

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

《圣经》说只要你相信，一切都有可能。悔改的意思是转向神。与“得到神的宽恕和救赎”如同双胞胎般的第二件事，就是信心。

《圣经》讲了很多关于信心的内容。耶稣基督，当祂来世上的时候，鼓励人要对神有信心。事实上，这是祂在世上整个任务的主题——告诉人要对神有信心。我们若不相信，就没法收到神的宽恕。我们没法通过自己的努力来得到宽恕。这宽恕，比我们任何能做的工作或是钱，或是朝圣之类，任何的，都要贵重的太多太多。而神把这份宽恕白白地给我们。为什么白白地给？因为这宽恕价值太高，太过贵重，我们无论做得多好，也是负担不起的。信心不是件复杂的事。它就是要我们伸出手，接受神所给予的。《圣经》在以弗所书 2 章 8 节中说道，“我们得救是本乎恩，也因着信”。在新约里，这两个重要的词，有着非常简明的意思。

“恩典”，可以说是在我们需要帮助时，神所伸给我们的手，是神的祝福，是祂的宽恕，和我们遇到难题时能够得到的力量。什么是“信心”？信心是我们伸出手去，接受了神给予的那份帮助和祝福。假如我要给你一本《圣经》，你若要接受它，就必须伸出手才能接过它。这就是信心。当神在恩典里给予我们任何东西，我都需要伸出手去接受它。早些时候我曾经讲过，神不会把任何东西强塞进我们的喉咙。祂不会强迫我们接受任何我们不愿意接受的东西，因为祂给了我们选择的自由。祂不愿意要些服从程序的机器人。祂想要我们自己做出选择。当我选择去相信，我做出了选择。我会说：“主，我相信基督为了我的罪而

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

死，并从死里复活，我接受祂为我的救主。”

《圣经》说了很多关于我们的主耶稣基督，祂的名字的力量。这世上再没有任何一个名字，可以使我们获得救赎，获得宽恕。这是你也可以获得的，只要伸出手。换句话说，如果你对主说：“主耶稣，我是罪人。我想要离开我的罪。我相信你为了我而死，我现在就要接受你到我的生命里。”就是这样简单的一个祷告，只要你是真心的做这个祷告，那一刻，你就成为了神的孩子。这不是魔法口诀。希望你了解，神要的不是特定的话语。就像一位父亲，当他听自己的孩子说话，他不是看这孩子是不是重复一些特定的、“正确的”话。他甚至也不在乎孩子的语法。他听孩子的话语，是因为他渴望来自孩子内心的表达。同样的，当我们对神说话，神听的是我们的心，而不是我们的词语。

耶稣在约翰福音 6 章 37 节说道：“到我这里来的，我总不丢弃他。”你是谁都没关系。基督不止为了基督徒而死。祂为了整个世界的罪而死。《圣经》把所有人类都放进同一个类别——罪人。不管我们的宗教是什么，我们全部都是罪人。彼此之间没有差别。我们都带着相同的天性出生。天生就远离神。《圣经》应许给每个人的宽恕是同样的，就是说，基督为了你全部的罪而死。因此，信仰是可以让我们伸出手的方法，去接受神在基督里给我们的应许。《圣经》里说：“神在基督里赐给了我们天上各样属灵的福气。”

for all of your sins. So faith is the means by which 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

(弗 1 : 3)

为什么有些基督徒属灵成长得比较多？原因就是信心。我们可以说神的祝福就像宴会上摆在桌子上的各种美物。如果你去饭店吃自助餐，所有的食物都摆在那。没有人会往你盘子里放东西。你需要自己去桌子那，拿你想要的。因此，如果只拿一点点，那是你自己的选择。别人在桌子上的每个盘子里，各样东西都拿了，把自己的盘子填得满满的。你也可以这样，但是你没有。很多基督徒就是这样的情况。他们并没有接受神所给的全部。所以他们就一直这么穷着。

