

# The Staff and The Sword Ministry

Relationship Reports

## RELATIONSHIP REPORTS February 1984 to January 1985

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# RELATIONSHIP



### PART 14 FAITH: THE HEART

#### **SIMPLE FAITH**

***“IF YE HAVE FAITH AS A GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED . . . ”***

*(Jesus in Matthew 17:20)*

Faith is a Gift, it is Spirit, it is Law—all of these and more. Yet, the heart of FAITH is quite simple. And, put simply: FAITH IS!

Does the mustard seed, tiny as it is, think of how it will grow into a great tree? Does it question if it

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is a mustard seed? Does it fret about whether or not the rain will come in due season? If the sun will shine on it? If it will find root in the soil? No, of course not! The mustard seed sprouts and grows, lives within the time God gave, draws on God's provision, and finally becomes exactly what God purposed.

Perhaps, we should not be so different from that mustard seed!

Why do we get perplexed about FAITH? Why can't we simply draw on what God has given us and grow as He provided? Well in fact, it really is just as simple as that. Again, put simply: it is as simple as just being what we are in Christ, growing and drawing on what He has provided, trusting and loving Him, and in growing in Him!

The subject of FAITH is as boundless as JESUS' LOVE. The Bible, which says much of FAITH, even so is only by design to prime our FAITH pumps. It is not something to be studied, but something to be worked with. FAITH is not just something TO HEAR only—it is also something TO DO.

### **FAITH vs. BELIEF: FAITH & BELIEF**

Years ago, Jesus gave me to distinguish between FAITH and BELIEF, seeing the two as related. Yet, somewhat different. In essence, FAITH is something JESUS DOES, while BELIEF is something WE DO. BELIEF is our own free will choice. If you have FAITH but not BELIEF, FAITH does not work. To BELIEVE but have not FAITH, does not work either. WE NEED BOTH FAITH AND BELIEF!

### **A GIFT**

***“THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH.”*** (Hebrews 12:2).

In this Scripture from Hebrews, we see that JESUS begins and completes OUR FAITH—notice, FAITH is a personal and an individual gift.

### **TALENTS & FAITH**

***“WATCH THEREFORE, FOR YE KNOW NEITHER THE DAY NOR THE HOUR WHEREIN THE SON OF MAN COMETH. FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AS A MAN . . . WHO CALLED HIS OWN SERVENTS AND DELIVERED UNTO THEM HIS GOODS. AND UNTO ONE HE GIVE FIVE TALENTS, TO ANOTHER TWO, AND TO ANOTHER ONE . . .”*** (Jesus in Matthew 25:13–15).

Long ago, the Holy Spirit gave me to understand that the TALENTS given were degrees of FAITH. Here we see the TALENTS defined as HIS GOODS.

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**“ . . . BUT THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY HIS FAITH.”** (*Habakkuk 2:4*).

There are two ways of seeing this Scripture. In one version, FAITH is seen as being personal, while, in another version, FAITH is seen as being God's alone. The truth of the matter is: both views are correct. We are given by Jesus a degree of FAITH, as we receive we are possessors—that FAITH is ours. Yet, in the day Jesus comes—when the Son of Man Cometh (Matthew 25:13)—He calls those given FAITH to account (Matthew 25:19). The question is: what have you done with that FAITH given you?

FAITH is not given out equally, but as Scripture says, “To them which much is given, much is expected,” implies that while a return of much is required when much is given, it does not say that to those given little—nothing is required. Something is required of all.

We see in Matthew 25, that the one who hid his Talent in the earth was rebuked, **“THOU OUGHTEST THEREFORE TO HAVE PUT MY MONEY TO THE EXCHANGERS, AND THEN AT MY COMING I SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED MINE OWN WITH USURY.”**

In the Scripture above, we see this Word defined in other Scriptures where Jesus speaking of Lights in this world that ARE NOT to be hidden under a basket, but are to be put on a table to give light in a house. We also remember where Jesus went up to the FIG TREE (out of season) and cursed it for being fruitless. So, by this, it is seen that the words EXCHANGERS AND USURY can easily speak of a functioning Body of Christ. In other words, if a Christian does not exercise FAITH in one way, they can enjoin their FAITH with others that do, and by this the works of others see USURY (INTEREST) added to the FAITH they have.

## **ERRORS & FAITH**

**“WHO CONCERNING THE TRUTH HAVE ERRED, SAYING THAT THE RESURRECTION IS PAST ALREADY; AND OVERTHROW THE FAITH OF SOME.”** (*II Timothy 2:18*).

If, by error and unbelief, we have power to “overthrow the Faith of Some”, we ought also see that by steadfast belief in God's Word and Promises, we can also undergird the Faith of Some, and thereby gain INTEREST (USURY).

