FAITH – HOPE – PATIENCE - DOUBT

“PERSONIFIED”

In this month’s Newsletter, I will be doing it in Allegory form! I want to deal with Faith – Hope – Patience and Doubt. I will personify each one of them, give each of them character and let them talk to us and teach us. For instance, the great wise man Solomon by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost personified Wisdom in Proverbs to teach us. He called Wisdom **Her**.

 **Pro. 1:20** ¶ Wisdom crieth without; She uttereth her voice in the streets: **21** She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying, **23** Turn you at my reproof.

**Pro. 9:1** ¶ Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

(She is a picture of a Wise Godly Spiritual mother, who takes each of her children on her lap and teaches them.)

Jesus Himself personified Wisdom and gave it character in **Luke 7:35** – But Wisdom is justified of all Her children.

The apostle James in his N.T. book written to the saints of God, referred to Patience as Her. **James. 1:3** Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. **4** But let patience have Her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

**FAITH** - So, having said this, do you know what Faith is? It is simply believing God; putting your whole trust and confidence upon the integrity and truthfulness of His Holy infallible unfailing Word and obeying it.

**Heb 11:1** ¶ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (It takes Faith to be saved. It takes Faith to please God. Faith is the mother of all living. She has a voice, she is the fountain head of all blessings that come from God.) **Faith** is Now, it is present tense; **Hope** is future. Faith brings the substance of what you Hope for. Without Faith, you will never get anything from God, never go anywhere or accomplish anything great. If I had Faith only and did not have that Blessed Hope, I would become discouraged and not able to continue on in serving God. Faith and Hope are Holy Ghost twins sent to teach and help us make it to our eternal home in Heaven.

 Listen, Faith is the most important and dearest thing you have. Don’t let it get weak and die. Don’t let your troubles and trials discourage you and get you down and take away your Faith. In spite of everything bad, let your Hope keep you going.

**Vs. 6** 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.

For by Grace, we are saved through Faith and though we walk and live by Faith, that Blessed Hope will drive us on, it’ll keep us going and holding to God’s precious promises! If I had Faith only and did not have Hope, I would doubt out. If I had Faith and Hope and did not have Patience, I would not be able to endure. In order to please and serve God, we must have all three to come through the trials of life. In personifying Patience, I see her - though she is rugged and worn, she’s still strong! She has weathered many storms, she’s endured much suffering. She wraps her big strong arms around Faith and Hope and says – I know the path, I am acquainted with sorrow and grief, I have been down roads that looked hopeless. I have felt pain and suffered loss. I have surely faced the giants of worry and fear **BUT** I am here to comfort you and assure you that you can make it. God has sent me to help you – I will be your strength and encourager until you get Home!! If you don’t have Patience, you can forfeit your Faith in God and lose your Hope!

Faith has a voice in the heart of the inward man that says: I believe God, I believe His holy Word, I know He called me, He saved me, He is with me and He will make a way! You will come to places in your life that you don’t know what to do and you don’t see a way out or through, you’re living by sheer Faith – this is where Hope comes in. Hope is Faith’s encourager, it always stands at his right hand! Hope is Faith’s eyes – Hope looks out ahead of it, it looks over the horizon into the future and sees what it is longing for. It says to Faith – “Come on Faith, you can’t go on feelings, keep believing, don’t let up or doubt out now. Keep standing on God’s Word, for I see right over the horizon sweet victory. Brother Faith, I can see long distance - my eyesight is clearer than it’s ever been! I was with father Abraham when God called him out of the idolatrous land of UR and he traveled 1100 miles to the land of promise, looking for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. My eyes have never went dim all these years. I can still see that celestial city of Heaven, it’s shining bright as ever.” Hope says to Faith – “I know you’ve been tried and I know you get weary, I know your battles are hard, I’m aware of your struggles – But God sent me to tell you to hold on, keep on going and believing, it’s not in vain, for I see what’s waiting, I see mansions, I see the redeemed dressed in white; I hear loved ones rejoicing as they sing Victory song! Faith, I see a land of peace and rest; I see the glorious ONE, the Author and maker of it all sitting on His glorious throne that makes all things new! Faith, we’ve got God’s Holy Word and Promises - I am with you all the way till we get Home!”

Dear reader, I’m here to tell us that our journey here is about over, we are nearing the end - Hold fast the profession of your Faith without wavering, for God is Faithful that promised; hold fast your confidence and the rejoicing of Hope firm unto the end! Paul wrote to the Colossian believers: **Col. 1:5** – We have heard of your **Faith** and your Love which you have for one another, and for the **Hope** which is laid up in Heaven for you! (You can clearly see these twin brothers in this verse that lets us know, we will never make it without them).

THE 2 MICE

Scientists did a test using two mice to see how Hope plays a role in our everyday life and how it affects our endurance! They filled a big galvanized bucket half way up with water and put the first mouse in the water. They started their stop watch and watched the mouse swim around and around and around the walls of the bucket until it gave up and quit swimming and began to drown. They noted how long it took before it gave up!

