

08. Faith

The Bible says that all things are possible if you can believe. Repentance means a turning towards God. The second thing which is like a twin with repentance for receiving God's forgiveness and salvation is faith.

The Bible speaks a lot about faith. Jesus Christ, when He came to earth, encouraged people to have faith in God. In fact, that was one of the primary themes of His entire ministry - have faith in God. We cannot receive God's forgiveness if we don't believe. We don't have to do work in order to earn forgiveness. Forgiveness is far too expensive for us to be able to earn it with works or money or any amount of pilgrimages or any such thing. God gives us forgiveness freely. Why freely? Because it is so valuable, so expensive, that we can never pay for it with any number of good works. Faith is not such a complicated thing. It just means reaching out our hand and receiving what God is offering us. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8, 'we are saved by grace through faith.' These are two important words that we find coming in the New Testament and they have very simple meanings.

Grace, we can say, is God's hand reaching out to give us His help, His blessings, His forgiveness and strength for every task we can ever face in life. What is faith? Faith is our hand reaching up to take that help and those blessings from God's hands. Now, if I were to give you a Bible, and if you have to receive it, you need to stretch out your hand and take it. That is faith; when God in grace offers me something, I reach out my hand to take it. I told you in an earlier study that God will not force anything down our throats. He will not force us to accept something which we don't want to receive, because

08. 信心

《聖經》說只要你相信,一切都有可能。悔改的意思是轉向神。與「得到神的寬恕和救贖」如同雙胞胎般的第二件事,就是信心。

《聖經》講了很多關於信心的內容。耶穌基督,當祂來世上的時候,鼓勵人要對神有信心。事實上,這是祂在世上整個任務的主題——告訴人要對神有信心。我們若不相信,就沒法收到神的寬恕。我們沒法通過自己的努力來得到寬恕。這寬恕,比我們任何能做的工作或是錢,或是朝聖之類,任何的,都要貴重的太多太多。而神把這份寬恕白白地給我們。為什麼白白地給?因為這寬恕價值太高,太過貴重,我們無論做得多好,也是負擔不起的。信心不是件複雜的事。它就是要我們伸出手,接受神所給予的。《聖經》在以弗所書 2 章 8 節中說道,「我們得救是本乎恩,也因著信」。在新約裡,這兩個重要的詞,有著非常簡明的意思。

「恩典」,可以說是在我們需要幫助時,神所伸給我們的手,是神的祝福,是祂的寬恕,和我們遇到難題時能夠得到的力量。什麼是「信心」?信心是我們伸出手去,接受了神給予的那份說明和祝福。假如我要給你一本《聖經》,你若要接受它,就必須要伸出手才能接過它。這就是信心。當神在恩典裡給予我們任何東西,我都需要伸出手去接受它。早些時候我曾經講過,神不會把任何東西強塞進我們的喉嚨。祂不會強迫我們接受任何我們不願意接受的東西,因為祂給了我們選擇的自由。祂不願意要些服從程式的機器人。他想要我們自己做出選擇。當我選擇去相信,我做出了選擇。我會說:「主,我相信基督為了我的罪而死,並從死

He has given us freedom of choice. He doesn't want mindless robots that just do what He has programmed them to do. He wants us to make a choice. When I choose to believe, I have made a choice. I say, 'Lord, I believe that Christ died for my sins and rose up from the dead and I receive Him as my Lord.'

The Bible says much about the power there is in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other name on earth through which we can get salvation, through which we can get forgiveness. And you can receive that if you just stretch out your hand. In other words, if you say to the Lord, 'Lord Jesus, I am sinner. I want to turn away from my sins. I believe you died for me, and I receive you right now in my life.' That is a simple prayer. It will take you less than a minute to pray, and if you pray it in sincerity, you can be a child of God in a moment. This is not a magic formula. You see, God is not looking for particular words. Just like a father, when he listens to his child, he is not seeing whether the child repeats a particular formula or says things in correct language. He is not even bothered about the child's grammar. He listens to the child's words as an expression of the longings of that child's heart. In the same way, when you speak to God, God listens to your heart more than to your words.

Jesus has said these words in John 6:37, "The one who comes to me, I will never reject." It doesn't matter who you are. Christ did not die only for Christians. He died for the sins of the whole world. The Bible puts all human beings in one category - sinners. Whatever our religion may be, we are all sinners. There is no difference between the one and the other. We are all born with the same nature. We are all born far away from God. And the Bible offers forgiveness to everyone equally, saying Christ died for all of your sins. So faith is the means by which

裡復活,我接受祂為我的救主。”

《聖經》說了很多關於我們的主耶穌基督,祂的名字的力量。這世上再沒有任何一個名字,可以使我們獲得救贖,獲得寬恕。這是你也可以獲得的,只要伸出手。換句話說,如果你對主說:「主耶穌,我是罪人。我想要離開我的罪。我相信你為了我而死,我現在就要接受你到我的生命裡。」就是這樣簡單的一個禱告,只要你是真心的做這個禱告,那一刻,你就成為了神的孩子。這不是魔法口訣。希望你知道,神要的不是特定的話語。就像一位父親,當他聽自己的孩子說話,他不是看這孩子是不是重複一些特定的、「正確的」話。他甚至也不在乎孩子的語法。他聽孩子的話語,是因為他渴望來自孩子內心的表達。同樣的,當我們對神說話,神聽的是我們的心,而不是我們的詞語。

