

The Growing Faith

Vol. 2

The expectation in Christianity



FREDRICK G. OMONDI

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Vol. 2**

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Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are taken from King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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INTRODUCTION

This book is a sequel to the first book on the growing faith which dealt on the meaning of faith, the importance of faith, the source of faith, how faith grows, companions of faith, types of faith and hindrances of faith.

In this book one will be able to learn on how to remain in the faith in Christ Jesus, some faith giants in the Scripture, examples of those who demonstrated their faith in God, an answer on whether faith can be destroyed or be lost, how faith is tested, the benefits entailed in life tests and trials and also useful and useless faith. Be enlightened accordingly as you read.

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Chapter One

How to maintain faith

Faith as I said earlier is very important and need to be taken care of to be maintained.

We see in the physical that all things need some maintenance in their life time or else their life span is shortened and also, they don't give optimum benefit to the user. But faith is a spiritual thing that is more delicate than the physical things we see and use in our daily lives.

We are going to read some scripture that supports the idea that faith need to be maintained.

Our faith need not be left to rust and need to be engaged all the time as necessary.

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches:

He that abideth in me, and in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

John 15:1-5

We have to do something with our faith by remaining in the word and Christ Jesus being the vine and the believer the branch, the believer need to produce fruit by the word. Faith has to do with what one believes in and is alive and need to be acted upon.

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Romans 4:20-21

Here we are told that Abraham staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief but rather, was strong in faith giving glory to God. We need not allow unbelief which can make us to stagger in our faith but need to be strong through the word of God what it promises us.

And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled,

In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in his sight:

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven: whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Colossians 1:21-23

We must have our faith anchored in the word of God which is life and not be moved away from the hope of the gospel which was preached to us and to others wherever they are. We can be moved from

the hope of the gospel if we move away from the word of God which is our life line.

We must maintain our faith by continuing believing in the word of God.

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:22-25

Holding fast the profession of our faith without wavering is important in maintaining our faith, same to assembling together in Christian fellowships and exhorting one another. Many have not maintained their faith because they stopped fellowshiping with brothers and sisters in the Lord

and many have gone back to their old lifestyle and backslidden this way. Just as in a lit fire with many sticks of firewood there is much fire than say one stick of firewood only, likewise being out of Christian fellowships is less and less beneficial to a believer.

And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him;

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2:4-8

Watch out people's words carefully if they are talking senses, that is, the word of God and if they

are not, don't take it in and act on it. Your faith can be spoilt that way if you accept anything people tell you. Many people are out there to deceive others and lead astray for their down fall.

Jesus Christ told the disciples that he is the truth, the way and the life (John 14:6).

From all the above I have raised we see that something needs to be done on our faith for it to remain faith indeed. Faith must be exercised to remain faith. Come out of customs and traditions as these can just take you away from God and adversely affect your faith which will have been defiled and corrupted by such unfounded practices. Now something else which is very important in maintaining one's faith.

WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him,

endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Those who have put their faith in Jesus Christ must lay aside sin, as sin affects faith. They are in a spiritual race and don't need any baggage with them that can bog them down. Moreover, they must continue looking unto Jesus Christ who is the author and finisher of their faith. Jesus Christ by His faith he finished his race after endured the cross and went back to God the Father in heaven and sat at his right hand of the throne. I believe Jesus may have said, "I have done it my Father," and God said "Well done my Son, sit beside me here".

The source of a Christian's faith is from God and we must continue to look unto God reverently for the sustainance of our faith.

Chapter Two

Faith giants

When, I talk of faith giants I am merely talking of those individuals who by faith did great deeds and these are recorded in the scriptures, some of which I am going to mention straight away one by one.

1. Abraham

Actually, the Bible records Abraham as the father of faith (Romans 4:16-17)

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and called those things which be not as though they were.

Romans 4:16-17

Abraham believed in God and God made him the father of all those who will believe in God. Now let use look at some of the things he did by faith.

NOW the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land I will show thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

So Abham departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Har'-an.

And Abram took Sar'-a-i his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Har'-an; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Genesis 12:1-5

That is a tall order. God told Abraham to get out of his country, and from his relatives and from his father's house to go to a country (land) which God will show him.

Abram did not ask God, 'Is that land far?' 'Is it better than this my country?' 'Must I leave my relatives whom I have stayed amongst them all these years, or worse still leave my father's house and my siblings?' Get to know that at the time Abram was old at seventy and five years and there were no motor vehicles, trains or airplanes by then, and he would have reasoned that God was bothering him by this unnecessary and sudden journey. Now on the other hand the promises God was giving him was too much and looked more like flatteries or jokes humanly to speak. But despite all these odds, Abram obeyed God had a genuine faith in God. Who my reader could have done what Abram did, which looked more like fiction (the things he was told)? Faith is but obedience to the word of God spoken or written.

