

Family of Jesus Christ A Web Ministry of Living God

www.familyofjesuschrist.org

1.0 Preface

The word 'faith' is not much practiced, when we deal with fellow human being. This word indeed is really a special one because it defines the level or intensity of some one's relationship with living God. It means that 'faith' is something similar to our family name or identification, we put in front or after our name. Let us look into the Scriptures for better understanding.

'FAITH IS ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, PROOF OF THINGS NOT SEEN', HEBREW 11:1

If we can see anything by our naked eyes, then it is just observation; what exactly EVE did in the Garden of Eden; what she did not do was the opposite to observation, i.e. not having the faith on God's word (principle of eternal physical life), which could not be seen but positive. So she and Adam ate the fruit of good and bad and had brought the permanent physical damage to all the humankind (death). Faith opens the eye of the spiritual system by closing our physical eye lids; mind is the spiritual eye lid and heart is the spiritual eye. They work together always whenever external information is received or internal information generated. If we open our mind to God and see Him through our heart, the spiritual vision of God Almighty would be spiritually seen. IN ORDER HEART TO FUNCTION AS THE SPIRITUAL EYE, IT NEEDS THE SPIRITUAL CLEANING BY HOLY SPIRIT. For the Holy Spirit to clean our heart, He needs the resources of God to be present in the heart. The resources are the word of God. Therefore, God's word, which is the spiritual substance, must be conceived by heart (SPIRITUAL PREGNANCY). As the conceived God's word is the spiritual substance, it will deliver a spiritual child called, 'FAITH', which is naturally also a spiritual substance.

Abraham was called by God for a spiritual mission. Abraham was continuously and consistently trusting God that God would fulfill what He had promised. The moment Abraham demonstrated his faith to God; the Scriptures say that it was considered as righteousness for him and he became the father of faith to a new world order that would be built on fearless faith. <u>IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD WITHOUT SHOWING FAITH ON HIM AND IN HIS COMMANDMENTS.</u> Partial faith, i.e. accepting some of God's wonders/or

miracles and questioning others or looking for scientific basis is only a belief; which God does not expect from His children. God wants us to have a total trust in Him; thus the relationship (faith) needs to evolve unconditionally.

Faith is not a one sided action; it has got basically a mirror reflection nature. The amount of faith we show upon our God through actions will return as abundant blessings back to us. God blesses those who trust in Him; expecting them to be truthful forever. Therefore, we must understand that in order to be blessed by God, faith is the beginning. In the early period, through His Spirit of angel or Lord of angel (First Son of God; ExoDus 23:20-25), God had dealt with the off-spring of Adam. Worships and services were offered according to the covenants He had made with Noah, Abraham and later with Moses. In these three, Noah was representing the new beginning of human life on the *baptized earth* (God destroyed all the wicked by water); because the earth was fully immersed in water and it got cleansed, and all the creatures inside the ark were also baptized. However, we must observe a point that Noah had received God's mercy and grace because of his faith on God's word. REMEMBER THAT THE MISSION TOOK MANY YEARS FOR NOAH, A FARMER TO BUILD AN ARK (ENGINEERING STRUCTURE), ACCORDING TO THE DIMENSIONS GIVEN BY GOD. In faith Noah began to build the ark and the faith started evolving in him, which resulted in safeguarding his family members, including all the creatures inside the ark. Unless faith evolves, reaching the destination or fulfilling a mission is impossible. Look at Abraham's mission, it took so many years from the day of promise to get a child; but he allowed the faith to evolve steadily. In the process, he did not read any physical information (age, ability) either of his or his wife; indeed Abraham totally tuned himself on a spiritual vision mode.

