

## The power of intelligent saving faith

A time to live by infinite power

(Heb 11:27) By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Habakkuk many centuries ago wrote "The just shall live by his faith." Habakkuk 2:4. Have we given some meditation to this word from God at anytime or recently? Hence only those who are living by faith at this very moment are really alive and justified are declared righteous and in fact really have life. Further only a justified person can live by faith. So where do you and I stand at this very moment? And the apostle under inspiration wrote, (1Ti 6:12) **Fight the good fight of the faith, lay hold on the life eternal, whereunto thou wast called, and didst confess the good confession in the sight of many witnesses.**

**And the testimony of scripture is that faithful Abel did just that. Heb 11:4** By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he had witness borne to him that he was righteous, God bearing witness in respect of his gifts: and through it he being dead yet speaketh.

Yes after more than 5000 years his faith is still spoken of. Even now it speaks. He laid hold of the eternal life by faith and is reckoned by God to be alive. What a comforting mysterious thought. In fact Jesus spoke these words in **Mat 22:32** *I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.*

This eternal truth stated by Christ once received nurtures and establishes intelligent saving faith. How? Following Christ can only be accomplished by faith. And that means an intelligent saving faith which hears God's voice surrenders and obey him.

(Joh 12:46) *I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.*

This again presents the thought of intelligent faith. A faith resting in obedience to God's way and word.

Intelligent faith must have a foundation. That foundation is built on God's promises.

It takes faith to receive truth and also faith to share the truth. Here is a definition of faith by Ellen white, "When we speak of faith, there is a distinction that should be borne in mind. There is a kind of belief that is wholly distinct from faith. The existence and power of God, the truth of His word, are facts that even Satan and his hosts cannot at heart deny. The Bible says that "the devils also believe, and tremble;" but this is not faith. James 2:19. Where there is not only a belief in God's word, but a submission of the will to Him; where the heart is yielded to Him, the affections fixed upon Him, there is faith—faith that works by love and purifies the soul. Through this faith the heart is renewed in the image of God."(SC, 63)

Now can we know the level of the faith that a person professes—yes we can know something about it. We shall know just the measure of your faith. How? By the works God require of you. By your works. Faith is perfected by works. The level of the trial must have corresponding faith as in Abraham's test to be victorious. The level of obedience required to obey God's command must have, will call forth the comparable faith, that degree of faith to obey the command.

**James under inspiration writes, in Jas 2:18** But a man may say, You have faith and I have works; let me see your faith without your works, and I will make my faith clear to you by my works.

And God gives conditions to all His promises. Intelligent faith then is a working or doing faith. A faith which produces obedience. A faith laden with faith filled works. A faith which readily obeys God's word.

We are told in (Mat 7:21) Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Intelligent faith does the will of God.

Further in (Mat 7:24) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

(Mat 7:25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Jesus is the rock on which the promises of God are founded. This house can only be built by faith.

Faith filled works will keep us, and make us successful in the work of perfecting Christian character.

The apostle said in (2Th 3:10) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. Laziness is not a virtue and is not condoned by the scriptures. He is saying physical food is not procured by inactivity and slothfulness. Hence the apostle must be suggesting that spiritual meat and life cannot be had without faith filled efforts to obtain it. Intelligent faith must be exercised.

**Rom 14:23** "and whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

This word from inspiration speaks thus, "Genuine faith will show definite results in the character, and will exert a controlling influence over the thoughts of the heart, and the affairs of the life. It will lead its possessor to practice the principles of his belief. .... Says the apostle, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." It is the doing of the words and works of Christ that testifies to the saving qualities of your faith. {ST, March 30, 1888 par. 4}

Let us just glimpse at a few examples of living genuine saving faith and then on where we are in this service today.

## Noah an example of intelligent living saving faith.

**This is the word to Noah.** (Gen 6:3) And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. (Gen 6:13) And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth

That was the word of God. And it required genuine long suffering faith unto salvation or unbelief unto death.

"While there are many counterfeits of faith in the world, there is a genuine faith, and it is this faith which works by love and purifies the soul. God in his providence set forth Noah as a representative of what true faith would do. The Lord designed that Noah in his life and character should present before the antediluvian world a marked example of the results of believing the word of God. .... He obtained all his discernment, all his power, all his strength, from the source of all light; for he held communion with God. It was because he had faith in God, because he was a man of prayer, that he was a man of power. ... He had a message intrusted to him from God. ... The wickedness of men was very great, yet there was hope for them if they would turn from their wickedness, and the Lord made Noah his messenger to proclaim to the inhabitants of the Old World their sins, and to set before them wherein they had provoked the wrath of God. Yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. . . . But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." {ST, April 18, 1895 par. 3}