信心的意思是，看到了神所给的，并去接受。刚刚我们从以弗所书 1 章 3 节看到，在基督里，神把天上各样属灵的祝福都赐给我们。这指的是，从对我们的宽恕到我们灵里所需要的一切。要记住，对我们罪的宽恕才只是个开始。在前面所讲到的那些内容，和我们即将要构建的奇妙相比，才仅仅是基础而已。清除我们过往罪的记录，除掉心中的愧疚，偿还了我们的债，清理了旧的帐户，这的确是基础。以悔改和信心为开端转向神，把我们过去做错的纠正过来，接受神白给的宽恕，并伸出我们的手说：“主，你在基督里，赐给了我天上一切属灵的祝福。我要接受它。”

saying, 'Lord, You have blessed me with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. I 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

你们看，这是贯穿《圣经》的主干内容。我们在福音书中读到，有一次两个瞎子来到耶稣面前，要耶稣治愈他们的眼睛（马太福音第9章）。他们知道耶稣有能力让他们睁开已经瞎了的双眼，所以他们来恳求祂。这个时候，耶稣想要为他们做这事。他们也非常想要接受。然而耶稣仍然问他们一个看起来多余的问题：你们信我能做这事吗？你看，神问的这个问题，贯穿于一切祂和我们打的交道。你向祂求告一些东西，你向祂求告宽恕（这是我们该求的第一件事情），神会说：“你相信我会宽恕你吗？”如果你的反应是：“嗯，主啊，我不是太确定。”那么你将没法得到。这如同马太福音9章27-29节里的瞎子。我们看到他们来到耶稣面前，请求重新看见，耶稣问：“你们信我能做这事吗？”假如他们的反应是：“嗯，主，我不太确定，你是不是会做这事。”你知道结果会怎样吗？他们会瞎着眼睛离开，保持原样。你们看清这个情形了吗？他想要自己的眼睛睁开，耶稣也想要把他的眼睛打开，但却还不能实现。这是缺了什么呢？缺的就是信心。

所以，有时候你带着某种强烈的愿望，来到神面前。神也有强烈的意愿想要把它给你。如果你说“如果我想要，神也想给我，那我就能得到。”那你就错了，你还得不到，因为还有一个问题没回答：你相信神会为你做这事吗？这就是我们在马太福音9章28节读到的问题。但他们没有说“我不太确定”。他们说，“主啊，我们信”，这是非常坦白的，“是的主，我相信，

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 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

你能够做这事。”尔后耶稣做了什么？他摸了他们的眼睛，并说：“照着你们的信心，成全了你们吧。”仔细看到了吗？耶稣说的不是照着你的愿望，甚至不是照着我的愿望，而是照着你们的信心。

现在请您留意，我的朋友。如果你想要什么就得到什么，那你现在应该已经从神那得到很多东西了。同样的，如果你得到了神想给你的每样东西，到现在你也应该得到了很多东西。那么你为什么没有呢？神想给你，你也想要，可是却仍没有得到。原因是什么呢？因为如果神说：“你相信我会给你吗？”你说“我不太确定”，然后主就会说：“不是照着你的愿望，而是照着你的信心来实现。”区别就在这里。外面下雨，你用一个杯子来接水。另一个人用个水桶，还有人用了大圆桶。这样回到屋子里，谁会得到最多的水？是那个用大圆桶的。你不能说神给他的更多，或是神偏向他。不是的，你出去就拿一个小杯子，你得到的也就只有那么多。另一个人用大圆桶，得到的就多得多。信心就是类似于这样。

神的祝福就在那，预备给每个人。祂把天上各样属灵的祝福都赐给了我们，可是每个人得到的却不相同。因为这取决于你的信心。要知道，信心是荣耀神的。你在说“我相信”的时候，就是在说“主，我相信你是可信赖的。”这就是为什么信心是如此重要。因为它代表着“主，我相信你说的是真的”。代表你相信神的话语是真的。

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 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.'

现在，我想要你来祈祷。你会合上眼睛，说：“主耶稣，我相信你为了我而死。现在，你就要宽恕了我的罪。”如果你的生命还有其它的需求，请现在就说，“主，我相信，甚至于那样那样某个东西，你都会给我。我相信。阿门。”