

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH

As Christians we are called to fight to maintain our faith in God. This is the only good fight worth our attention and effort (**1 Timothy 6:12**). Paul, writing to the Hebrews encouraged them to labour to enter into the rest (**Hebrews 4:11**). This rest was the position of showing confidence in God and holding fast to His Word as true and worth developing trust in. Our God is a Faith God and the only connection we have with Him is our faith in Him and His word. Without faith, bible says, it is impossible to please Him. So we are called to contend to maintain the faith we have (**Jude 1:3**).

Twice in his writings Peter called our faith precious (**1 Peter 1:7 and 2 Peter 1:1**). Peter walked with Jesus and saw the abilities of God being produced as Jesus trusted in God. The apostles themselves evangelised their world through the signs, wonders, miracles and operation of the Holy Spirit in their ministries as they held fast to their confidence in God (**Hebrews 2:4**). We are daily given opportunities to put our faith to work and to receive the feedback needed for our walk of faith. The feedback tells us where exactly we are with our faith walk with God. As we trust God daily we give Him the opportunity to bring His word to pass in our lives which in turn give us the boost to tell others about this Jesus Christ. A person with a miracle is a willing participant in the call to evangelise our world. We've all come into contact with Jesus Christ through the encounters of faith of other people. They trusted in God, saw the faithfulness of God and they told us about their exploits. Then we trusted God. Daniel says the people who know their God will be strong and will do exploits (**Daniel 11:32**).

The steps are: Know what God has said; believe what He has said and put His words into action; be willing to come back to Him if your faith fails because He is willing to show us where we failed so that we can make the adjustment needed to bring glory to His name. This is what the scripture means when it commands the just to live by faith (**Hebrews 10:38**).

Galatians 3:13-14 says the curse is broken because Christ took our curse and now the blessing of Abraham has come upon us. Scriptures like these must set us up in our faith walk and with this scripture we must enter into labour until we find a rest in this scripture (that is the scripture is fulfilled in our lives). The broken curse is the curse brought upon us by our inability to walk in the laws of God and this curse was in three parts: poverty, sicknesses and death. Christ died on the cross so that we do not need to go through this curse but rather the blessing promised Abraham might come upon us. This blessing eradicates the curse because the Holy Spirit comes into us and the Presence of God is again seen in us. This is the blessing of the New Covenant and it is walking in the good works of God, showing our world the goodness and faithfulness of God. Encounters with God are only possible through our faith in His Word. Therefore armed with this truth we take a journey to rid ourselves from the curse because it is our testimonies that blesses God and attracts the world to God.

The woman with the issue of bleeding (**Mark 5:24-32**) heard about Jesus Christ and said to herself (convinced herself) that her deliverance lies in Jesus Christ. Knowing Jesus as her deliverance she took the necessary steps to come to Jesus Christ. We have to notice that as we keep pushing towards Jesus Christ because of what we know about Him our faith grows. The story goes that as soon as she touched Jesus she felt the bleeding had stopped but this became possible because she had always believed that her contact with Jesus will bring about her healing. She therefore received

or felt what she believed. Then she testified to her healing without any evidence but this allowed Jesus to assured her of the healing she had believed in. In summary this is how her faith worked: she heard about Jesus, she convinced herself by saying to herself that her deliverance is in Jesus Christ, she took the steps to come to Jesus Christ all the time holding fast to her believe, then she made contact with Jesus Christ and felt she was well, she testified to her healing with no evidence to that effect and that is when Jesus moved in to assure her of her healing.

We are called to walk in faith and to fight unbelief, doubt and fear to maintain our faith in God. We are to believe that God will not fail and very soon we will have the testimony needed to encourage someone else in God. Faith is our positive response to the Word of God and with such positive response we can see many come to know our God.