse and wagon to a land God promised to give him. Real God given Faith will not quit or give up till it obtains victory. You can’t stop a true determined Faith. It will climb sycamore trees, take roofs off to see and get to Jesus. Faith believes the promises of God and marches on to claim them.

 Some of you reading this Newsletter, if it wasn’t for your Faith, you would be gone – you wouldn’t be here today! You know how the Lord has touched you and brought you through many troubles and trials. You held on to God, believed and trusted until He moved. **I John 5:4** – For whatsoever is born of God Overcometh the World: And this is the Victory that Overcometh the world, even our Faith.

 Faith is not always easy, giving you easy solutions, but it forces you to keep going, believing and searching until you find it. Faith doesn’t always provide you with a soft net to fall into when your fingers are about to give way as you hang over a cliff. But Faith gives your hands and finger the strength to hold on until your wonderful deliverer comes with the answer! Faith is a dependence upon the integrity and truthfulness of a Loving caring God. It is a firm belief and trust in our Heavenly Father, that He will help us

 and take us through.

 Don’t ever say that you don’t have any Faith! Yes you do. **Rom. 12:13** – As God hath dealt to every man the measure of Faith. When you came to Jesus and repented of your sins and you were born again, the Holy Ghost came inside and He put a little Mustard Seed of Faith down in your Heart for you to

use and work with. Listen close: In everything you do in life, every endeavor – you are to utilize that Seed of Faith. For within it is Life, strength and Hope. It holds every promise of God, every Word He has spoken. Unless you believe and activate that Seed and build on it, apply it in every circumstance, you will dry up, give up, wither away and die! Your Faith in God is what keeps you alive and going.

 Remember, a thousand-mile journey starts with just one step. I can tell you that this writer has made many thousands of steps in these 44 years that I have served God! Thank God, I am still going – the Lord has been good to me! I could have made more, made it farther and done more if I had only believed, stepped out and obeyed that Precious Word! Listen, it’s no time now for us to let up or stop now. Don’t let our troubles and trials get us down and cause us to doubt God. The most Important, the very dearest and best thing you have Is Your Faith! It is more precious than gold that perisheth. Don’t let it die. Whatever you do – keep it going. Keep pressing on and using it. In spite of everything bad, keep believing and holding on! Build all your confidence in your God that does not and cannot fail. He is forever Faithful! Remember, He is the God of your Past and if He was with you then, made ways then, saved and kept you then and been so good to provide for you then, He will not forget or fail you now!

**THE FAITH OF A SAILOR**

 Look for a moment at the Faith of a mariner, a sailor. He packs up, loads his ship with his precious cargo. He has his family and his goods on board. He’s got a destination in mind in a far away land that he longs to go to. He loosens the big cable from the dock it’s moored to, lifts the anchor and pushes out. He then raises the sails to catch the wind. He trusts the wind, he believes in its unseen power to push him onward! If he didn’t believe there was a better and desired place on a far distant shore, he never would have started and launched out.

 Listen: For days and days, weeks and weeks he sails on. He can’t see land or shore. Yet, he goes on day and night with no doubts until one morning he looks out and sees the desired haven in the distance. Tell us Mr. Mariner, how did you have such confidence and find your way? He’ll tell you – “I had my Compass and my Map spread out before me. I always looked up to the heavens and observed the stars to steer my vessel. I obeyed their guidance for I knew they were always true. They never change their position! Therefore, I have Faith and full Confidence in making it to my desired Home!

 Children, we started out years ago. We’ve sailed many nautical miles over lots of stormy waters on this sea of life. We’ve sailed through mists and faced opposing winds. The enemies’ angry waves have beat into our vessel, but our Faithful God never let us sink! His grace has been with us. He never allowed us to be broken apart or go down. By His undying love and mercy, we are still sailing on. We are on our way to our eternal Home. Let’s keep going, Heaven’s port on the golden shore is almost in view. Sail on weary traveler, your Faith will pay off.

 **Rom. 1:17** – As it is written, the Just shall Live by Faith. Dear child of God, if you really believe, you will keep going. It takes a determination down deep in your Heart to keep marching onward toward your desired goal. We can’t slow up or hesitate now!

**THE FAITH OF A FIVE YEAR OLD**

 O the Faith of a Child! God, give us the faith of a trusting Child. A Pastor in Houston Texas – John Bisango tells about his little 5 year old daughter Melodye Jan who came to him and said – “Daddy, would you build me a doll house!” He answered her – “Yes honey, I’ll build you one, now go play.” He went on reading and studying. After a while, he got up to stretch, walked over to the window and looked out and there was his little daughter Melodye – she had carried out of the house all her little dishes, toys and dolls and had them piled up and was sitting there waiting! A little humble girl staring up into her father’s window and waiting. He said that touched him so much that he couldn’t let her down. He said – “I headed for the basement for my wood and tools. If my daughter had enough Faith and confidence in that she believed my word – I couldn’t let her down.”