They then filled the same bucket on up with water till it reached almost the brim and placed the second mouse in the water and started the stop watch. This mouse, as it kicked and swam, was able to thrust itself up and look over the brim of the bucket and see the ground all around it. As the stop watch ticked the minutes away, the mouse kept on swimming and would not give up or quit! What made the difference?

Why did the first mouse give up so quick, sink and go down? It was because all that it could see was the galvanized walls all around it and it lost Hope and quit! It let’s us know, we can be like this first mouse, when we focus on our bad circumstances that seem to be galvanized all around us, the enemy of our soul will begin to speak, saying – It’s useless, you’ll never get out, it’ll never get any better and the awful spirit of hopelessness causes us to give up our Faith

 Doesn’t nature itself teach us in their stedfast persistence to go on, do, work, build and live? Do you know why the second mouse would not give up? It was able to look out over the rim of the bucket that it was in and see Freedom and sweet Victory that it was assured was waiting on it!! “This is the picture of HOPE!” It will keep Faith alive to believe God and obtain the ultimate Victory!

PATIENCE

 Here’s where the third element of God’s Grace comes in that we need in our Christian life to be an Overcomer. We desperately need this Virtue! Patience is another word for Endurance. If we don’t have this one, we can easily forfeit and lose our Faith and Hope that we started out with!

 Can you tell us again Apostle James about the need for Patience? **Jas 1:2** ¶ My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; **3** Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.

 **4** But let Patience have **Her** perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

 The original Greek amplifies and reads this way: **James 1:3** – Understanding this, that the trial and proving of your Faith brings out endurance and stedfast patience. **4** – But let endurance and your stedfast patience have HER way and do a thorough work so that you will be fully developed with no defects and nothing lacking in your Christian service.

What’s God saying to us in this verse? Look again at the word HER. It personifies Patience and likens Her to a great, strong and Wise old Godly mother that has weathered many storms, faced innumerable battles – she’s come through countless trials and She pulls us aside, takes us on her lap as we earnestly pray and says: – “Just Hold on to your Faith and you will come out perfect, entire and complete with nothing lacking. When the trial is over, you will not come out empty!! You’ll come out stronger, richer and better than when you went in.” This is the way that God works. He lets us come to places where we must use our Faith! He’s building in us character, making us strong to endure that we might help others on our way Home to Heaven!

Listen to the Good Holy Ghost through Paul as he writes to Christians at Rome describing the end result of Faith: **Ro 5:1** ¶ Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: **2** By whom also we have access by Faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in Hope of the glory of God. **3** And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: **knowing** that tribulation worketh Patience; **4** And patience, experience; and experience, Hope: **5** And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

 The things you go through in life, if you’ll hold on and trust the Lord, they will stablish, strengthen and settle you! God never wastes a trial in His Childrens’ lives. Every experience you go through will put in your soul a Blessed Hope that cannot be taken away because the Love of Jesus has grown richer, and sweeter through it all!! Our eyes are upon Him and our affections are set on things above!

FAITH AND DOUBT

**1Tim. 6:11** But thou, O man of God, follow after righteousness, godliness, Faith, love, Patience, meekness. **12** Fight the good fight of Faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called.

 Real Faith will not quit, it doesn’t give up, it might struggle at times when under pressure and trial, but it will keep on fighting and HOLDING ON, trusting God’s Word and promises!

 Don’t ever let the devil use your troubles and trials against you to cause you to Doubt God!! The voice of the enemy is heard the loudest in your times of suffering. He will use your hard times you go through to cause you to doubt God’s call, to doubt His Word and His grace! You can mark this one thing down, Satan’s voice is known by the tone of doubt when he speaks – and he always knows the right time to approach you and whisper in your ear. It’s him that puts those inward thoughts of negativism in your mind when you’re going through it and walking by faith.

**Heb. 10:23** - Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without **Wavering**; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Do you know what it means to Waver? When you Waver, it means you’re not sure, you’re unsteady. Worry, stress and fears will cause you to tremble inside – you become uncertain, ready to hesitate. The psalmist David cried out to the Lord – “My enemies are lively and they are many and I’m ready to halt!” Many are shaky in this hour by what they’re hearing and seeing. Now is the time to fast and pray and take a fresh hold on God! DO NOT lose your grip on Faith. Your Faith right now will be your inward strength to march on! Christ Jesus is coming SOON, He’s even at our door!

FAITH AND DOUBT PERSONIFIED

 Listen close: In every one of us there is a constant battle that goes on day and night between Faith and Doubt. These two are at war with one another. Faith seeks to draw us to God – Doubt on the other hand tries to pull us away! We know that we are saved by God’s grace, we know we are His child and we serve Him by Faith. But the human side of us is so prone to doubt. I asked the Lord to help me in this Newsletter to explain in a way and draw a picture in our minds how the enemy of our soul operates so you would understand.

 I’m going to personify these two – Faith and Doubt and give them character! They are at odds. Faith is optimistic, it has a good outlook – it finds the good things to focus on. Doubt on the other hand can’t see any good coming out of anything, it finds the bad to dwell on. It focuses on the wrong. It feeds itself on the negative. You must remember – (Doubt is a spirit, it is the spirit of UNBELIEF) and it can be deadly, bring you down and shut you out of Heaven.