耶穌在約翰福音 6 章 37 節說道:「到我這裡來的,我總不丟棄他。」你是誰都沒關係。基督不止為了基督徒而死。祂為了整個世界的罪而死。《聖經》把所有人類都放進同一個類別——罪人。不管我們的宗教是什麼,我們全部都是罪人。彼此之間沒有差別。我們都帶著相同的天性出生。天生就遠離神。《聖經》應許給每個人的寬恕是同樣的,就是說,基督為了你全部的罪而死。因此,信仰是可以讓我們伸出手的方法,去接受神在基督裡給我們的應許。《聖經》裡說:「神在基督裡賜給了我們天上各樣屬靈的福氣。」(弗 1:3)

we stretch out our hands and take all that God has promised for us in Christ. There is a verse in the Bible which says, 'God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ' (Eph. 1:3).

Now why is it that some Christians tend to grow spiritually more than others? The reason is faith. We can say that God's blessings are like a banquet feast that is being laid out on the table. But if you go for a buffet lunch or dinner in a restaurant, all the food is laid out there. Nobody is going to put it on your plate. You have to go to the table and take whatever you like. So, if you take a little, that is your choice. Somebody else fills up his plate with everything from the table, with every dish. You could have done the same, but you didn't do it. This is how it is with many Christians. They don't take everything that God offers them. And that is why they remain poor.

Faith means, to see the things that God has given us and to take them. Think of this promise which we just read from Ephesians 1:3 that, in Christ, God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. That means, every single thing that we need for our spirit, beginning with forgiveness. Remember forgiveness of sins is only the beginning. All that we have been saying in our past studies is only to lay a foundation for a wonderful superstructure that we are going to build on in the studies to come. It is the foundation, the clearing of our past evil record, the removal of our guilt, the paying of our debt, the settling of old accounts. And it begins with repentance and faith - a turning to God; setting matters right in relation to the things that we have done wrong in the past and receiving God's forgiveness freely; reaching out our hand and saying, 'Lord, You have blessed me with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. I

為什麼有些基督徒屬靈成長得比較多?原因就是信心。我們可以說神的祝福就像宴會上擺在桌子上的各種美物。如果你去飯店吃自助餐,所有的食物都擺在那。沒有人會往你盤子裡放東西。你需要自己去桌子那,拿你想要的。因此,如果只拿一點點,那是你自己的選擇。別人在桌子上的每個盤子裡,各樣東西都拿了,把自己的盤子填得滿滿的。你也可以這樣,但是你沒有。很多基督徒就是這樣的情況。他們並沒有接受神所給的全部。所以他們就一直這麼窮著。

信心的意思是,看到了神所給的,並去接受。剛剛我們從以弗所書 1 章 3 節看到,在基督裡,神把天上各樣屬靈的祝福都賜給我們。這指的是,從對我們的寬恕到我們靈裡所需要的一切。要記住,對我們罪的寬恕才只是個開始。在前面所講到的那些內容,和我們即將要構建的奇妙相比,才僅僅是基礎而已。清除我們過往罪的記錄,除掉心中的愧疚,償還了我們的債,清理了舊的帳戶,這的確是基礎。以悔改和信心為開端轉向神,把我們過去做錯的糾正過來,接受神白給的寬恕,並伸出我們的手說:「主,你在基督裡,賜給了我天上一切屬靈的祝福。我要接受它。」

want to receive it.'

See, this the principle that we find throughout Scripture. We read in the Gospels that once two blind men came to Jesus and asked Jesus to heal their blind eyes (Matthew 9). They knew that Jesus had the power to open their blind eyes, and so they came and asked Him to do it for them. Now Jesus was willing to do it for them. They were also longing to receive it. But Jesus still asked them one more question: do you believe that I am able to do this for you. See, this is the principle in all of God's dealings with us, that He asks us a question. You ask Him for something; you ask Him for forgiveness, let us say - that is the first thing we ask for. And the Lord says, 'do you believe I will forgive you?' If you respond, 'well, Lord, I am not so sure,' you are not going to get it. It is like these blind men we read of in Matthew 9:27-29. We read that they came, they asked for their eyes to be opened, and Jesus said, 'do you believe that I am able to do this for you?' Now just supposing that one of them responded saying, 'well, I am not so sure Lord, whether you will do it,' do you know what would have happened? He would have gone away with his eyes still blind. They would have remained unchanged. See the situation there? He wanted his eyes to be opened, Jesus wanted to open his eyes, but he still didn't get it. What was missing? Faith, that is all.