"Noah had faith in God. His position was a trying one; he had to fight the good fight of faith at every step. One hundred and twenty years of probation was granted to the inhabitants of the world, and Noah was to live through that generation. Everything around him was in confusion. Amid world-wide contempt of God, he was a faithful preacher of righteousness, exemplifying to the world what a man's life could be by reposing confidence in the sure word of God, by rendering obedience to all his commandments. ... {ST, April 18, 1895 par. 6}

The message given by Noah, the building of that strange boat, called forth questions, just as God designed it should, and excited the curiosity of the people. Crowds of people came from all parts of the world to see the strange and wonderful structure, and heard the message of condemnation and the promise of deliverance. .... {ST, April 18, 1895 par. 7}

Noah's faith was mingled with fear; for it is written that Noah, being warned of God, moved with fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his house. His faith intensified his fear; for it was no cowardly fear that moved him. He knew the power of God, and realized that God would fulfill his word. His fear of God did not separate him from God, but served to draw him closer to him, and to lead him to pour out his soul in earnest supplication. ... It is the testing time that will measure professed faith and assurance in God. Courage and integrity cannot be estimated rightly by men until the day of trial puts them to the test. {ST, April 18, 1895 par. 9}

"The long-suffering God bore with the inhabitants of the Old World one hundred and twenty years, .... No soul is ever deserted of God, given up to his own ways and doings, forsaken of heaven, as long as there is the least hope of his salvation. God follows men with entreaties, with warnings of danger, with assurances of compassion, until it is sure that further opportunities and privileges would be wholly in vain. Noah's light was to shine forth for one hundred and twenty years amid the moral darkness of people who were encompassed within a certain limit of years. Under Noah's direction his carpenters built an ark, and they were impressed day by day with the unwavering faith,

the unswerving integrity, of the messenger of God. . . . Noah's faith was a working faith; it was a saving faith that moved him with fear, and led him to act in accordance with the word of God. This is the quality of faith that will save the soul. {ST, April 18, 1895 par. 10}

God's testimony concerning Noah and the simplicity of the true faith which he exercised unto salvation was written for us. (Gen 6:22) Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he." How did he accomplish all that God commanded? By faith.

**Another servant of God Abraham** is set forth as an example of pure faith. Remember his boldness and simplicity of faith in pleading for Sodom. "God had called Abraham to be the father of the faithful, and his life was to stand as an example of faith to succeeding generations. But his faith had not been perfect. He had shown distrust of God in concealing the fact that Sarah was his wife, and again in his marriage with Hagar. That he might reach the highest standard, God subjected him to another test, the closest which man was ever called to endure." (PP, 147) . God estimated Abraham's obedience and unswerving faith, and gave him the name of "Father of the faithful."

**Rom 4:17** (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, *even* God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

**Rom 4:18** Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

The church celebrates another communion service today. Will it be faith or unbelief? And the divine word is **ICo II:26** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come. But will he find faith when he comes? But how only can this be done? So have we come to church or have faith brought us to this communion service? So if you have not only come to church today but if by faith you have been brought to the communion service then in your life today is manifested the experience and the proclamation of the death of Christ and a living faith in his soon coming. The divine word is that Abel by faith offered- note it was not the offering of the sacrifice that led him to faith it was faith that led him to offer the sacrifice. Hence this morning faith must bring us to the partaking of the communion service making us partake and receive of the virtue of Christ experiencing the blessings which come by the faith of Jesus giving the enabling grace to trust in Jesus. Yes brethren genuine faith will not only bring us to the house of God but will bring us the very presence of Jesus and bring us into his presence. This communion service calls us to faith and to a life of faith. It calls us to taking up our cross today and every day following Jesus. Have we come with a heavy sinful heart and afraid to obey God's loving command to us? Remember it's a gift of love from our loving father. Well listen to these healing words **In Mat 9:2** And behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy, **Son, be of good cheer; thy sins are forgiven**. Isn't that a wonderful word to hear right now this very minute. Oh let there be rejoicing now.

**Further in Mat 15:28** (mark 7 v 25) Then Jesus answered and said unto her, **O woman, great is thy faith: be it done unto thee even as thou wilt**. And her daughter was healed from that hour. Faith did it then faith can and will do it this morning. Oh what an opportunity to receive forgiveness of sins to get rid of the palsy get off the bed and rejoice all the way home. Will we let it pass this morning? Will we? Consider this word from inspiration.

"We need, during this day to come to God in confidence. We must put away the darkness that would interpose between our souls and God. We must cultivate perfect trust in God, and make him our counselor. His love must be cultivated in the heart. Thanksgiving and praise should be offered to God. He wants the whole mind. "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." God's word is full of assurances of what he will do for us if we will come to him and ask in faith. Faith is essential. It surrounds the soul with the atmosphere that pervades heaven. This is the rest that Christ has promised to all who come to him. {RH, October 18, 1898 par. 12}. The communion service when partaken by faith gives confidence in God and like Noah we move with fear borne of faith. Listen to God's messenger Isa 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. Is there any doubt that he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows? Have we esteemed him? Have we? Oh he went into eternal death and brought us out and says to us live in faith and live in me.