We now move yet to another incidence concerning our father Abraham.

AND it come to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Mo-ri'-ah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

And Abraham said unto his young men; Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire

in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father; and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

And Abraham called the name of that place Je-ho'-vah-ji'-reh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.

Genesis 22:1-14

Now this was a tougher thing to do than the first incidence we just saw in Genesis chapter 12. Abraham was serious and obeyed God as commanded. We see Abraham's continual obedience and which God said shows that he is fearing God (Verse 12 above). Abraham was wise (Psalm 111:10, Job 28:28). I believe Abraham had not told his wife Sarah that he was going to offer Isaac their beloved son as a burnt offering to God as she would definitely have said a No, even wailed to hear such news. Isaac the son also knew nothing of what was in his father's mind and heart. Youths are an inquisitive lot and as such Isaac asked his father at one point, we have the fire and the wood,

but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And we see his father giving a prophetic answer that God will provide a lamb for himself. Sure enough, it happened, God provided a lamb for a burnt offering in the form of a ram.

God had given father Abraham the prophetic ministry prior to this as God was talking to king Abimelech and referring Abraham as a prophet. (Genesis 20:2-7). God is never too early or too late but God intervenes in our lives just in time. He intervened in Abraham's case and provided a ram before Abraham could go further, surely God is omniscient and knew Abraham was going to slay his son Isaac. Please read further the above two incidences in the epistle to the Hebrews (Hebrews 11:8, 17-19)

2. Jacob

And he rose up that night, and took his two wives, and his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jab'-bok.

And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had.

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and has prevailed.

And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there.

And Jacob called the name of the place Peni'-el: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

And as he passed over Peni'-el the sun rose up upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.

Therefore the children of Israel eat not the sinew which shrank, which is up on the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank.

Genesis 32:22-32

We know that the opposite of fear is bravery and from the above account we can see the bravery of Jacob as he dared to wrestle with God and moreover he prevailed and not for some seconds or minutes, but it seems for some hours or so until the time of the morning (day break). But one cannot wrestle with the Almighty and defeat him and Jacob ended up injured / maimed in the process.

3. Moses

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?

Is this not the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than we should die in the wilderness.

And Moses said unto the people, fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever.

The LORD shall fight for you and ye shall hold your peace.

Exodus 14:10-14

All the children of Israel became fearful and cried out unto the Lord but not Moses. He encouraged them not to be fearful but just to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord who will fight for them (and imagine Pharaoh and his soldiers kept on marching to them and in front of them there is the Red Sea! Moses showed extraordinary faith and courage and went further to tell them that they will not see again the Egyptians whom they were seeing approaching them.

1. **Elijah**

And E-li'-jah said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, I will surely show myself unto him today.

So O-ba-di'-ah went to meet Ahab, and told him: and Ahab went to meet E-li'-jah

And it came to pass, when Ahab saw E-li'-jah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troublest Israel?

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Ba'-a-lim.

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Ba'-al four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jez'-e-bel's table.

So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel.

And E-li'-jah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions?

If the, LORD be God, follow him: but if Ba'-al, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Then said E-li'-jah unto the people, I even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Ba'-al's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and that God that answereth by fire, Let him be God. And all the people answered and said, it is well spoken.

And E-li'-jah said to the prophets of Ba'al, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Ba-al from morning even until noon,

saying O Ba'-al, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

And it came to pass at noon, that E-li'-jah mocked them, and said, cry aloud: for he is god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any answer, nor any that regarded.

And E-li'-jah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him.

And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

And E-li'-jah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob,

unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time.

And he said, Do it the third time.

And they did it the third time.

And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that E-li'-jah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is the God.

And E-li'-jah said unto them, Take the prophets of Ba'-al; Let no one of them escape. And they took them; and E-li'-jah brought them down to the brook Ki'-shon, and slew them there.

1 Kings 18:15-40

Here we see that Elijah the prophet faced king Ahab of Israel and feared him not but boldly told him in his face that him and his father's house were the ones that were troubling Israel by forsaking the commandments of the LORD and following Ba'-alim. Elijah went further and ordered the king to send and gather to him all Israel unto Mount Carmel, together with four hundred and fifty

prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of the grove which eat at Jezebel's table. He challenged the prophets that they offer a bullock as a burnt offering and he also do the same, but both not to put under fire. He had his sacrifice much water poured on it such that it was totally wet and all the place around it. He had earlier said that the God that will answer by fire and consume a sacrifice is God. Only the sacrifice of Elijah was consumed by fire in totality and the people acknowledged that was the God and Elijah slew all the false prophets. Because of Elijah's faith God did this.

