

# VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

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VCM-005

## The Essentials of Faith

**O**ur text (Hebrews 11:1) provides the definition of faith. Almost everybody in this world have some expectation of what they hope to achieve or become in life.

More importantly Christians have great expectations of what they are hoping for or what they like to become. The only reason why many people have not



Faith is the art of holding on to things your reason has once accepted in spite of your changing moods."

been able to become what they hope to be is nothing but lack of faith.

The wonder of faith is that you inevitably have to hold what you expect by faith before you realise it physically. The way of faith calls for believing for the evidence of what you are hoping for before seeing the substance in reality. How many things do you see by faith that others do not see by sight? This will deter-

mine what you will get at the end of the day.

The life of Thomas Edison was such a challenging one to all of us today. Early in life, his teacher concluded that he was unfit for learning and cannot continue in education. There are some people in life that will attempt to write the script of your life for you and after they have done that, they will place it in your hand. So they tried making the life of this young boy hopeless. He cried home that day retelling his ordeal. While the teacher refused accepting him back, the mother refused to accept the 'professional judgment' of the teacher. She took up the challenge of teaching her son. Today, the teacher is unknown and completely forgotten, but the mother remains in the book of history. **The man of faith is remembered but the man of unbelief is forgotten.**

Heb 11:6 says *...without faith it is impossible to please Him (God)*. What makes a man successful in life is not academic attainments, certificates, money etc but his beliefs. It is expedient for you to be a believer in possibilities and believer in ministry if you

are to be relevant in the programme of God. "*He that cometh to God must believe that He is.*" This implies that you must not pray until you have the belief in your heart that God is there and will answer your prayer. Before you pray, know that God is. He has been there with every potential and He remains there to reward you for what you believe Him for. Leave the school of unbelief today, stop looking down on yourself, refrain from calling yourself a failure and enrol in the school of possibilities with God on your side. Never evaluate your gift based on your feelings.

Three things to consider in this message are:

The definition of faith

The declaration of faith

The dynamics of faith

### 1. The definition of faith

Faith can be taken as seeing what you expect before you see it physically. When you can see the numerous stars in the sky before a single child like Abraham did, that is faith. Faith sees the walls of Jericho fall before they come down in reality. Even before you pray or before the realities manifest, faith believes.

**Text: Hebrews 11:1**

**Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

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**When you have no helpers, see your helpers in God. When you have many helpers, see God in all your helpers. When you have nothing but God, see all in God. When you have everything, see God in everything. Under all conditions, stay thy heart only on the Lord.**

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*sight.* You always need to remember that as a child of God, you are a champion. You are more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ.

In John 11:39, Jesus at the home town of Martha and Mary said they should take away the stone from the tomb of Lazarus. This story has so many lessons to teach on the subject of faith. For you to get the realities of what you are hoping for, you must have the Jesus kind of revelation that conquered sense knowledge. Before Jesus Christ got to the home of Lazarus, he told his disciples that they were going there to wake him up. Even though Lazarus was dead at that time, Jesus had the revelation that he was only sleeping. If you as a Christian only act based on what you see, you are not in anyway different from the unbelievers because they act, talk and live based on their sense knowledge - what they can see. Even though Martha said Lazarus was stinking by then, Jesus replied, if she could believe, she would see the glory of God.

John 20:24 tells the story of a Thomas who insisted that until he saw in the hands of Jesus the print of the nails and puts his finger into the print of the nails, and thrust his hand into his side, he would not believe. In other words, he had already made up his mind. Our mind has a serious part to play in the school of faith and so has to be well trained for it to cooperate. Many times our mind speaks impossibilities, but the centurion in Matthew 8 is such a challenge to many of us. Although not a believer yet he said Jesus should only speak the word and his servant would be healed. The Syrophenician woman defied all odds and took the "crumbs" for her daughters healing. Even though our minds may have been saying impossibilities in the past, now we will agree with what God has said through His words and great things will happen. God's words remain unchanged and therefore anything contrary to this makes God a liar when He is not.

If you agree with negative thoughts in your mind, then you are on the path to defeat but if you believe God, your mind will cooperate with you.

## 2. The declaration of faith

In II Corinthians 4:3 Paul the Apostle says *...we believe and therefore speak.* If something bad is happening around you and you keep silent, your mind will paint a greater imagination of the picture of that evil. The problem is because you are keeping quiet and refusing to speak out what you believe.