**GOD KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE**

 I’d like to tell my readers right here – God sees you. He surely takes notice of your efforts! He knows your desire. He sees you still faithful, your efforts in serving Him. You’re still going on and trusting. Your Faith will pay off child. Just Hold on, your Faith will keep you – it will bring a reward!

 You don’t realize it, but in the natural, you use Faith every day. How many of you crossed a bridge this week on your way somewhere, maybe to work or Church? Did you think about the bridge before you got to it, worrying if it would hold you up? No! You just crossed it and went on because you’ve trusted it many times before and it never let you down. Dear child, God has held you up many times in your life as you went on and you never realized it. O how merciful He is!

 I know this is funny, but this sales add was found in a newspaper one day: “Parachute for Sale – Once used, never opened!” It would not open because the man never believed in it enough to pull the string. You can do everything in this world to save yourself, but if you don’t believe and trust in God, He can’t really help you. So, what is Faith? It is going as far as you can see and when you get there, you’ll be able to see farther and go some more!

**FAITH AND WORKS**

 If you really have Faith, your works will show it! **James 2:20** – But wilt thou know O vain man that Faith, if it hath not works is dead? What you do in every day life will prove whether you are committed in serving God. Your works will prove it! **James 2:24** – See how that by works a man is justified and not by Faith only. You will put into action what you really believe in.

 A Christian man was hired by the State Park service to paddle tourists across a lake. In order for him to witness to them about the Lord, he used his two oars for an illustration. One Oar he called Faith and the other Oar he called Works. He explained – if I only used this one Oar called Faith, I would go in circles. Yes, I believe in it but I’d get nowhere. And if I only went through the motions in using the Oar of Works, I’d still go in circles in the opposite direction and I’d stay right out here in the middle of this lake and never make it to shore. It’s only when I fully believe and have a desire in my heart to make it to the other side that I use both of them and they take me across. Listen, we’ll never make it across if we don’t put into action what we know and believe! We’ll die stalemate in the middle of the pond.

 God wants you to know that your diligence will pay off. There’s just something about believing God that will cause Him to pass over a million heads just to get to you. Without Faith, it is impossible to please God. They that come to God, must believe that He is and He is a Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him. The Lord will surely manifest Himself to those who will take the time to look for Him. Diligence always pays off. It brings the blessing. Keep believing and trusting. Remember, a Belief is something you Hold. A conviction is something that Holds you! A conviction is something you are convinced of. A belief is knowledge. Conviction is being convinced – it says – “Yes, I know by experience because my God has proved Himself to me too many times for me to doubt Him now.

**STEPPING STONES OF FAITH**

 How many of you reading this Newsletter have had hard times in your life and you witnessed and saw how God came through for you, made ways and supplied your needs? These places and times in your life, you are to store in your memory, because there will come times you will need to think back on them. These times and places in your life are called Stepping Stones of Faith! Think back in your memory now to a time when you faced a hard trial and didn’t have the answer, you couldn’t fix the problem, you didn’t know what to do and there you were stuck, you were hurting and in need. The enemy of your soul (devil) made your situation look hopeless. You were worried and afraid. This trial may have lasted weeks or months but somewhere during this hard time you came to realize there was a Divine presence, you knew somebody was with you!! Then something happened and things began to change and everything worked out. You know that these times in your life didn’t just happen. You didn’t have the answer, you couldn’t fix it but there was an invisible hand that worked things out for your good. That unseen power made a way! The all knowing and wise God was looking out for your good. It’s in these times you really realize that God cares for you and you’re not alone!

 These times and places are called “Stepping Stones of Faith”. Here’s an illustration I made up: Dear Child, your life is made up of highs and lows. You don’t always stay on the mountain. Valleys you surely will face. In those places in the valley you will come to raging streams that you must cross in order to go on. You have a desire in your heart to cross. You’ve already come too far to turn back – turning back is not an option. You’ve had enough of this valley and you’re ready for a change. You look across the stream and gaze upward. You see those high plateaus on the mountain and O how you desire them! A voice from those heights are calling and beckoning and you long to be up there in the sunshine of God’s Love and presence.

 So you work your way along the bank of the stream until you see a flat solid rock jutting up out of the water a couple feet or so from the bank. You know if you can jump hard enough you can make it to the rock. You muster the strength and jump hard and there you land safely on the rock. That rock is solid, it is holding you – the swift waters can’t wash you away! As you stand there, your heart beats inside to go on across. So you look out in front of you to find another solid rock sticking up out of the water to launch to. Surely, there’ll be another one Lord! You pray and wait and sure enough, you see another safe landing. It just seems that it was meant to be there – right there in reach! You muster all the strength and Faith you have and you leap to that rock also and there you stand safe and secure again. You hear the raging stream all around you and you feel its cold mist hitting you, but your mind is made up – Lord, I’m going all the way across. I long for that mountain and those high places. I want to be with you!