AND E-li-jah the Tish'-bite, who was of the inhabitants of Gil'-e-ad, said unto Ahab, As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew, nor rain these years, but according to my word.

And the word of the Lord came unto him saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook che-rith, that is before Jordan.

And it shall be, that though shall drink of the brook;
and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee
there.

So he went and did according unto the word of the
Lord: for he went and dwelt by the brook of che'-
rith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought
him bread and flesh in the morning and bread and
flesh in the evening and he drank of the brook. And
it came to pass while that the brook dried up
because there had been no rain in the land.

And the word of the Lord came unto him, saying
Arise, get thee to Zar'-e- phath, which belongeth to
Zi'-don and dwell there: behold I have commanded
a widow woman there to sustain thee.

So he arose and went to Zar'-e- phath and when he
came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow
woman there gathering of sticks: and he called to
her, and said Fetch me, I pray thee a little water in a
vessel, that I may drink.

And as she was going to fetch it he called to her,
and said, Bring me I pray thee a morsel of bread in
thine hand.

And she said, as the Lord thy God liveth I have not a cake, but a handful of meat in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse: and behold I am gathering two sticks that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat and die.

And E-li'-jah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as though hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first and bring it unto me, and after make these and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel. The barrel of meat shall not waste, neither shall the cruise of oil fail, until the day that the Lord sendeth rain upon the earth.

And she went and did according to the word of E-li'-jah: and she and he and her house, did eat many days.

And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spoke by E-li'-jah.

1 Kings 17:1-16

Read the same recorded in the epistle of Apostle James (James 5:17-18). Now that was great faith to utter such word to no other but to a king and to believe that ravens can feed a man and that a

woman widow can feed a man worse still during a drought!

2. Noah

These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.

And Noah begat there sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja'-pheth.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

Make thee an ark of go'-pher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

And this is the fashion which thou shalt make it of; The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shall thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; with lower, second, and third stories shalt thou make it.

And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein is the breath of life, from under heaven; and everything that is in the earth shall die.

But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

And of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort shalt thou bring into the ark, to keep them alive with thee; they shall be male and female.

Of fowls after their kind, and of cattle after their kind, and of every creeping thing of the

earth after his kind, two of every sort shall come unto thee, to keep them alive.

And take thou unto thee of all food that is eaten, and thou shalt gather it to thee; and it shall be for food for thee, and for them.

Thus did Noah; according to all that God commanded him, so did he.

Genesis 6: 9-22

Here we see that Noah who I do believe was not an Engineer by profession was told by God to make an ark with stories and also given the task to see apart from his family and himself, that all living things male and female of each kind to enter the ark and also Noah to have food for himself and the family as well as the living creatures with him. It was quite a humongous work but Noah went ahead and accomplished all this in obedience to the God he was walking with. Read also Hebrews 11:7 on the same.

3. Joshua.

NOW Jericho was strictly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in.

And the LORD said unto Joshua; see I have given unto thine hand Jericho, and the key and the mighty men of valor.

And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days.

And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the rams' horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet all the people shall shout with a great shout and the wall of the city shall fall down flat and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, take up the Ark of the Covenant, and let seven priests bear seven

trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.

And he said unto the people, pass on and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on the ark of the LORD.

And it came to pass when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rearward came after the ark, the priests going on and blowing with the trumpets.

And Joshua had commanded the people saying, ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets; and the armed men went before them; but the rearward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets And the second day they compassed the city once and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout for the LORD hath given you the city.

And the city shall be accursed, even it and that are therein to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot

shall live, and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take yourselves of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated into the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went into the city. Every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Joshua 6: 1-20

It was common in those days for a city to have some form of protection against the enemies as we have seen in the above case of the city of Jericho which had a big and strong wall built round about it. Joshua as we have seen above

had great faith in their God, the God of Israel and believed what God told him to do in order to have that city. For those who have no faith or who have little faith would have had reasons not to venture into such a task which would have seemed humanly speaking as impossible and even foolish to venture in with such an absurd strategy of merely going round that city every other day once for six days and seven times on the seventh day at shouting and blowing trumpets to conquer that city! We need to remember that it is the same Joshua, the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephuneh out of the 12 spies Moses sent to spy on the land of Canaan, only those two brought a good report to Moses and the children of Israel and encouraged them as they had believed what God had told Moses on the promise of possessing that land (numbers 12:1-13:9) and therefore Joshua was truly a man of faith in Jehovah God.

Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Am'-o-rites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou Moon, in the valley of Aj'-alon.

And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies. Is not this written in the book of Jash'-er? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about the whole day.

And there was no day like that before it or after it that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel.

Joshua 10:12-14

This incidence was so spectacular that it was written in the book of Jasher, which was a collection of events and recorded as songs, in Israel. This man Joshua knew very well as everybody else, that during the day the sun shines and at night the moon takes over and shine in the darkness and therefore because he wanted a total

victory over his enemies before it gets dark, which would have meant stopping the fight, he ordered the sun to stand still for him and the Israelites get total victory in broad day light and at the same time ordered the moon to stay put and not to be in a hurry to take over from the sun (meaning darkness has come) and told it to remain still in the valley of Ajalon. So, the sun was not in any hurry to go down until the Israelites had avenged themselves upon their enemies the Amorites. Joshua spoke before Israel so that they can witness what he had said. Wow, faith at work! Living faith will never be passive but active and prove itself.

4. Samson.

Then the Lords of the Phil'-is'-tines gathered them together for to offer a great sacrifice unto Da'-gon their god, and to rejoice: for they said, Our god hath delivered Samson our enemy into our hand

And when the people saw him, they praised their god: for they said, our god hath delivered

into our hands our enemy and the destroyer of our country, which slew many of us.

And it came to pass, when their hearts were merry, that they said, call for Samson, that he may make us sport. And they called for Samson out of the prison house; and he made them sport: and they set him before the pillars.

And Samson said unto the lad that held him by the hand, Suffer me that I may feel the pillars whereupon the house standeth, that I may lean upon them.

Now the house wall full of men and women; and all the lords of the Phil'-is'-tines were there; and there were upon the roof about three thousand men and women, that behold while Samson made sport.

And Samson called unto the LORD, and said, O Lord God, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once, O God, that I may be at once avenged of the Phil'-is'-tines for my two eyes.

And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house stood, and on which it

was borne up, of the one with his right hand,
and of the other with his left.

And Samson said, Let me die with the Phil'-is'-
tines. And he bowed himself with all his might,
and the house fell upon the Lords, and upon all
the people that were therein.

So the dead which he slew at his death were
more than they he slew in his life.

Then his brethren and all the house of his father
came down, and took him, and brought him up,
and buried him between Zor'-ah and Esh'-ta-ol
in the burying place of Ma-no'-ah his father.
And he judged Israel twenty years.

Judges 16:23-31

Here we see Samson using his faith in God and
believing God to enable him bring down this big
building down and to have his enemies destroyed
because they had put him in prison after removing
both his eyes. It was a big feat humanly speaking to
bring down a building with bare hands.

5. Daniel

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber towards Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.

Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God.

Then they came near, and spake before the king concerning the king's decree; Hast thou not signed a decree, that every man that shall ask a petition of any God or man within thirty days, save of thee, O King, shall be cast into the den of lions? The king answered and said, The thing is true, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not.

Then answered they and said before the king, That Daniel, which is of the children of the captivity of Judah, regardeth not thee, O king nor the decree that thou hast signed, but maketh his petition three times a day.

Then the king, when he heard those words, was sore displeased with himself, and set his heart on Daniel to deliver him: and he labored till the going down of the sun to deliver him.

Then these men assembled unto the king, and said unto the king, Know, O king, that the law of the Medes and Persians is, That no decree nor statute which the king establisheth may be changed.

Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him in to the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his Lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.

Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of music brought before him: and his sleep went from him.

Then the king arose very early in the morning,
and went in haste unto the den of lions.

And when he came to the den, he cried with a
lamentable voice, unto Daniel: and the king
spake and said unto Daniel, O Daniel, servant
of the living God, is thy God, whom thou
servest continually, able to deliver thee from
the lions?

Then said Daniel unto the King, O king, live
forever.

My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the
lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me:
forasmuch as before thee, O king, have I done
no hurt.

Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and
commanded that they should take Daniel up out
of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the
den, and no manner of hurt was found upon
him, because he believed in his God.

And the king commanded, and they brought
those men which had accused Daniel, and they
cast them into the den of lions, them, their
children, and their wives; and the lions had the

mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces even before they came at the bottom of the den.

The king Da-ri'-us wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end.

He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered. Daniel from the power of the lions.