Most of the time our faith is either exponentially growing or dying or simply oscillatory; it is very important to check out whether our faith is the result of spiritual emotion or just the physical means. It is always wise to develop a right faith in God progressively, allowing God to explore, according to His will what is best for His spiritual mission in our life. The reason is that we are His body on the earth (a medium or spiritually a temple; <u>I CORINTH 3:16, 17</u>) through which He likes to perform and meet the demands for

a specified mission. Keep in mind, God has already inherited the required talents in every one of us for His earthly mission. <u>THE MOMENT WE PUT OUR TRUST IN HIM, HE</u> <u>STRENGTHENS OUR SPIRIT BY ENERGIZING IT WITH HIS HOLY SPIRIT AND ENABLE US TO</u> <u>SPEAK HIS WORDS IN ORDER TO RELEASE THE SPIRITUAL FORCE TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF</u> <u>THE DEVIL.</u> That is how God performs miracles through our faith on this planet, according to His will as it is performed in heavens. Without God's Spirit, our body and soul will become naturally slave to the world; as a result, spirit the real master will be inactive (dead); there exists only a remote scope for God's desire to take place with such a person, who has a dead faith (inactive spirit). When we read about Moses calling by God, we understand that though Moses was appreciating the qualities of God but he refused to be God's servant initially. However he went on to become the hands of God for nearly 2 million Israelites later. Faith must evolve to yield a righteous fruit at right time.

To become a righteous, first of all we must develop the required faith in God's word i.e. His Son Jesus Christ. In the Scriptures, we read at many places that Jesus Christ healed sick people after reading their faith; even he lifted the dead into life (MARK 5:36-39; JOHN 11:39-40).

FAITH ALWAYS PERFORMS; IF IT IS IN THE RIGHTEOUS PATH ON THE RIGHTEOUS GOD.

Is faith blind?

No, not precisely because faith is a spiritual substance; faith can bring victory into our life; changes into our conditions; miracles and blessings are possible only through faith. This article examines faith through three examples (blinds) that are recorded in the Scriptures.

2.0 Conditional Faith

In <u>MARK 8:22-25</u>, we read about a blind man in <u>BETHSAIDA</u>. Let us examine closely the sequences first.

• The blind was brought to Christ by some villagers, who had pleaded (begged) Jesus to touch him.

- Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village (TOUCH 1); Jesus used earthly substance (saliva) on his eyes (TOUCH 2) and by keeping His hands on the blind's head, blessing him, prayed for his healing (TOUCH 3).
- The blind said, 'he can see men walking like trees'.
- Again Jesus laid His hands on blind's eyes directly and healed him (TOUCH 4).
- The blind now looked intently and got restored to see everything clearly.
- Jesus instructed the man to go home and tell no one about this in the village.

First of all this episode tells us that the blind man did not take any initiative by him-self initially. Furthermore, even after reaching Christ Jesus, he did not worship Jesus for his healing. What kind of faith he had in Jesus? Jesus had to handle such a man separately; therefore He took him alone out of the village. In MATTHEW 12:21, we read about Jesus condemning the unbelief of the peoples of Bethsaida. Therefore, Jesus wanted to separate the blind from the non-believers first. In order to develop a working faith in the mind of the blind, Jesus used the earthly substance (saliva) on his eyes and blessed him on his head; behold the man could see the people like trees walking around. It shows that though the blind had received the power of healing from Jesus, his unfaithful heart did not allow him to realize the healing. Finally, when Jesus touched his eyes and blessed him; He asked the blind person to see with a purpose (objective/aim). The verse 25 says that Jesus by touching the blind man's eyes directly opened his eyes to restore the vision. It is clear that this blind man simply came to Jesus without any purpose because some villagers brought him to the savior. He had aimless faith; he possibly would have believed that his condition was due to his fate and he had to live with it. He also might have believed that his condition could not be changed by any one. The blind as well would have thought that why Jesus had to touch his head instead of his eyes which needed the necessary healing.

Dear children of God, many of us really have got only this kind of conditional faith on Jesus. Yes, we may think: Jesus can perform this blessing in that man or will do that miracle in this woman but can it be possible in my life? This is the state of many Christians; yes we have a conditional faith. We believe mostly that being the children of Christ means to suffer on this world completely (path of cross); forgetting that the devil does nothing on this earth except destroying the souls by making men and women to

commit sins. Every good thing on this earth is happening because of God Almighty (rains, seeding and harvest, seasons, life creation, protection from hazards etc). Therefore, God wants us to have a purpose for coming unto Him. Let's pray always to Father God in Jesus name with a purpose.

