RENEW OUR FAITH AND VISION O GOD

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**Heb 10:35** - Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. **38** - Now the just shall live by Faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. **39** But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

**Heb 11:1** - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

 **2** - For by it the elders obtained a good report.

**Heb. 3:6** - hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

What is the Holy Ghost saying to us in these verses? No matter what comes or goes – no matter what you face in life, temptations and trials – you cannot lose heart and draw back – You must keep believing the Word of the Lord and go on!!

 What is Faith? It is simply Believing, Trusting, and Obeying God! The Bible speaks of different levels of Faith. What level do you fit in?

**Little Faith** - Jesus said in **Matthew 6** – take no thought (do not worry or fret) about your life what you shall eat or drink, nor yet for your body what ye shall be clothed. If God takes care of the fowls of the air and feeds them, and He clothes the beautiful lilies of the field, shall He not much more take care of you O ye of Little Faith? Therefore, take no thought for the morrow. Jesus said in Mat. 10 – Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing (1/2 of a penny?) And One of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Fear ye not – for ye are of more value than many sparrows!!

**Great Faith** – A Gentile woman of Canaan who was an outsider to the Jews and classified as a dog by Jesus, came to Him in behalf of her daughter who was grievously vexed by a devil, crying for mercy that He would heal her! She would not take no for an answer but begged saying - Lord, even the dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters’ table – Jesus said to her - Woman, GREAT IS THY FAITH and her daughter was healed and made whole that very hour. (This woman had a persevering Faith that believed in God’s mercy and she did not give up)

**Strong Faith** – God appeared to Abraham when he was 75 years old and promised him and Sarah a son. It took 25 long years for the promise to be fulfilled. **Rom. 4:20** He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was Strong in Faith, giving glory to God; **21** And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. (If God makes you a promise, you can bank on it – Trust Him and Wait!) During that 25 years of waiting, at God’s command, Abraham and Sarah left their land of idolatry and made a grueling 1,000 mile journey to Canaan. He built Altars to the Lord along the way and finally when he was a hundred years old and Sarah was 90, the promise came true and a miracle child was born. God is not slack, He doesn’t forget, and we must not! We must believe and keep going and serving!

**No Faith** – The setting for this story that Mark records in **Mark 4** – Jesus told His chosen disciples as they entered a ship to cross the sea of Galilee – “Let us pass over to the other side!” As they were on their way a great storm of wind arose and the waves beat into the ship so that it was full. Jesus was asleep in the hinder part of the boat. They awoke the Lord with these words – “Master, carest thou not that we perish?” Jesus arose and rebuked the wind and said unto the sea – “Peace be still!” The wind ceased and there was a great calm. Listen to Jesus’ words to them – “Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have NO FAITH?” (You must remember that every story that was told in our Bible is true and they are written for us that we may take heart and have FAITH because God is faithful. If you Believe in God, Trust and Obey His Word, you will never sink and go down in life, no matter how bad the storm!! You will make it, the Lord will bring you safely over!)

**Dead Faith** - The apostle James wrote to God’s people - **Jas 2:14** What doth it profit my brethren, though a man say he hath faith and have not works, Can faith save him? **17** - Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

 **18** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

 **20** But wilt thou know, O vain man, that Faith without works is dead?

James goes on to describe the Faith of Abraham. **21** – Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son upon the altar? **22** – Seest then how faith wrought with his works and by works was Faith made perfect? **23** – And the scripture was fulfilled which saith – Abraham believed God and it was imputed (counted) unto him for righteousness: And he was called the Friend of God. **24** - Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

 **26** - For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

In essence, by this act, Abraham was saying – Lord, I give you my all – my life is wrapped up in my son – he’s my miracle and promise that you gave me and I give it all back to you upon the Altar! I know and am persuaded that if I offer him, you can and will raise him from the dead. Listen dear reader, nothing that we ever give God and do for Him, all of our works, our sacrifices of obedience, is ever lost or in vain. They will pay off – that’s real Bible Faith!!

James was saying – “You can believe in God, believe His Word and every promise, but if you don’t act on it, your Faith is dead!”

THE TWO OARS

A Christian man was hired by the State Park service to paddle tourists in a boat across a lake. He wanted to be a witness for God whom he loved and served. In order to tell them about the Lord, he used the two Oars for an illustration: One Oar he called **Faith** – the other Oar he called **Works**. He explained – If I only used this one Oar called Faith to believe, it would get me nowhere and do me no good, I would go in a circle out here in the middle of this lake. And if I only went through the motions of using the Oar of Works and didn’t really believe God, I would go in the opposite direction and never make it across! That’s the way it is in our Spiritual life. We must have a desire in our hearts and if we will believe and use both Oars of Faith and Works we’ll not die in the stale polluted waters of this world, but we will please the Lord and make it all the way to our Blessed Heavenly Home!!