So Daniel prospered in the reign of Da-ri'-us, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

Daniel 6:10-28

To see the beginning of the whole event you can start from verse 1 of the chapter above. We see that because of Daniel's faith in his God, he was not perturbed by the signing of the writing by the king

and went on with business as usual, leaving his windows open in the chamber of his house, and kneeling upon his knees three times a day and praying and giving thanks before. That led to his being cast down into the den of lions and God intervened and gave a great deliverance (God is the deliverer of saints). King Darius on the other hand had acted righteously throughout from the day he signed the writing, and after Daniel being delivered, he made a new decree to all the people under his kingdom to tremble and fear the God of Daniel who is the living God and who's kingdom shall not be destroyed and his dominion shall be forever and the God who delivers and rescues. Read also Hebrews chapter 11 and verse 33.

6. Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah

Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a

burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go answered and said to the king, O Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King.

But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Then was Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go.

And these three men, Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

Then Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Then Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, and spake, and said, Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-

ne-go ye servants of the most High God, come forth, and come hither. Then Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, came forth of the midst of the fire.

And the princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counselors, being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was a hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

Then Neb-u-chad-nez'-zar spake, and said, Blessed be the God of Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak anything amiss against the God of Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

Then the king promoted Sha'-drack, Me'-shach, and A-bed'-ne-go, in the province of Babylon.

Daniel 3:15-30

If you want the beginning of this whole event you can start from verse 1 of the above chapter.

These three were among the children of Judah that were among the captives exiled in Babylon after king of Babylon Nebuchadnezzar had taken over Jerusalem. Because of their faith in their God, the God of Israel, they totally refused to bow down and worship the golden image set up by the king of Babylon and also refused to serve his gods. Even though the punishment was quite severe if they refused to do the needful to the king; and even when that punishment was increased by the command of the king to heat the furnace seven times more, as the king had become furious on these three's refusal to obey him, nevertheless, the three blatantly told the king that they will not give in to his demands. Of course, the three ended in the burning fiery furnace, but not alone, they had Jesus Christ, the Son of God in them, and that is why the

king saw a stranger (a fourth man) with the three walking in the midst of the fire. The king's pride waned away and he now acknowledged the God of the three and went further to make another decree as well as to promote the trio in his province of Babylon. Yes, we need to serve only the living God and not any other god nor worship any other god but the one true God, the creator of heaven and earth. If we do, soon and very soon, the likes of Nebuchadnezzar and others who don't know this God of ours, will acknowledge him. You can read also Hebrews chapter 11 and verse 34.

1. Moses

Then Moses called on all the elders of the Israel, and said unto them, draw out and make you a lamb according to your family and kill the Passover.

And ye shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is the basin; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning.

For the LORD will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the lintel, and on the two side posts, the LORD will pass through over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come into your houses to smite you.

And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons forever.

And it shall come to pass, when ye become to the land which the LORD will give you according as he hath promised, that ye shall keep this service.

And it shall come to pass when your children shall say unto you what mean ye by this service?

That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshiped.

And the children of Israel went away and did as the LORD has commanded Moses and Aaron so did they.

And it came to pass, that at midnight the LORD smote all the first - born in the land of Egypt, from the first - born of pharaoh that sat on his throne

unto the first - born of the captive that was in the
dungeon and all the first born of the cattle.

And pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his
servants and all the Egyptians and there was a great
cry in Egypt for there was not a house where there
was not one dead.

And he called for Moses and Aaron by night, and
said, Rise up, and get you forth from among my
people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go
serve the LORD as ye have said.

Also take your flocks and your herds, as ye have
said and be gone and bless me also.

And the Egyptians were urgent upon the people that
they might send them out of the land in haste for
they said we be all dead men.

And the people took their dough before it was
leavened, their kneading troughs being bound up in
their clothes upon their shoulders.

And the children of Israel did according to the word
of Moses; and they borrowed of the Egyptians
jewels of silver and jewels of gold, and raiment

And the LORD gave the people favor in the sight of
the Egyptians, so that they lent unto them such

things as they required. And they spoiled the Egyptians.

And the children of Israel journeyed from Ram'ses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.

And a mixed multitude went up also with them, and flocks and heard, even every much cattle.

And they baked unleavened cakes of the dough which they brought forth out of Egypt, for it was not leavened; because they were thrust out of Egypt, and could not tarry, neither had they prepared for themselves any victual.

Now the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years.

Exodus 12:21-40

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD.

And they said unto Moses, because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in

the wilderness? Wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt.

Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness.

And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever.

The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.