'A FAITH WITHOUT PURPOSE IS JUST CONDITIONAL; UNCERTAINTY CAN NEVER PERFORM'.

4 Touch by Jesus to make our faith a purposeful one

• **Touch 1:** To show us the direction of salvation path (Jesus took the hand of the blind); separating us from the world of unbelief (John 14:6).

• **Touch 2:** To cleanse the gateway of sins, i.e. eyes for curing the sinful body (Luke 11:34).

• Touch 3: To bless us to receive God's power by grace (Mark 8:23, Acts 19:6).

• **Touch 4:** To witness God's love to those who receive God's word (Mark 6:11, Mark 8:26); the cured man was advised not to go to the village but only to his home as a witness of God love.

3.0 Unconditional Faith

In <u>MARK 10:46-52</u>, we read about another blind of <u>JERICHO</u>, a very interesting person. Let us first see here too the sequences of the incident.

- The blind man was doing his daily business (begging) on the road side.
- All of sudden heard loud voices; he could hear Jesus name.
- It was a huge crowd (multitude) following Christ; thus the condition was certainly that Jesus was inaccessible to him.
- He cried loudly, calling Jesus to have mercy on him. But the multitude rebuked him and told him to be silent.
- He did not bother about the multitude; he raised his voice further and cried out very much loudly to Jesus to have mercy on him.
- Jesus stopped and called him. He asked the blind what he wanted Him to do.

• The blind replied that he wanted to see; Jesus told him that your faith had made you alright. The blind got healed and could able to see instantly.

Here, the blind took self initiative as he was helpless. But people did not permit him to develop any hope. In fact they were trying to suppress his faith. However we understand from the proceedings that the blind man could develop a strong image of Jesus Christ, which made him to believe that Jesus could heal him if requested in faith. This blind man was completely spirit centered with a burning desire of getting blessed by the Son of God. The man understood that it was the last chance possibly he might get to meet the savior; indeed that further motivated him to cry out loudly for God's mercy. The faith started taking a shape to receive the blessing. Also if we carefully examine that we would find an interesting step the blind took in the process of healing. The first thing he did was to remove the cloak from his body; the same cloak was protecting him from the sun heat, rain and other hazardous environments (conditions) for so many days. But his faith was so immense that he was certain to receive the healing from Christ. Jesus observed this blind right from the beginning and read his mind closely; so Jesus did not use any earthly substance because the spirit of the blind directly admitted the heavens by faith.

This faith was unconditional; the situation was completely hopeless; nobody wanted to help the blind; his voice was suppressed; but his faith grew because it had a purpose. Finally we read about him that he followed Jesus immediately after the healing, though Jesus told him to go on his way.

'FAITH WITH A RIGHT PURPOSE IS UNCONDITIONAL; CERTAINTY CAN PERFORM FOREVER'.

4.0 Evolving Faith

In <u>JOHN 9:1-39</u>, we read about the third blind in <u>JERUSALEM</u>; from who every believer can learn about a faith that evolves. Of course having an unconditional faith is certainly good. However, when the situation is not conducive, not friendly, not favorable, we loose patience. Therefore, it is good to allow the faith to evolve. Let's narrate this episode below.

- Here Jesus saw a man, who was blind since birth; there was a small discussion on this issue among the disciples with Jesus: due to whose fault this man was born as blind.
- Jesus spat on the ground; made some mud with the saliva; anointed the blind man's eyes with that mud.
- He asked the blind to go and wash it in the pool of Siloam.
- The blind went, washed and came back seeing.
- Now the known and the neighbors of this cured man were trying to identify him; he was witnessing Jesus to them and narrated what had happened.
- Hearing the miracle, people took him to Pharisees; the Pharisees were interested in him because he was cured by Jesus on Sabbath.
- The parents of the man were also brought by the officials for investigation; since they were scared of officials they could not support their son except admitting that he was their son.
- The man was treated harshly to lie so that the Pharisees could use him as a false witness to trap Jesus.
- But the man strongly witnessed that Jesus was Christ, the Son of God, who had come from heavens.