 You realize your life down here is a journey, a walk of Faith. **Heb. 10:38** – Now the just shall walk by Faith. **II Cor. 5:7** – For we walk by Faith and not by sight.

 Each time you make that giant step and leap to cross that raging stream, you know you’re getting closer to the other side. You can smell the flowers on yonder bank. So, it is in this Christian walk - We have made many big steps and leaps of Faith to get across the hard places in life. It’s always good for you in each new trial to turn and look back for a moment across those raging streams you have crossed along the way. Look at each rock and high place your feet have made it to, where you stood safe and sound. God has always made a way. You’re getting closer Home! Your feet dear brother and sister have crossed many dangerous streams. Each high place you made it to on your journey is called a Stepping Stone of Faith. You are where you are today because God went before you and placed those stones within your reach and beckoned you to keep following Him. He’s brought you to where you are now. He’s never let you down, never allowed the waters of trial to wash you away! It would be good to do a mental inventory and look back where you’ve been, and how far you have come, to where you are now. The Lord has proved to you that “He is Faithful!” You’re too close to turn back. You can’t doubt out and give up now. God has already right now placed in front of you another Stepping Stone – keep going – you can make it!!

**GOD IS FAITHFUL**

 Can we be like the Apostle Paul – I know whom I have believed and I am Persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against (until) that day He calls me home. Paul told Timothy – I’ve had my afflictions and my times of trial. Nobody knows what I’ve been through. Only my Lord knows what I have suffered, but I can tell you – He has been Faithful! I have found His Grace sufficient. He’s been there to pull me through. He’s made ways when there was none. He’s supplied my every need, healed me, kept me, clothed me and fed me and by that, I have learned to Trust Him.

**REMIND THE DEVIL**

 I am writing this to remind the devil and help you to remind him that we have come this far by Faith We are where we are – Saved and redeemed because of our Faith and there is no retreat. We are not going to doubt out now. Rest assured, your Faith is going to be tried but always remember – when you are being tried doesn’t mean that God is against you. **I Pet. 1:5** – says we are kept by the power of God through Faith. The enemy of your soul would like to get you down and wear you out. Do you know why? Because he wants to discourage you and get you to give up your Faith. He’d like nothing better than to get you to stop, back up and resign your God given Faith. If you give up your Faith now dear reader – you ARE GONE!!

 I’m afraid the enemy is whispering to many – your prayers are vain, you’re not getting anywhere, it’s useless to go on believing.

**DON’T GIVE UP – YOUR’E ALMOST HOME**

 Expert swimmer Florence Chadwick was a professional swimmer. She started swimming at age 6 and won awards. At the age of 34 she set out to be the first woman to swim 21 miles across the channel from Catalina Island to Palos Verde on the California coast. The weather was challenging, the ocean ice cold. The fog was so thick she could barely see the support boats that followed her. The tides and current was against her. There were sharks in the area but she made up her mind she wasn’t quitting. She continued on hoping the fog would lift. Hour after hour she swam and swam but the fog never lifted. She pressed on. This was in 1952 when there was no GPS instruments telling her location in the cold waters and how far she was from land. Determined, she kept pressing on to her goal. Fifteen hours and fifty five minutes into her swim, she hollered back at her mom in the support boat following – “Mom, I don’t think I can make it!” She began to doubt her ability to finish the swim. She lacked 5 minutes being in the water 16 grueling hours. With great disappointment she hollered back at the support crew to take her out of the water. Because of the thick fog she could not see the coastline she was swimming to reach. She had no idea where she was. She soon found out she was only one mile from her goal – just one mile making it to the coast to win! Because of the fog she couldn’t see the goal in front of her and she felt like she wasn’t getting anywhere. If she could have only seen the land, that desired coast in front of her she could have made it. This let’s us know how close any of us can be to success or winning, but without keeping our spiritual eyes on God and our goal, we will get discouraged and quit! The devil will take the wind out of you by blinding you with his fog of doubt! He’ll tell you – you can’t make it, no use to try, just give up, it’s too much, too hard!

 I think each of us knows that there were times in our life if we had just kept going we would have won battles and great victories. Could this be your last endeavor before Jesus comes? Are you being tempted to get out of the water and give up the race? Are you tired and weary of the struggle and feel you’re getting nowhere? Do you feel like quitting right when you are nearing the goal? Some of you are closer than you realize. Nothing takes the place of perseverance. You’ve got to stay in the race and have a persistence deep inside that says – “Dear Lord Jesus, I started out to go all the way, I’m not quitting. I’m not giving up – I mean to make it! I know you called me, you saved me and put something in my heart to finish the race. I’m going to make it Home!

 In ending, We might be just one Stepping Stone from crossing over! Just a few more strokes and paddles and we’ll reach that longed for golden shore. Look up children, hold on, keep trusting – your precious Faith will see you through!!

**May God Bless my Readers!**