And the LORD said unto Moses, wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

And I, behold, I will harden the heart of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will

get me honor upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host,
upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD,
when I have gotten me honor upon Pharaoh, upon
his chariots, and upon his horsemen.

And the angel of God, which went before the camp
of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the
pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and
stood behind them:

And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and
the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness
to them, but it gave light by night to those: so that
the one came not near the other all the night.

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and
the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong
east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land,
and the waters were divided.

And the children of Israel went into the midst of the
sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall
unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them
to the midst of the sea, even all Pharaoh's horses,
his chariots, and his horsemen.

And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

And took off their chariot wheels, that they drove them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen.

And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea.

And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that come into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them.

But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore.

And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

Exodus 14: 10-31

In the first incident in exodus 12, Moses believed in God, Jehovah Yahweh that he would deliver the children of Israel from Egypt by the pass over feast, although God had allowed him to have the Egyptians undergo through the ten plagues and pharaoh the king was still stubborn and could not release them, apart from seeing other miracles of God wrought by Moses his servant. In this second incident, Moses was not bothered and panicked not when the children of Israel cried but was confident even before God could instruct him. (Verses 10-14)

the Lord spoke then verses 15-18. That was great faith by Moses.

2. John the Baptist

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea,

And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

For this is he that was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the lord, make his paths straight.

And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey.

Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judea, and all the region round about Jordan,

And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:
And think not to say within yourselves, we have
Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God
is able of these stones to raise up children unto
Abraham.

And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the
trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth
good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance:
but he that cometh after me is mightier than I,
whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall
baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly
purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the
garner: but he will burn the chaff with
unquenchable fire.

Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist faced the Pharisees and the
Sadducees courageously without fear or favor with
the gospel of Jesus Christ and did not mince his
words but gave them the plain truth as it is and did
not coat it with some sugar as many preachers do
today in our generation thereby diluting the word of

God in pleasing their audience and not Christ and for the sake of their stomach and not Christ and what a pity!?! Apostle Paul warned such preachers what is expected of them and what to expect when they fall short of the Lord's standard (1 Corinthians 4:1-2, Philippians 3:17-19, 1 Timothy 6:3-5, Galatians 1:8-9). John the Baptist was brave enough to rebuke King Herod the tetrarch of the sin of adultery (Matthew 14:1-12). Now all that demonstrated unwavering faith in the Lord.

3. Paul

And when they had gone through the isle unto Pa'-phos, they found a certain sorcerer a false prophet, a Jew, whose name was Bar-je'-sus:

Which was with the deputy of the country, Ser'-gi-us Paulus, a prudent man: who called for Barnabas and Saul, and desired to hear the word of God.

But El'-y-mas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.

Then Saul, (who also is called Paul), filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,

And said, O full of subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right way of the Lord?

And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season.

And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.

Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

Acts 13:6-12

Apostle Paul demonstrated his faith in the Lord by boldly confronting that sorcerer and false prophet and pronounced judgment on him which came to pass immediately because it was said in the faith of Christ. You can read other accounts of the apostle how he defended the gospel of Christ and witnessed of his conversion and spoke boldly before people and the governors in the following scriptures: Acts

16:11-18, 17:16-31, 21:8-14, 22:1-28, 24:1-25, 26:1-29). The apostle most likely must have had the words of the Lord ringing in his ears such as this one found in the book of Matthew (Matthew 10:16-33).

Chapter Three

Others who demonstrated faith

The following are those who demonstrated faith in their lives.

1. Caleb

AND all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Je-phun'-neh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defense is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

Numbers 14:1-9

Of the twelve spies that were sent to spy the city of Jericho only Caleb and Joshua were brave and believed in God's promise for that land and encouraged the congregation not to fear referring to the inhabitants who were giants as bread for them.

2. Abraham

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all.

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about n hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

And therefore it was imputed to him as righteousness.

3. Rahab

AND Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shitt'-im two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.

And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither tonight of the children of Israel to search out the country.

And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.

And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were:

And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.

But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.

And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.

And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof;

And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.

For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed,

And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.

Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:

And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.

And the men answered her, our life is for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.

Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.

And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.

Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy

father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.

And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.

And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear. And she said, according unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.