"Are there any here who feel rich, and increased with goods, and in need of nothing? Are there any here who feel whole, and do not realize their need of a physician? They must fall upon the Rock and be broken, or the Rock will

fall upon them, and crush them to powder. Why cannot we take hold of the righteousness of Christ this very day? There are many of you who profess to believe the present truth, but do you believe in Christ as your personal Saviour? You may have a nominal faith, just such a faith as the people had who crowded about Jesus in the streets of Judea, but this faith will not connect you with him. You need a faith similar to the faith of the poor woman who had been diseased for many years. She had sought help from the physicians, but her disease grew worse and worse. She heard of Christ, and her faith went out to him. She believed that if she could only touch the hem of his garment she would be made whole. (oh a faith that works.) Christ understood the longing of her heart; he understands the desire of every heart that is drawn out after him, and he responds to it. This poor woman who yearned after help improved her first opportunity to come into the presence of Jesus. The multitude were all about him, but she pressed through the crowd, until she could touch his garment, and that moment she was healed. Christ realized that virtue had gone out of him. The woman had felt her desperate need, and her faith had made her whole. (I say intelligent faith, the simplicity of true faith). So it will be with every one of you who go in your need to Jesus and lay hold upon him by living faith. " But Jesus knew that somebody had touched him with no casual touch, but with the touch of faith. A longing soul had reached out to him for help which no one but he could give. Jesus said, "I perceive that virtue has gone out from me. And he looked around about to see her that had done this thing," and when the woman knew she was not hid, she acknowledged the good work that had been wrought in her. .....He said unto her, "Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole." {ST, June 10, 1889 par. 4}. That's a connecting faith. The one we must have. This morning God wants to connect us for all time and through this service this give of love the word is, For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink the cup, ye proclaim the Lord's death till he come. Let's be doers of the word by faith. Remember you really can't make yourself fit for communion only God can do it through faith. He can do it this very minute.

I ask you, brethren and sisters, to render to God offerings of thanksgiving for all his blessings this morning.

Brethren, if we will come to Christ by living faith, we may receive virtue from him. Thank God, there is an abundant supply of grace in him. Jesus wants us to exercise simple faith, that we may have his virtue, If we will only give the touch of faith, the light, the glory, and the power of God will be imparted unto us. Ibid. Oh what a gift to receive. Let us praise God brethren. O woman, great is thy faith: be it done unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was healed from that hour.

The Lord promises a blessing to those who do his commandments, and declares that they shall enter in through the gates into the city, and shall have a right to the tree of life. But when God issues a command, he means that we shall obey him. Our circumstances, our surroundings, our financial prospects, are not to be considered in the matter, or made an excuse; for he will give strength to every one who sets about in sincerity to fulfill his word, because it is God that has spoken. {ST, April 18, 1895 par. 11}. Now isn't that a most comforting word from our loving father?

By living faith we may grasp the hand of Infinite Power. We may be so connected with the God of Heaven that his grace may be found sufficient in every emergency of life. Says the prophet, "Five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight." {ST, June 10, 1889 par. 3}

"I said: Why do you not grasp the promises? Seek first to know God. Search the Scriptures. Feed on the words of Christ, which are spirit and life. Then your knowledge will grow. Study your Bibles. Study not the philosophy contained in many books, but study the philosophy of the word of the living God. Compared with this, other literature is of little consequence. Do not fill your minds with so many things that are cheap and unsatisfying. In the word of God is spread before you the richest banquet. This is the Lord's table, abundantly provided, whereof you may eat and be satisfied. {RH, October 18, 1898 par. 11}. He has provided his table again, will you eat and drink today? He has given the invitation he supplies the faith and the garments and he provides all on the table. Why will we refuse him again today. Without faith we are in sin. By faith in him partake and receive virtue.

To have faith in the promises of God, to walk forward by faith, pressing on without being governed by circumstances, is a lesson hard to learn. Yet it is a positive necessity that every child of God learn this lesson. The grace of God through Christ is to be ever cherished; for it is given to us as the only way of approaching God. Faith in the words of God, spoken by Christ enshrouded in the pillar of cloud, would have enabled the children of Israel to leave a record of a very different character. Their lack of faith in God gave them a very checkered history.-- MS 43, 1898.

**Joh 15:12** This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Where there is faith there is love. Without faith it is impossible to love or to love one another. Let us receive that faith through grace and lay hold of life. That's God's everlasting desire for every one of us this very moment. Let faith enable us to obey his word to eat the symbols of his infinite sacrifice and proclaim the Lord's death till he comes Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks. he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me." "After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying: Take, drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. We have the clear Word of God let us surrender to him. Amen.

Yours for the living faith of Jesus.

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