Today, people are really blind on the earth; there is no light in their life; they are living in darkness. JESUS SAYS THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD ARE BORN IN DARKNESS (SINFUL STATE); BY ACCEPTING JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOUR THEY BRING GLORY TO GOD; BECAUSE JESUS IS THE LIGHT AND HE IS THE ONLY RECOGNIZED DOCTOR TO CURE SIN; AND THE ONLY MEDICINE TO SIN IS HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD. Yes, we, the Christians have been cured by His priceless blood; but are we growing in faith to practice His love? The devil seeds hatred, division, desires if sin in the minds of the people. Jesus wants us to be the performers of the faith; that is to destroy the devils work.

Unless a faith evolves it cannot perform. Let us see the sequences how faith can evolve.

- Submission
- Salvation
- Identification
- Temptation/or testing
- Experimentation/ or demonstration
- Declaration
- Revelation

The blind man did not ask Jesus to heal him; but when Jesus had offered (selected for His kingdom) God's grace and mercy, the blind immediately responded positively. He followed as he was commanded and came back cured. This is a perfect example for the true *submission* of someone to the word of God (Jesus) to receive the *salvation*. When the blind was saved (healed), people indeed questioned his identity. Identification is really a crisis in this sinful world. Dear brothers and sisters the moment we are born again in Christ we will be certainly questioned for our identification (Christ in us) by relatives, friends, and family members, and of course by our enemy.

WE BECOME THE SIGNPOST TO HEAVENS AFTER OUR REBIRTH IN CHRIST JESUS.

The blind man was identified by the people with his old state; however he witnessed Christ Jesus who gave him the new identity. Satan and his world will try to identify us with our past and lost; but we must identify ourselves in Jesus, who has given us a new dimension to our life. *Identification* means the fact of being recognized with a clear reflection. If we identify us as the children of Christ Jesus then the world must see Christ's nature in us. <u>UNFORTUNATELY MANY CHRISTIANS HAVE IDENTITY IN</u> <u>CASTE, RELIGION, REGION AND LANGUAGE.</u> In <u>GENESIS 39:3</u> we read Joseph was identified by his master as a man of God.

Are we really a branch in the real grape wine tree (Jesus)?

In order to glorify God, we must be good by our deeds with others; so that they identify us as the children of God. The blind identified himself in Christ; he became

the witness to Christ. Satan did not keep quiet seeing this poor man witnessing Jesus; those who listened to his witness took him to Pharisees. Testing and tempting are the tactics Satan regularly employs with every believer of Christ. During the temptation phase or testing, we can discover that what is inside our heart either godliness or selfishness; righteousness or wickedness; love or lust; faith or fear; truth or lie.

If we examine watchfully, we find that initially the blind was happy that he could see the world; he believed that Christ had healed him; later he was happy witnessing Jesus; now while witnessing God's love he was put into testing. In fact he did not get help either from his parents or the people who brought him to the officials. His parents hid the truth due to fear; hiding the truth is selfishness, the origin of sin in the universe; Satan hid the truth.

What made the man so boldly to witness Jesus in front of highly educated scholars? Though the man was left helpless physically by the humans, he was led by the Spirit of God because he was already touched by God. So the born blind started permitting the Spirit of God to guide him; this is exactly what we mean by *experimentation of* faith. <u>EXPERIMENTING MEANS A COURSE OF ACTION TENTATIVELY ADOPTED WITHOUT</u> <u>BEING SURE OF THE OUTCOME</u>. But if we discover and declare Jesus in our life then we are sure of the outcome.