In II Corinthians 4:18, the scripture says *while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.*

What others tell you are temporal. The things you get from the word of God are tested and trusted. They are bound to happen. Your language will tell us what you believe and the kind of person you are - believer or unbeliever. Numbers 13:30 recounts the story of the report the 12 spies brought from their journey. As at the time of sending them out, all the spies were equal but Caleb and Joshua stood out because of what they believed. You may be in the minority but your voice and belief can make you a majority. Joshua and Caleb were promoted above others because of their faith. What lifts you up above others is your faith. No matter what is predominant in the world, you don't have to give up your faith because of what others say. **Dare to be different.**

## 3. The dynamics of faith

Anything in life that remains static will stand at the same spot. There are some people that are just there. Faith involves moving from where you are to where you hope to be. When the children of Israel went into battle against the Philistines in I Samuel 17:48, the children of Israel had initially been frightened and were running from their enemies. But when David accepted to go and face Goliath,

he ran towards the giant and defeated him. What a serious difference between those who believe and those who do not. The dynamics of faith is portrayed when you run towards your problem. King Jehoshaphat appointed singers unto the Lord in II Chronicles 20:20-25. They were victorious over their enemies. Faith will sing in the face of trouble. Your

problems and challenges are not the end of the road. If Paul and Silas could sing in the prison yard and their bonds were loosed. You will be victorious too if you believe and do not crumble before your challenges. It is apparent that the two went to prison



**"Faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe."**

*"Faith never knows where it is being led, but it loves and knows the One who is leading."*

because of the Philippians jailor who needed to give his life to Christ with all his family. Everywhere you are, God has a purpose to bring release and freedom to you and through you that He might be glorified.



**"Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable, and receives the impossible."**

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## 'STAND-ALONE' FAITH!

'I BROUGHT HIM TO YOUR DISCIPLES, AND THEY WERE NOT ABLE TO CURE HIM.' (MATTHEW 17:16) Ever notice that whenever some people are in trouble it's always the fault of the pastor, the church, their mate, their boss, their family or origin, their looks, their social status, or some other excuse? It's hard to admit you stuck your own hand in the fire! Or almost drowned by jumping in headfirst when you can't swim! When this man approached Jesus he said, '...my son...frequently falls into...fire, and... water...I brought him to Your disciples, and they

were not able to cure him.' He never once said, 'Maybe he inherited this problem from me.' Or, 'Perhaps if I'd raised him differently.' No, he just transferred the responsibility to the disciples, who were in training themselves. Understand this: you can't fix the problem until you stop trying to fix the blame! When the disciples asked Jesus, 'Why can't we do the things You do?' (Matthew 17:19), it's like asking, 'Why isn't my marriage working?' 'How come I'm still in debt?' 'Why



**Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.**

isn't my life going as planned?' Jesus replied, 'Because your faith is too small...' (v.20 NCV). Often you need the kind of faith that makes you seem a little weird, that doesn't need other people's approval and doesn't care whether or not you fit in. This is the kind of faith that made Noah say, 'Even if nobody else in my generation believes, I'm going to build this boat because God said so.' Paul said, '...having done all...stand [on what God has told you]' (Ephesians

## Keeping the faith...

I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.' (2 TIMOTHY 4:7) Jesus said, '...In this world you will have trouble...' (John 16:33 NCV). Sure enough life keeps handing us fresh challenges that test our faith. How do you know how much weight a bridge will handle? Put some weight on it! Daniel was the victim of a major sting operation. Knowing he prayed regularly, his enemies persuaded King Darius that all prayers should be made to him. What ego! Nevertheless Daniel kept praying each day, in front of an open window, no less! When the king heard, he threw Daniel into lions' den. But next morning Daniel came out, his enemies went in, and the king announced, '...the

God of Daniel... He is the living God...' (Daniel 6:26). Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship the king's idols. Even when warned to bow or burn they said, '...our God...is able to deliver us...But if not...we will not serve thy gods...' (Daniel 3:17-18). And because they '...kept the faith' God delivered them and promoted them! David faced Goliath and refused to wear the king's armour. Why? Listen: 'I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them' (1 Samuel 17:39). So what did he go with? Listen: '...I come to thee in the name of the Lord...' (1 Samuel 17:45) and the rest is History! Now, chances are you'll never find yourself in a

If we cannot believe God when circumstances seem to be against us, we do not believe Him at all."

lion's den, a fiery furnace, or facing a giant, although some days it'll feel like it! But when you're un- der  
at- tack:  
a) pray  
and claim  
God's power  
b) keep  
the faith  
and c)  
go Him, anywhere!" ...in



Without Christ, not one step; with Him, anywhere!"