Joshua 2:1-21

Quite a remarkable faith indeed on the part of Rahab. Because although the king of Jericho was told of the spies and the king sent men to her, she was brave enough to tell them what she said to them and at the same time to hide the spies in the roof of her house. She also believed what she was told about the deliverance of the children of Israel by God when they had come out of Egypt and she had not seen by her eyes and she even went further

and said that God has already given the children of Israel the city of Jericho! Now let me remind you of one of Jesus'

Disciple and Jesus told him (John 20:19-29) but we know Rahab was but a harlot and not a follower of Jesus and she really left a big challenge to us born again Christians of today. As if that was not enough, she totally obeyed the words of the spies and by that saved the whole household of her father and herself. Unfortunately, many of us today obey the Lord partially, what a pity to the Church of Christ in this generation!? Remember what our brother James said (James 1:22-25; 2:14-17). It is time we all check our faith (2 Corinthians 13:5-8).

4. David

And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him: thy servant will go and fight with this Phil-is'-tine.

And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Phil-is'-tine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock:

And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him.

Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Phil'-is'-tine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of this Phil'-is'-tine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

And Saul armed David with his armor, and he put a helmet of brass upon his head; and he also armed him with a coat of mail.

And David girded his sword upon his armor, and he assayed to go: for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a Shepherd's bag which he had even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand; and he drew near to the Phil'-is'-tine.

And the Phil'-is'-tine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Phil'-is'-tine came and looked about, and saw David, he disdained him; for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

And the Phil'-is'-tine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Phil'-is'-tine cursed David by his gods.

And the Phil'-is'-tine said to David, come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field?

Then said David to the Phil-is-tine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand: and I will smite thee, and take thine head

from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Phil'-is'-tine this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel.

And this all assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hands.

And it came to pass, when the Phil'-is'-tine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Phil'-is'-tine.

And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Phil'-is'-tine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

So David prevailed over the Phil'-is'-tine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Phil'-is'-tine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath therefore, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Phil'-is'-tine saw their champion was dead, they fled.

And the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Phil'-is'-tines, until thou

come to the valley, and to the gates Ek'-ron. And the wounded of the Phil'-is'-tine fell down by the way to sha-a-ra'-im, even unto Gath, and unto Ek'-ron.

And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Phil'-is'-tines, and they spoilt their tents.

And David took the head of the Phil'-is'-tine, and brought it to Jerusalem; but he put his armor in his tent.

And when Saul saw David go forth against the Phil'-is'-tine, he said to Abner, the captain of the host, Abner, whose son is this youth? And Abner said, As thy Soul liveth, O king, I cannot tell.

And the king said, inquire thou whose son the stripling is.

And as David returned, from the slaughter of the Phil'-is'-tine, Abner took him, and brought him before Saul with the head of the Phil'-is'-tine in his hand.

And Saul said to him, Whose son art thou, thou young man? And David answered, I am the son of thy servant Jesse the Beth-lehemite.

1 Samuel 17:31-58

Now if you want the whole story/event from the beginning you can start from verse I of this chapter, but for my purpose to put across the greatness of the faith of David I have started from verse 32 as above.

David had faith which had grown in leaps and bounds from his earlier encounters and how the Lord delivered him and gave him victory over wild beasts and therefore believed God for greater things; when he heard how Goliath of Gath, a Philistine giant had defied the armies of Israel, and he took the challenge to face Goliath by himself on behalf of the Israel armies.

Now here was a youth who was going to face a giant soldier and an experienced one indeed. It looked all odds. It was funny in human eyes was the fact that the youth was going to face the giant armed with only five smooth stones and a sling and not a gun or a hand grenade, and the giant was fully armed with a shield, a sword and a spear.

The giant saw David and dismissed him and talked proudly and cursed him with his gods (idols)

But idols are nothing, useless. (Isaiah 41:21-24; 44:9-20). But David faced the giant in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel. (Proverbs 18:10). David uttered prophetic words by faith just as Abraham when answered his son Isaac on the lamb for a burnt offering to God. David also spoke words as of prophet Elijah at mount Carmel before the people and the prophets of Baal and also talked like Jahaziel the son of Zechariah (2 Chronicles 20:13-15). God surely fought the battle. David who had been anointed king of Israel by the prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 16:1-13) was full of the Spirit of God and the Spirit drove the stone hitting its target at the right place and accomplished the task at hand.

David had hastened to face Goliath as a lion.

You can see that when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. All along they depended most on this giant Goliath to enable them have victory over their enemies in battle. Don't trust in mortal men, they can fail you several times, after all they are mere men and limited in many ways. Trust in God who is unlimited in all respects.

God who is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent.

From the above scripture we can see that David surely demonstrated his faith in God as he walked not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7) as he looked not at the situation he was in, but in the living God of Israel.

He was not bothered by the size or height of Goliath and his weapons and his threats and he hastened to go and meet that Philistine giant and he prevailed over him. By faith David had approached Goliath with odd and inferior arms a sling and stones against Goliath's spear and sword as well as a helmet and a shield as a covering for his body!

