

Short Answer Series #8

How can I have faith for the things the Lord has promised me in the Bible?

Faith simply means trust. And, too many people make faith some far-off mysterious something, that we reach for, but can't quite grasp. But faith is supposed to be so *common* and accessible, that Romans 1v17 tells us 'The just shall live by their faith.'

Hebrews 11v1 tells us 'faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.' So, faith is *not* 'blind faith,' based on nothing. And it is not hope, because the things we hope for may or may not happen. But, faith is the *evidence* of things not seen as yet. Because, faith is based on a promise of God, and, like Abraham, we know that, 'what God has promised, He is able to perform.' Romans 4v21.

Romans 12v3 tells us 'God hath dealt to every man (which includes every woman, and every child), the measure of faith.' Our bodies have five senses. Sight, taste, touch, smell, and hearing, and we were all born with them. And our spirits have five senses, faith, hope, reverence, prayer, and worship. And we were all born with them. We were born with as much faith as we're ever going to have. But, it's like our legs. We were all born with legs, but we weren't born running, we weren't even born walking. We had to learn *how* to use our legs. And, even though we were all born with the faith to move mountains, we have to learn *how* to use that faith.

When you buy your lunch, you don't get it analysed to make sure it's okay before you eat it. You trust the manufacturers, that they haven't put rat poison in it. And that takes faith. And that's the same simple faith it takes to move a mountain. So, we are all living by faith, but not in the way the Lord intended. Because, faith is a Spiritual sense, and it's given to us for a Spiritual purpose, which is to trust the Lord, and take Him at His Word, believing that what He has promised He is also able to perform.

Mark 16v18 promises us 'they shall lay hands on the sick and they *shall* recover,' and James 5v15 promises 'the prayer of faith *shall* save the sick, and the Lord *shall* raise him up.' But, too often when someone is prayed for, if they aren't healed on the spot, we don't believe they're healed. But Mark 16 says 'they shall *recover*' and James 5 says 'God will *raise him up*.' So, in both cases we are promised healing, but we aren't promised when. It may be on the spot. It may be tomorrow, or next week, or next month. Recover means we will get better. We *will* recover. The Lord will *always* be faithful to His Word, but He doesn't have to be faithful to our misinterpretations of it. If we are healed on the spot it's a miracle. But if we are healed over time, it's a healing, as we were promised. Faith believes Gods Word, and it is the evidence of our healing, until we see it.

There are several reasons *why* the Lord will not answer our prayers.

Unconfessed sin. Sin always comes between us and Him. Make it right first.

Unbelief. I can pray all night for something, and if I don't believe it will happen, it won't. Because the Lord honours faith, not unbelief. But, if I pray one sentence and *know* it will happen, because He promised it, it will.

Spirits. Sometimes, when a person does something wrong, a spirit is allowed to enter them. And you will never move that spirit, until that person rights that wrong.

If it is not His Will. If the Lord wants me to come to Him, He can allow Satan to put a disease on my body which will kill it, so I can step out of it and into Eternity. And no amount of prayer will take that away, because it's His Will.

The reason the Lord put so many promises in the Bible is, so that we could claim them. So when you want to claim one, take it to Him in prayer. Believe He will do what He has promised. Trust Him to do it, never doubting. Praise Him for doing it. And He will be faithful to His Word.

This literature is in the Public Domain, and may be freely copied, quoted or stored by any means without prior permission. www.therescueshop.org