A FAILED PARACHUTE

An article was found one day in the sales adds of a newspaper: FOR SALE – “Parachute! Used only once but never opened. For some unknown reason the man falling toward the ground never pulled the cord and they found him DEAD out in the field. Real Faith is active. It believes and it saves not only itself but others. Many things in life cannot and will not work until you do your part!! You must act.

**A Tried Faith** – Peter writes to the suffering Saints of God in **1Pet. 1:5-9** – We are kept by the power of God through Faith! We go through seasons of trials, we are in heaviness through many temptations: that the trial of our Faith being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire - if we will hold on, it will be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Children, we all are under the gun, we are pressed on every side, we have our battles and afflictions, some are going through the fire even now and you might say – “How can I be safe and sure? I do not want to fail – I want to make it!” **Heb. 10:21** - And having an high priest (Jesus) over the house of God;

 **22** - Let us draw near with a true heart in full Assurance of Faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us **hold fast** the Profession of our Faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Faith doesn’t always take you around pain, troubles and suffering but it will keep you through it! It doesn’t get rid of opposition, but it will give you the inward strength to endure and keep going from that Blessed Hope inside. John the Beloved wrote it this way - **1John 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 on going, believing and working till God is finished and calls you Home. Everyone of us has a job that God has called us to do whether it be small or large. Every minister, every worker and every witness must not let up for any reason – You are needed in this trying hour! Your enemy the Devil, would like to close you up and shut you down, snuff out your light and witness through discouragement!!

Did you know that according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 4500 churches closed their doors across America in 2019? Three to four thousand have shut down every year since then. (God Help us!!)

WE MUST PRAY and be Diligent! Jude wrote in **Jude 3** – We must earnestly Contend (Press and Fight) for the Faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.

**Heb 11:6** 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. (Diligence means a steady, earnest, devoted effort!!

You must remember – without Faith, you would never have been saved. God gave each of us a measure of Faith when we were born again and Christ came inside. Our Salvation was the starting point, the very foundation of our Christian experience – we are to build on it! From the moment He saved us, He expects us to grow in our Faith. Don’t let it die!!

Did you know that if you truly believe and have Faith in God your works will show it? Faith and Works go hand in hand – you cannot have one without the other to prosper and be blessed.

**Tit 3:8** This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they (which have believed) in God might be careful to **maintain** good works. These things are good and profitable unto men. **14** And let us also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

Look at the wording very close: “A faithful saying” “Affirming Constantly” “Careful to Maintain”

When the scripture here said A Faithful saying, it meant in Titus’ day in the early Church, that it was their custom to **Rally** the Church, rally the people of God! The Church was under persecution, the saints were going through the fires of trial and affliction and it was a Call, a cry they made to one another when they came and assembled together – “We must keep going, keep fighting, keep working and don’t let up!!”

When the brothers and sisters came together, they would encourage each other to BE CAREFUL to **Maintain** good works! Yes we are under the gun, we’re under pressure – the enemy is fighting, he’s seeking to discourage – he wants to depress and drag down with problems and trouble, but do not listen – don’t let him. **Rally** means: “To Muster for a common purpose – to Arouse for action – to rouse up from weakness and depression – to come together again to renew an effort – to join together for a good cause – to recover and get back up – to rebound – get back on your feet and fight the good fight of Faith.” In Titus’ day, it was a summoning of strength and courage when they were under attack and being hit.

 If there was ever a time to be on the offensive, it is NOW! The Church has been just on the defensive long enough – Let this be our Cry - I’m not sitting down – I’m not sitting back – I’m not running from the devil! I refuse to cower in the face of evil – I will not let these modern day troubles drain me out and take away my zeal and joy of Salvation!! The devil cannot have my praise and worship, I will not let him take my song! I’m taking a fresh grip on my Calling – I’m going to HOLD FAST to that which I have that God gave to me in the Holy Ghost!

Renew and Revive us Sweet Holy Ghost! It’s time to arise like Titus said in this Scripture to Rally God’s people! Be careful to Affirm Constantly – “Keep Believing God – Believe His Holy Word – Believe in His Calling and KEEP WORKING!! What I say unto one, I say to unto all – Get the fire burning in your hearts and soul and don’t let the devil dampen or put it out!! Renew our VISION O Lord!!

**1Co 15:58** Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye **stedfast**, **unmoveable**, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

RISE UP CHILDREN AND TAKE HEART

**Gal 6:9** - And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**Faint** in the Greek text means: Don’t lose heart – don’t let your hands go limp and hang down, lift them up, confirm your feeble knees, it’s time to rise up in the Spirit to the Call of God!

**Isa 40:28** Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

 **29** He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might He increaseth strength.

 **30** Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

 **31** But they that wait upon the LORD shall Renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

May God Bless all my Readers!!