The way the blind man started demonstrating his faith on Jesus Christ was indeed remarkable. Immediately after his healing, he did not meet Jesus; he could meet only the multitude and witnessed Jesus. Later he was taken to officials for investigation. We understand that the sufferings helped him to grow in faith. God selected him when he was facing problems for his very survival. Once he understood the purpose of his life, he declared that Jesus is Christ (*declaration*). WHEN THE FAITH REACHED A MATURED STATE, THE HEALED MAN HAD NO HESITATION TO DECLARE BOLDLY TO THE OFFICIALS THAT JESUS CAME FROM HEAVENS, WHICH WAS IN FACT THE CORE AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE FOR PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES. Remember he came to know personally Jesus only after he

was thrown out by the officials (possibly out of the town). If we are in God then the world will throw us out.

Are we adjusting to the world and expect God to fine tune with us? No, it is impossible for God to accept any unrighteous acts of this world. When the world rejects us, Jesus will receive us (JOHN 9:35).

Revelation is something that is previously unknown. The disclosure of knowledge of God is revelation to humans. When Jesus had revealed him as the Son of God to the healed man, the first thing he did was to worship Jesus Christ; this is what God wants from every human being.

'EVOLVING FAITH IS PRACTICAL, WORKABLE, AND JUSTIFIABLE TO REVEAL GOD'S GLORY'.

5.0 Testing of Faith

The Scriptures say:

'Faith may be tested, which is infinitely more precious than the perishable gold which is tested and purified by fire; to be found to praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ revealed', <u>IPETER 1:7</u>.

'Consider it wholly joyful, my brethren, whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trails of any sort or fall into various temptations. Be assured and understand that the trail and proving of your faith bring out endurance and steadfastness and patience', JAMES 1:2, 3.

God wants every one of us (Believers) to grow in faith and strengthen our spiritual life more and more with His words. First of all we must appreciate that there is need for our faith to grow.

THE SALVATION OF SOUL IS THE RESULT OF CONSISTENTLY EXPRESSING OUR FAITH ON THE TRUE LIVING GOD.

This clearly illustrates that unless someone accepts the true God, he or she cannot be saved. When a child is born on this planet earth, it starts growing physically and mentally to develop all the necessary skills for its survival. Similarly, if a grown up person gets a rebirth in Christ, then the spiritual growth becomes essential in order to develop all the necessary abilities to conduct the worship and service to God.

What are the duties or functionalities expected from a born again believer? <u>A BORN AGAIN BELIEVER IS THE 'ACCEPTED WORSHIPER</u>' BY GOD ALMIGHTY.

What about others on the earth?

The natural man is a non-believer of the true living God and His Son Jesus Christ; thus considered to be a <u>'POTENTIAL WORSHIPER'</u>; he/or she has a godly system, which is capable enough (potential) to realize the truth, if he/ or she submits their life unto Jesus Christ. The truth is that Jesus is Lord, through who God wants to save every human soul on the earth.

The carnal Christian is a <u>'SELECTED WORSHIPER'</u>; however he/or she has been influenced by the desires of flesh; so often succumb to pressures and fails to fulfill what was promised at the time of selection (baptism); that is to keep away from the sinful world. Jesus is the perfect example for His children; while growing in faith He was tested and tempted by Satan. We would be facing the same situation today from the same dirty guy (Satan); remember the devil cannot accept the truth (Jesus) because Satan is a liar. Then how come Christian might think that they could get along with the sinful world, which is controlled by this liar. Since Satan cannot tempt God, he would be happy to do it with the children of God. Awake, Anoint, and Assemble in the presence of God daily.

What do we learn from Christ?

- Jesus was tested first for His total trust in God before He started the 'Gospel work' (in wilderness) and finally before the 'Holy Mission' (at Gethsemane).
- He was tempted in flesh, tortured in soul but still He did not yield; therefore God the father raised Jesus in all glory and gave Him the right position.