So sometimes, you may come to God with a great desire for something. God may also have a great desire to give it to you. But if you say, 'well, if I have a desire and God has a desire, then I get it.' No, you don't, because there is one more question there to answer: do you believe God will do it for you? That is the question we read in Matthew 9:28. But they did not say, 'we are not sure'. They said, 'Yes Lord' - that was a bold confession - 'yes Lord, we believe, you are able to do this.' Then what did Jesus do? He

你們看,這是貫穿《聖經》的主幹內容。我們在福音書中讀到,有一次兩個瞎子來到耶穌面前,要耶穌治癒他們的眼睛(馬太福音第9章)。他們知道耶穌有能力讓他們睜開已經瞎了的雙眼,所以他們來懇求祂。這個時候,耶穌想要為他們做這事。他們也非常想要接受。然而耶穌仍然問他們一個看起來多餘的問題:你們信我能做這事嗎?你看,神問的這個問題,貫穿于一切祂和我們打的交道。你向祂求告一些東西,你向祂求告寬恕(這是我們該求的第一件事情),神會說:「你相信我會寬恕你嗎?」如果你的反應是:「嗯,主啊,我不是太確定。」那麼你將沒法得到。這如同馬太福音9章27-29節裡的瞎子。我們看到他們來到耶穌面前,請求重新看見,耶穌問:「你們信我能做這事嗎?」假如他們的反應是:「嗯,主,我不太確定,你是不是會做這事。」你知道結果會怎樣嗎?他們會瞎著眼睛離開,保持原樣。你們看清這個情形了嗎?他想要自己的眼睛睜開,耶穌也想要把他的眼睛打開,但卻還不能實現。這是缺了什麼呢?缺的就是信心。

所以,有時候你帶著某種強烈的願望,來到神面前。神也有強烈的意願想要把它給你。如果你說「如果我想要,神也想給我,那我就能得到。」那你就錯了,你還得不到,因為還有一個問題沒回答:你相信神會為你做這事嗎?這就是我們在馬太福音9章28節讀到的問題。但他們沒有說「我不太確定」。他們說,「主啊,我們信」,這是非常坦白的,「是的主,我相信,你能夠做這事。」爾後耶穌做了什麼?他摸了他們的眼睛,並說:「**照著你們的信心**,成全了你們吧。」仔細看到了嗎?耶穌說的不是照著你的願望,甚至不是照著我的願望,

touched their eyes, and He said: be it done to you according to your faith.' Now notice that carefully? Not according to your desire, not even according to my desire, but according to your faith.

Now pay attention to this, my friend. If you could receive everything you desired you would have gotten a lot of things by now from God. And if you could receive everything God desired, again, you would have gotten many things from God by now. Why haven't you then? God desires to give it you, you desire to receive it, and you still haven't got it. What is the reason? Because when God says, 'do you believe, I will give to you,' you say, 'I am not so sure?' Then the Lord says, 'be it done for you not according to your desire, but according to your faith.' That is what made the difference. You see the rain's falling outside, and you take a little cup outside to fill. Another person takes a bucket and yet another person takes a big drum. Who is going to get the maximum water when they come back inside the house? The one who went out with the big drum. You can't say that God gave him more, that God was partial to him. No, you went out with a little cup, so that is all you got. Another person went out with a drum, he got much more. It is like that, faith is like that.

God's blessings are there for everyone. He has blessed us with every single spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, but all of you are not going to get the same amount. That depends on your faith. You know, faith honours God. That is what you say when you say, 'I believe'; 'Lord, I believe you are trustworthy.' That is why it is so important. It means, 'Lord, I believe, what You have said is true.' You believe that what God has said in His Word is true.

Now, I want you to pray right now. Will you close your eyes and say these words: 'Lord Jesus, I

而是照著你們的信心。

現在請您留意,我的朋友。如果你想要什麼就得到什麼,那你現在應該已經從神那得到很多東西了。同樣的,如果你得到了神想給你的每樣東西,到現在你也應該得到了很多東西。那麼你為什麼沒有呢?神想給你,你也想要,可是卻仍沒有得到。原因是什麼呢?因為如果神說:「你相信我會給你嗎?」你說「我不太確定」,然後主就會說:「不是照著你的願望,而是照著你的信心來實現。」區別就在這裡。外面下雨,你用一個杯子來接水。另一個人用個水桶,還有人用了大圓桶。這樣回到屋子裡,誰會得到最多的水?是那個用大圓桶的。你不能說神給他的更多,或是神偏向他。不是的,你出去就拿一個小杯子,你得到的也就只有那麼多。另一個人用大圓桶,得到的就多得多。信心就是類似于這樣。

神的祝福就在那,預備給每個人。祂把天上各樣**屬靈**的祝福都賜給了我們,可是每個人得到的卻不相同。因為這取決於你的信心。要知道,信心是榮耀神的。你在說「我相信」的時候,就是在說「主,我相信你是可信賴的。」這就是為什麼信心是如此重要。因為它代表著「主,我相信你所說的是真的」。代表你相信神的話語是真的。

現在,我想要你來祈禱。你會合上眼睛,說:「主耶穌,我相信你為了我而死。現在,你就要寬恕了我的

believe you died for me. Right now you are going to forgive my sins.' And if there is any other need in your life, say that right now, and say, 'Lord, I believe you will give me even that. I believe. Amen.'

罪。」如果你的生命還有其它的需求,請現在就說,「主,我相信,甚至於那樣那樣某個東西,你都會給我。我相信。阿門。」