Faith will always look up to its Author! Doubt’s gaze is downward – it’s earthly and base. Faith is bold, it’s willing to fight, to stand its ground in what it believes and KNOWS is true. Doubt is weak, when pressure comes, it caves in and surrenders. Faith has an inward voice in the heart that says “I can do it – I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me – I’m going through – I am coming out with Victory!”

 Doubt says the opposite – “I can’t make it, it’s not worth the fight – it’s too much – it’ll never get any better or work out – what’s the use?” Faith comes from the very heart of God and is born in us. It is eager to accept a challenge – “Let me in there, with the help of my creator, I can make a difference because I BELIEVE!!” When things get the roughest, that’s when Faith really comes to life. It will hold on and not let go. No matter how the devil howls and fights, Faith will not be denied – it will not take NO for an answer. On the other hand, out of an unbelieving unpersuaded heart, Doubt speaks – “I don’t feel like pressing and going on. I’m tired of the fight and struggle. It’s the same old battle! I don’t feel like praying and reading my bible. I don’t feel like going to church, I’ll just stay home.” But on the other hand Faith feels a fire burning in his heart, it’s an inward desire churning inside of him that he got a long time ago. Faith says “I’m going on, I’ve come too far now to listen to the voice of doubt. I still believe God, things can change and turn around for good! I know that ALL THINGS will work out for good for those that love and serve God and it will turn out good for me!!”

To all my readers: Which category do you fit in? Which one will you listen to and obey? FAITH or DOUBT? The Lord gave me a little story in allegory form and here we go:

WHEN FAITH MET DOUBT

 Faith and Doubt met one day at the foot of a great mountain. A narrow path led from the foot of the steep mountain all the way up to the top. At the summit was the celestial city of God. Heaven in all of its Glory was shining bright and waiting there! Faith and Doubt started their ascent upward. After many days in their journey of climbing, Faith noticed Doubt lagging behind with his head down. He seemed weak and tired. Faith saw in his eyes the look of dismay, they appeared dull and lost the sparkle in them. Faith said – “What’s the matter Doubt?” Doubt spake with such negativeness – everything was gloom! His voice was filled with uncertainty. (Do my readers realize there are voices and conversations that go on inside of us all the time? Which one will we listen to? Which one will win out? As I type this Newsletter, there are many giving up! Many have already quit the ministry that God gave them, they lost that inward desire and fire and Hope that once drove them on!)

As Doubt kept talking, Faith could feel the life of God being sucked out of him. He could see in Doubts eyes the look of discouragement. Faith cringed as Doubt kept talking his negative feelings. Listening to him was going against everything Faith believed. Faith could see there was no Hope in Doubt’s voice – there was a lack of trust in him – just no confidence. Faith looked at him in pity and saw a dark cloud over his head and felt a heaviness. Doubt wasn’t really sure of himself, it was like he didn’t know which way to go or what to do, he just stood there in a quandary struggling to make up his mind. Doubt seemed lost spiritually trying to get his bearings and do the right thing. Faith began to feel a coldness in Doubt’s talk, like there was no life, no real reason to live – no desire to go on! As Doubt finished pouring out his negative complaints, he wasn’t any longer fully persuaded, he was just going through the motions. He said to Faith – “well, I guess I better be going.” He had made it half way up the mountain and was now beginning to turn around. Faith watched him as he shuffled his feet and headed back down the mountain the way he had come. He sadly watched him and observed his slow descent as he hobbled and limped out of sight. Faith thought to himself – “Well, at one time he was doing good, he was climbing God’s mountain of Glory and for whatever reason, he got discouraged and quit and turned back.” Faith pondered the moment. He shook himself to rid the awful presence that Doubt left behind.

Faith turned to face the Mountain that he had made up his mind to climb. With eagerness and desire in his heart and a longing in his soul, he resumed his upward trek. With one foot in front of the other, he pressed and pushed on, keeping his gaze upward. Was he tired? Yes! He too had gotten worn and weary – there was still a sparkle in his eyes – He never lost his Heavenly vision. There was something deep in his heart, that inward desire that God gave him a long, long time ago – a Love and a promise that he held on to and would not let go. Faith had climbed over many rocks in the steep path. He’d come too far now to ever give up. Faith had a deep assurance in his heart that serving God would pay off – “I’ll get my Reward!!”

As he ascended the last steep place of the brow nearing the top, he was aware that he was not alone! Someone was with him, though unseen, there was a sweet divine presence that accompanied him in the path that was Heavenly! The blessed Lord, the **Hope** of Glory was with him, saying – “Faith, I was with you the whole time! Though at times it was hard, I never left you!” Joy arose in Faith’s heart that was far greater than ever before. He neared the gate of the much longed for celestial city of light. As he entered and stepped inside, he said – “I’m so glad that I held on, I obeyed God’s Holy Word! I believed and trusted His precious promises.” He burst into song – “I made it, thank God I’m Home!!” **May God Bless All my Readers!**