

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

If you are part of the glorified Body of Christ it is essential to know that the power currently held by Jesus Christ is available to every member of the Body of Christ. This is clearly taught in scriptures and we should seek to understand this truth and to diligently seek how to use this power for ourselves and for the rest of the world. This power covers everything and deals with every problem and every demonic activity. Jesus gave us an insight into the availability of this power for our use (**Matthew 17:14-21**). When Jesus was called upon to heal the boy tormented by Satan, because His disciples failed to cast the demon out, He called them a faithless and perverse generation. A generation who show faith in the ability God has placed in them is called a perverse generation. His disciples asked them why they couldn't cast it out and He told them it was because of their unbelief. Jesus proceeded to reveal to them that a faith as small as a mustard seed is enough to cast out the demon. This faith must simply be focused and sharpened by prayers and fasting. This is great insight because every believer already had the required faith because without faith no one could be saved. A believer is a saved person who was saved simply because they received the grace through faith (**Ephesians 2:8**). **But this faith must be focused and sharpened by prayer and fasting for it to cast out demons.** Just like our modern bombs have navigating abilities for it to locate and destroy its targets.

Jesus again queried His disciples ".....why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith? (**Mark 4:40**). Again He expected them to show faith in God but they failed. Jesus Christ is asking us the same question. Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith? We need to know that God has entrusted us with the continuation of the work of Jesus Christ on earth (**John 17:18; John 20:21**). No believer will deny what we will be able to do when we possess the faith Jesus had because we saw how He used such power to great effectiveness. What we are to do is make the faith we already possess effective.

Faith becomes effective when we are full of the knowledge of Jesus Christ (**Romans 10:17**). To be full of the knowledge of Jesus Christ means believing in Him as our Substitute for the purpose of death and the payment of our sins. We have to believe that when we became like Him we partook of His victory

over Satan and we were raised with Him as children of God and made to sit together with Him on the authority right hand side of God. Being full of the knowledge of Jesus Christ, knowing that He restored us to the place of righteousness with God releases faith to receive all that we ask from God (**John 14:12-14; John 16:23-24**). We are no more bankrupt of power due to our sins but we have access to the authority and position of Jesus Christ. **Faith is built with the knowledge of Jesus Christ and without knowing His work for us no one can claim to have power with God.** Paul determined to know nothing among the Corinthians except Christ and Him crucified (**1 Corinthians 2:2**). Knowing and believing that He died for us and what His death and resurrection meant to us is what gave us our salvation, righteousness and rights with God (**Romans 10:9-10**).

We have learnt so far that the faith to cast out demons and to receive from God was given to us at our second birth as children of God. **Romans 12:3** say God has dealt to each of us the measure of faith. We have also learnt that this faith was built in us when we learned of the work of Jesus Christ for us. Actually we continue to build this faith as we become more acquainted with the work of Christ for us. We have also learnt that this faith can be focused to destroy the works of Satan and made effective to receive from God through prayer and fasting.

We now have to learn how to exponentially increase this faith we have and to make it irresistible to all the forces of darkness. Peter taught us that there are certain things we need that will make us neither barren nor unfruitful in our knowledge of Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:8**). In that chapter Peter named 7 great virtues needed to be added to our faith to make our faith effective and for us to benefit from our knowledge of Jesus Christ. But for lack of space I will pick on one of them: Love.

Love is the very nature of God. Love is the one thing that eradicates the nature of Satan from us and gives us back our place as children of God with rights to receive from God and to exercise mastery over Satan. When love is not in our hearts bible says we yet in darkness (in the authority of Satan) and have the nature of Satan (**1 John 2:9-11**). How then can we exercise dominion over Satan? **Faith works by love (Galatians 5:6) so when we fail to walk in love then the nature of Satan overcomes us and our faith dwindles and weakens.**

We have to fight the good fight of faith and lay hold of the benefits of eternal life (**1 Timothy 6:12**). Our faith is our connectivity to the awesome power of God. However, faith must be built, focused and strengthened. Then we can be of help to ourselves and to our world.