It is visible that while Jesus requires something of all of us, He does not DEMAND much, but does REQUIRE something.

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***“IF YE HAVE FAITH AND DOUBT NOT . . . ”*** (Matthew 21:21).

Here again, we can see the basis of the Holy Spirit revealed view that FAITH and BELIEF are different, the two work together and not apart.

***“WHY ARE YE FEARFUL O YE OF LITTLE FAITH?”*** (Matthew 9:2)

FEAR and FAITH do not mix. Even in those with little FAITH, FEAR ought not be present at all.

### **THE HEART OF FAITH IS LOVE**

Years ago, a brother told me of his aspiration to earn all the various crowns spoken of in Scripture, the crown of Righteousness, etc. I searched my heart and pondered what was in me, and yes, I would seek these crowns also, and only that in the day I stand before the Lord Jesus I might toss them at His feet. For me, it was clear that any crown was only possible with His help, so if anything it was my desire of love of Jesus to make any crown obtained a love gift back to Jesus.

So, as we see in His Word that FAITH WITHOUT WORKS is dead, we realize that the gift of FAITH lays a requirement upon us. However, we would err if we did over focus on this part of FAITH, for by it a simple truth can be made a demanding law, and in being compelled by FEAR, we would lose the very SPIRIT OF FAITH as many have.

Let's look at these two Scriptures:

- ***“ . . . STEPHEN, FULL OF FAITH AND POWER . . . ”*** (Acts 6:8).
- ***“BUT FAITH WHICH WORKETH BY LOVE.”*** (Galatians 5:6).

Just as Jesus authors FAITH in us, it is a Gift. FAITH as a gift only WORKS by the Power of Jesus' Love—it cannot work any other way. While there is surely a Law to Faith, if it is seen as a Law only (that is, a demand), then in the kind of FEAR that is stirred by this narrow view of FAITH, the very Spirit of Faith is lost—without which any works done are dead.

Just as we see that FAITH works by LOVE and knowing LOVE is JESUS, we see an intimate and deep inner relationship between JESUS—LOVE—FAITH. As we FOLLOW JESUS and yield lovingly and grow in a relationship with the Lord, we find ourselves moving easily, simply in the Law of Faith without fear but in joy and abiding peace.

When we approach FAITH by the more commonly Church taught view of it, which is the lawful requirement, it is a heavy burden, we feel compelled, and fear is in it.

***“FOR MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT.”*** (Matthew 11:30).

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Here Jesus speaks to those HEAVY LADEN those that LABOR to come unto HIM, and He will give them rest. Taking His YOKE (LOVE) we would learn of HIM, and JESUS is meek, and lowly in heart and in Him we would find rest unto our souls. So in doing, we would first experience this IN THE SPIRIT but as we continue, it would reach down into our very soul.

### **FAITH BY HEARING-SEEING**

***“SO THEN FAITH COMETH BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.”***  
*(Romans 10:17).*

Here we see FAITH comes by Hearing God’s Word. Sit in a church and listen to the minister deliver a powerful sermon and what we feel is usually BELIEF—for FAITH is NOT felt, rather, it is KNOWN. FAITH is something deeply subtle in us and is not evident in strong Belief—although many think this.

***“FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN.”*** *(Hebrews 11:1).*

IN THE SPIRIT, by FAITH working through Belief in Love of Jesus, we do form and see the very evidence of His Promise which is not visible, not seen, IN THIS WORLD. FAITH is a substance, it can be not only heard, but also seen and then touched. Except by the very Spirit of God this is not possible.

***“FOR WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT.”*** *(II Corinthians 5:7).*

It would seem to contradict the first views, but if we regard the sequence it is understood that walking by FAITH, we SEE but going by SIGHT alone (IN THIS WORLD) we are apart from FAITH. As we walk by FAITH we see what cannot be seen in this world with the natural eye.

Many Christians mistake as one, the Spiritual Eye with the Carnal Eye, and so do not distinguish between the two when reading the Bible, thinking both are the same.

### **FAITH & IMAGE MAKING**

Take a moment out to review these two Scriptures:

- **“JESUS SEEING THEIR FAITH . . .”** (Matthew 9:2).
- **“WHEN JESUS SAW THEIR FAITH . . .”** (Mark 2:5).

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As we begin to remember back to the previous RELATIONSHIP REPORT on IMAGE MAKING, we suddenly see a new dimension to what Jesus said and meant when He said HE SAW THEIR FAITH. Indeed, JESUS literally saw the person's inner image of wellness from the affliction in the imagery of their hearts, and granted them that, so they were healed in the instant His Love touched their FAITH.

### **BACK TO THE MUSTARD SEED**

Like the mustard seed in the soil, the person by the FAITH they had, sprouted roots, and thrust through the soil to the sunlight—now in need of warmth and moisture, His Love provided and the blossomed, grew, received and saw the fruit (healing).

