

THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

(Chapter Nine)

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Chapter Nine – The Force of Faith

As we have seen from the previous lessons, the Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God and that He rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). It also says that whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23), that Believers must live by faith (Romans 1:17 and Habakkuk 2:4) and that we should walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). In sum, it is apparent that the Lord doesn't do anything outside of faith which means that His principles of conduct, including the laws of biblical prosperity, must always work through faith. Therefore, biblical prosperity is for Believers who live by faith. In fact, He will reward those who seek Him in faith.

We have also discussed that most people have a tendency to limit their definition of "faith" to a mere belief in some thing or some one. As you now know, there are several additional defining aspects of faith that show it to be much more profound than mere belief.

- Faith is the act of trusting in God instead of what we see in the natural.
- Faith is being confident that God will bring to pass what we are hoping for.
- Faith involves taking ownership of the things we are hoping for before we actually receive them.
- Faith requires that we take action on what we believe before it actually manifests.
- Faith is a *force* that is strong enough to overcome the world.

Faith Must Be Active, Not Passive

Believing in something is just the passive beginning of faith. We believe something but we don't do anything in particular about what we believe. The Bible says for example that even demons "believe" in God and that they tremble in their belief (James 2:19). But faith in God is much more than mere belief because it requires that you not only believe in Him but that you also trust that He and He alone will forgive (forget) your sins and give you eternal life. So faith starts out by requiring that you add trust to your belief. The demons tremble because they are unable or unwilling to trust God about anything.

Most professing Christians are trusting God for their salvation. Trusting for salvation is not entirely passive because we must work on overcoming our doubts particularly in the early years of our walk with the Lord as we face the trials and tribulations of life and the guilt of our recurring sins. Sometimes those difficulties make us question whether God is really out there. After all, we can't even see Him. But eventually our faith gains control and we increasingly trust God for our salvation. Unfortunately this is where many good Christians stop in their development.

The truth is God wants to be involved in every area of your life. He wants to have a say in everything you do and He wants you to trust that where He is leading you will always turn out good, that you can rely on Him in both good times and bad. And He wants our trust to be so strong that we become confident that what He has promised to do will always happen. His promises are contained in His Word and obviously we have to know what those promises are before we can begin to trust that they will happen.

The problem is our flesh doesn't want to trust God for the things of life and it doesn't want to spend time studying the Word. But this is where our faith must become more active because if it doesn't, we will remain back at the salvation level when God has much more for us that will produce victory and overcoming and total peace (nothing missing, nothing broken) for our lives in this age. Having an active faith then means we take authority over the flesh and pursue God's

way by the Spirit because we trust that it will be a better way than anything we can do on our own.

To overcome the flesh requires that we trust God for the fulfillment of His promises before it actually occurs. This is the essence of an active faith. We become so confident that what God has promised will happen we begin to take ownership over the things we are hoping for even though we don't know when those things are going to manifest. In fact, the Bible says we are to take action and speak as though what we are believing for has already happened.

Have you ever wondered why God requires this kind of active faith in order to receive the fullness of biblical prosperity? There are two main reasons: 1) because active faith demonstrates the ultimate in trusting God and, 2) because an active faith is the only way to overcome your flesh and trust solely in God for your victory. Having active faith then is the key that opens the door to the complete victory-in-life God longs for you to have.

Active Faith is a Force

When you are able to achieve the active kind of faith described in this lesson, you will come to understand that faith is a force. We tend not to think of it that way but the truth is our faith overcomes the world (1 John 5:4). It is a power force! Faith can cause situations in your life to change. It can cause prosperity to manifest. It can change your body and your health. It is a spiritual force that can activate the power of God in your life sufficient to accomplish what seems impossible in the natural. Faith can overcome any trial or tribulation you are facing and make it seem unimportant. It can completely change your perspective about anything. Faith is absolutely a force to be reckoned with!

Faith becomes a force when you act on what you believe, when you confess with your mouth what God has promised. It becomes a force when what you do and say is in agreement with the Word of God especially when your immediate environment in the natural is in disagreement. You understand that you are who you say you are and that you can have what you say. It can become a force to move mountains as you develop it through the wisdom of God and by your growing expertise in the Word. Actually, there's not anything you can't do by active faith. Just say what the Word says and then believe what you say!

To develop your faith into the force it can eventually become, remember that faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17).

Conclusions

If you are stuck with a passive kind of faith where you know you have salvation but the victory that God wants you to have has not manifested in your life, you can experience tremendous change simply by asking God for it and by committing to spend time in His Word. The Kingdom of God operates on the basis of the simple principle of sowing and reaping. Therefore, if you will sow your time into the Word of God you will receive a harvest of faith and by faith the victory and biblical prosperity you have always wanted for yourself and your family. Be encouraged today that you can experience the kind of faith that changes things around you simply by learning about God's Word.

THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY BIBLE STUDY

Lesson Nine – The Force of Faith

1. Faith must be _____, not passive.
2. Believing in something is just the passive _____ of faith.
3. Faith in God requires that you not only believe in Him but that you also _____ Him for eternal life.
4. Many Christians stop in their development at the place where they are just believing God for their _____ even though God wants to be involved in _____ of a Believer's life.
5. The main problem in developing an active faith is that the _____ doesn't want to trust God for the things of life and it doesn't want to spend time _____ the Word.
6. Having an active faith involves taking _____ over our flesh in order to pursue God's way by the Spirit.
7. The essence of active faith is that we become so confident that what God has promised will happen we begin to take _____ over the things we are hoping for even though we don't know when those things are going to manifest.
8. Taking ownership means we take action and _____ as though what we are believing for has _____ happened.
9. Our faith becomes a force when we learn that it _____ the world and we start to act as though we are overcomers.
10. There's not anything you can't do by active faith. Just say what the _____ says and then believe what you say.

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