- God wants to create Jesus in us; remember God created Him (image and likeness of Jesus) in Adam and Eve; behold they had lost that glory. Now, God wants to give us a new life (image and likeness of resurrected Jesus).
- This new life may bring changes (authority in Jesus name over every evil thing) as well as challenges (testing/tempting). The reason is that when Christ Jesus accepts a sinner into God's kingdom, Satan raises a basic question: 'I have an equal right on this soul'. This is due to the bad choice made by humans in the Garden of Eden.
- Now the battle starts in the mind field; of course that is the spiritual plague, which needs to be healed. Remember Satan will employ the same tactics which he had successfully implemented on Eve's mind, 'suggestions'. Suggestion may lead to confusion; confusion will slowly become compassion; compassion may lead to construction; construction will build a structure (image); structure will spoil the state of mind i.e. the image of God. The best way to handle the devil is that cast down every evil suggestion; even if the devil raises a fundamental point that God cannot accept a sinner like us. We have to coolly handle the devil because it's our family issue (we are the Children of God) and he has no business with us (DANIEL 3:16-18).
- God does not quantify our sins; but has qualified all of us as sinners in total. Jesus Christ has died only for sinners.
- Satan knows that God has zero tolerance for sin; therefore will bring into our mind about our past history. Dear friends please understand that Satan is a best story teller. Best way to handle him is to use God's word and Jesus name to which he has no reply.
- God forgives and forgets all the confessed sins; He remembers them no more; the un-confessed sins would be informed to us by Holy Spirit through the word of God because they could be the blessing blockers.
- We, the believers must identify who is encountering with our mind, either Holy Spirit or the evil dirty fellow. This demands a growth in Christ. If we read or hear the witnesses of successful believers, we observe a common point that is about their spiritual growth; it is very essential to be victorious.

- If we are not growing in faith then there is a possibility for accepting a wrong suggestion, which may become a thought in our mind (a seed).
- As God has created us like Him, if any thought (information) is seeded in our mind, then it will start processing the information; if the thought process continues then that will surely result in an image; we will end up exactly the same way our first mother had terminated the glory from human.

'Let no one say when he is tempted, I am tempted from God; for God is incapable of being tempted by evil and He himself tempts no one. But every person is tempted when he is drawn away (from the word of God), enticed and baited by his own evil desire (Lust/Passions)', JAMES 1:13, 14.

The above mentioned Scriptures clearly tell us that if we accept any lustful or passionate suggestions from the liar then we are not tempted but have got desire to perform what we believe. This really necessitates that spiritual growth is vital to be successful. God knows from where He has picked us; thus ensures all the safeguards to get protected from our enemies; but in order to effectively use these spiritual guards, we need to grow in Christ.

6.0 Conclusion

- Conditional faith brings failure and some time success because of uncertainty.
- Unconditional faith is good and guarantees victory; but needs a total submission of freewill to God.
- Evolving faith is practical, which gradually trains our spiritual system systematically with God's word to understand how to build the heavenly relation for a successful life on the earth and eternal life in future. When faith is evolving we get aligned with God day by day and reach a state where God would say: '*I know you now*'.
- Testing of faith is to characterize (mould) the faith.
- FAITH IS THE LOGIN IDENTITY TO HAVE A USER ACCOUNT IN HEAVENS
- In order to operate our heavenly account to receive the blessing (every day diet) and miracles (medicines), faith is an absolute requirement.

- Yes, we all know that without a login ID there is no user account. Have it immediately.
- OF COURSE ALL THE BELIEVERS ARE TREATED IMPARTIALLY BY GOD; HE THEREFORE HAS PROVIDED TO ALL THE SAME PASSWORD: 'JESUS CHRIST'.

Bethsaida is unbeliever's world; but the 4 touch by Jesus can raise the necessary faith in someone to witness the God's power.

Jericho is an obstacle to a committed faith on the Son of God; but determination of someone to reach Jesus will ensure healing by God's mercy.

Jerusalem is believers' paradise; hearing God's word and washing ourselves accordingly (with the blood of Christ) will evolve the heavenly faith to see salvation by God' grace.

Amen Praise the Lord.