### **FAITH TO UNDERSTANDING**

Many think that knowledge of God's Word, leads to FAITH. Thinking that as we gain knowledge, we gain understanding and understanding opens FAITH to us in greater measure. So many religiously listen to sermons on Scripture, thinking that by hearing alone that their FAITH will grow and that then they can serve the Lord.

Yet, not until a Christian begins to move by FAITH, looking to Jesus, working by Faith, even going blindly so Trusting Jesus—not until they so do, will they come to understand anything about FAITH.

***“THROUGH FAITH WE UNDERSTAND.”*** (*Hebrews 11:3*).

It is not THROUGH Understanding that we enter FAITH, but just the opposite; it is THROUGH FAITH that we come to Understanding.

### **WHO IS FAITH?**

So, WHO is FAITH? That's easy: JESUS CHRIST IS FAITH!

***“ . . . HOW HE HAD OPENED THE DOOR OF FAITH UNTO THE GENTILES.”*** (*Acts 14:27*).

Here Peter had introduced the Gentiles to JESUS CHRIST and it is clearly stated as being “DOOR OF FAITH”. As much as we may learn about the dimensions of Faith, we do best when we recognize that Faith centers wholly in a direct personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

***“ . . . PURIFYING THEIR HEARTS BY FAITH.”*** (*Acts 15:9*).

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Each of us, saved and unsaved, have a degree of FAITH, the gift of God, already. But it's only when the DOOR OF FAITH (that is, Jesus Christ) is opened to us, does that FAITH begin to purify us. Many outside of Christ have FAITH. Some operate with FAITH all their lives but apart from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, moving in His Love, that FAITH does not produce acceptable fruit.

### **WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?**

*In Luke 8:25 Jesus asks the disciples, "WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?" (Luke 8:25).*

Was Jesus asking the storm-tossed disciples if they had FAITH? No, Jesus was asking WHERE their FAITH was and in what did their FAITH abide and reside. Was their Faith in JESUS? Was their FAITH in trust of God? Or, was their FAITH in fear or outward circumstances?

I do not propose to answer the question that Jesus asked His disciples in detail. Instead, I want to draw our attention to where our FAITH can be at times and where that it should not be at all.

When Jesus asked the disciples, "WHERE IS YOUR FAITH?", He had been asleep in the boat. The storm was fierce and the boat in danger of sinking. Now, when the sailing was good, the FAITH of the disciples was IN the good weather and easy travel. But, when the storm arose, their FAITH moved into the power of the elements to destroy them, or into fear of death or harm.

Because Jesus rebuked the wind and the raging of the water and it ceased (Luke 8:24), it is clear that Satan was involved in this situation. Satan had power to bring in a storm but when the disciples' FAITH moved in fear of harm, the storm gained power to destroy.

### **FAITH vs. FEAR**

*In Matthew 8:26 we see Jesus defining the location of their Faith "WHY ARE YE FEARFUL, O YE OF LITTLE FAITH?"*

It is common for Christians to think from Matthew to Luke, first they had LITTLE FAITH (a possibility), then NO FAITH in Luke when they are asked where their FAITH is. Jesus did not speak of them as having LITTLE FAITH, but as placing greater FAITH in fear—a LITTLE FAITH in God's help to overcome dangers.

FAITH AND FEAR DO NOT MIX! But, if we place our FAITH in fear, we give the enemy of our souls tremendous power to harm and destroy.

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Here is an example: a year ago during a very violent electrical storm, I discerned it was Lucifer working in the elements. I was led to go out and say “In Jesus’ Name, be quiet!” The lightening stopped immediately and the storm faded to nothing.

Have look at these three Scriptures:

- **“IN FAITH AND LOVE WHICH IS IN CHRIST.”** (II Timothy 1:13).
- **“WHO THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE INHERIT . . . ”** (Hebrews 6:12).
- **“A TRUE HEART IN FULL ASSURANCE OF FAITH . . . ”** (Hebrews 10:22).

FAITH like that mustard seed grows slowly in us. It is in patience and enduring belief that we bear fruit. It is in Jesus’ Love that we find the assurance, the knowing of FAITH to see Him and His Promises long before they are seen in this world. When we see Scripture speaking of how “a thing we fear will come on us”, we can now understand how this is so. In error, we PLACE our FAITH in FEAR giving the enemy of our souls power to bring it on us.

### **THE SPIRIT OF FAITH**

I have not sought to sharply define FAITH, but to speak of its Spirit, and again and always it is JESUS’ LOVE and JESUS CHRIST.

As we make Him our focus, and move in the very Spirit of His Love, He will rightly teach us and we will know and understand. All this is by His design to open your awareness (to prime the pump!) AND always lastly (as at first) to point you to JESUS CHRIST!

*God Bless,*

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