

Hope Ministries
Bible Study Series: {Lesson 2}

[The Path to Financial Security]

I Kings 17

“Obedient Faith”

Back Ground Scriptures: [Isaiah1:19-20; Isaiah 55:8-11]

Bible Truth: “Sometimes God gives illogical instructions”

Lesson Aim: Learning God’s voice, and to trust in him no matter what!

Romans 10:17> *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”*, scripture teaches, us that faith is not abstract, faith which produces results must come from God’s word itself (***Jesus said man does not live by bread alone, but by every word which proceed forth out of the mouth of God***), hearing God’s word preached not only gives the hearer the necessary confidence to believe God, but it also gives ***Rhema*** [a right now word] for our situations, also it is a gift of God.

Deeper Study: Psalms 46:1 *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”*

Mathew 17: 20/27> 17:20-and Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief; for verily I say unto you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say unto this mountain, remove from here to over there, and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

17:27- Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou has opened his mouth, thou shall find a piece of money, that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Question: Has God ever given you some instructions that the time seemed ridiculous? If so what was your response? What were the results?

Note: Jesus frequently made comments on the nature of true faith. He speaks of a faith that can move mountains, cause miracles and healing, and accomplish great things for God. Just what is this faith Jesus speaks of?

True faith is an effective faith that produces results; *“it shall remove mountains”*

True faith is not belief in “faith” as a force or power, but is a faith in God [Mark 11:22].

True faith is a work of God within the Christian’s heart [Mark 9:24; Philippians 2:13]. It involves an awareness divinely imparted to our hearts that our prayers are answered [Mark 11:23-24], it is created within us by the Holy Spirit; we cannot produce it in our own minds [Romans 12:3; I Corinthians 12:9].

Since true faith is a gift imparted to us by Christ, it is important to draw near to Christ His word and to deepen our commitment to, and confidence in Him [Romans 10:17; Philippians 3:8-15], we are dependent upon Him for everything; *“for without Me you can do nothing”* [John 15:5; Hebrews 4:16;

Hebrews 7:25], in other words, we must seek Christ as author and finisher of our faith [**Hebrews 12:2]**, His close presence and our obedience to His word are the source and the secret of faith [**Mathew 9:21; John 15:7]**.

Furthermore, true faith is also under God's control. Faith given on the basis of His love, wisdom, grace, and kingdom purpose in order to accomplish the will of God and to express His love for us, it is not to be used for our selfish interest [**James 4:3]**.

Final Note:

The Power of God's Word:

The word of God is eternally fixed in the heavens, and it accomplishes great things, the word of God is the creative word. According to the creation account, things came into being when God spoke His word, this process is summarized by the psalmist who wrote *"By the word of the were the heavens made"* [**Psalm 33:6/9]**, and by the writer of Hebrews, *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God"* [**Hebrews 11:3]**, and according to John the word that God used to create all things was/is Jesus Christ [**John 1:1-3]**.

The word of God also has the power to sustain creation. Again, using the writer of Hebrews, God upholds *"All things by the word of His power"* [**Hebrews 1:3; Psalms 147:15-18]**. Like the creative word, this world is related to Jesus Christ, for Paul insists that *"By Him {Jesus} all things consist"* i.e., are held together.

The word of God has the power impart new life. Peter testifies that we are born again *"By the word of God, which lives and abides for ever [I Peter 1:23], it is for this reason that Jesus Himself is called the "Word of Life" [I John 1:1]*.

The word of God also releases grace, power, and revelation by which believers grow in faith and in their commitment to Jesus Christ. Isaiah uses a powerful picture; just as water from the sky causes things to grow physically, so also the word that proceeds out of the mouth of God causes us to grow spiritually [**Isaiah 55:10-11]**, Peter echoes the same thought when he writes that by drinking the pure milk of the word of God we grow in our salvation [**I Peter 2:2]**.

Our Reaction to the word of God:

The Bible describes in clear and unmistakable language how we should react to the word of God in all of its different forms. We must eagerly hear God's word [**Isaiah 1:10 Jeremiah 7:1-2; Acts 17:11]**, and seek to understand it [**Mathew 13:23]**.

We must praise God's word [**Psalms 56:4/10]**, love it [**Psalms 119:47/113]**, and let it be our joy and delight [**Psalms 119:16/47]**, we must accept what the word of God says [**Mark 4:20; Acts 2:41; I Thessalonians 2:13]**, hide it within our hearts [**Psalms 119:11]**, trust it [**Psalms 119:9]**. God calls those who minister the word [**I Timothy 5:17]** to handle it rightly [**II timothy 2:15]**, and to preach it faithfully [**II Timothy 4:2]**. All believers are called to proclaim the message of God's Word wherever they go [**Acts 8:4]**.