5. Joshua

Now Jericho was strictly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. And the LORD said unto Joshua; see I have given unto thine hand Jericho, and the key and the mighty men valor. And he shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shall then do six days.

And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horn and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet all the people shall shout with a great shout and the wall of the city shall fall down flat and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him.

And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, take up the Ark of the Covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.

And he said unto the people, pass on and compass the city, and let him that is armed pass on the ark of the LORD.

And it came to pass when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rear ward came after the ark, the priests going on and blowing with the trumpets.

And Joshua had commanded the people saying, ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth until the day I bid you shout; then shall ye shout.

So the ark of the LORD compassed the city, going about it once: and they came into the camp, and lodged in the camp.

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.

And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually and blew with the trumpets; and the armed men went before them and the rearward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets

And the second day they compassed the city once and returned into the camp: so they did six days.

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city seven times: only on that day they compassed the city seven times.

And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout for the LORD hath given you the city.

And the city shall be accursed, even it and that are therein to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.

And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take yourselves of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it.

But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated into the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went into the city. Every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Joshua 6: 1-20

Now that was faith and a half on the side of Joshua. Here he had armed men who were not to fight but to compass the city of Jericho once every day for six days and to do so seven times on the seventh day and the seven priests were to blow with the trumpets! That alone was a very tricky venture as those in the city could probably overhear the trumpets blown and check to see what was happening and could conclude that they were about to be invaded and attacked and war would have erupted. The whole thing looked like children's play and ridiculous and like some fiction movie, imagining how the strong wall of the city could fall flat by just compassing the city, blowing with the trumpet and merely giving a great shout. One would have imagined it was all madness to behave that way, as there seemed to be no sense in it at all. But there you are, it happened because Joshua believed in the God of Moses the servant of the LORD and instructed the people to act accordingly. That was great, very great indeed. This should be also in the world book of records.

6. The widow of Zarephath

And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zar'e-phath, which belongeth to Zi'-don, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.

So he arose and went to Zar'-e-phath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but a handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

And E-li'-jah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

And she went and did according to the saying of E-li'-jah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by E-li'-jah.

1 Kings 17:8-16

That widow believed in the God of Israel and the prophet Elijah by her obedience and then she never lacked (2 Chronicles 20:20).

7. A widow woman

NOW there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto E-li'-sha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead, and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. And E-li'-sha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she

said, Thine handmaid hath not anything in the house, save a pot of oil.

Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few.

And when art thou come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full.

So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out.

And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed.

Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.

2 Kings 4:1-7

Widows can really have faith in God as they have no one around to come to their assistance. That widow woman could have easily mistaken the

prophet Elisha to be joking or mocking her or that the prophet was out of his mind to talk so foolishly that she borrow vessels that are empty from all her neighbors and to pour out nothing into them (as she had no oil of her own to pour into those empty vessels so borrowed). But instead she believed what obviously seemed absurd in the mind and she came out of debt. Unlike Naaman who argued the instruction of the prophet and almost missed his healing and was saved only by his servants who persuaded him to just heed the words of the man of God (2 Kings 5:1-14). Faith does not require head knowledge but heart knowledge of what God can do (2 Corinthians 5:7) as the promises of God are realized through faith (Romans 4:13-18).

8. Elijah

And it came to pass, when Ahab saw E-li'-jah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troublest Israel?

And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have

forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Ba'-a-lim.

Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto Mount Carmel, and the prophets of Ba'-al four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jez'-e-bel's table.

So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto Mount Carmel.

And E-li'-jah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the, LORD be God, follow him: but if Ba'-al, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

Then said E-li'-jah unto the people, I even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Ba'-al's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and that God that

answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, it is well spoken.

And E-li'-jah said to the prophets of Ba'al, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and call on the name of your gods, but put no fire under.

And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Ba-al from morning even until noon, saying O Ba'-al, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

And it came to pass at noon, that E-li'-jah mocked them, and said, cry aloud: for he is god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any answer, nor any that regarded.

And E-li'-jah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him.

And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

And E-li'-jah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time.

And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that E-li'-jah the prophet

came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is the God.

And E-li'-jah said unto them, Take the prophets of Ba'-al; let no one of them escape. And they took them; and E-li'-jah brought them down to the brook Ki'-shon, and slew them there.

1 Kings 18:17-40

In the above scripture we can clearly see how the prophet Elijah demonstrated his faith in the God of Israel. He put himself in an awkward situation by challenging the four hundred and fifty prophets of

Baal plus other four hundred others who ate at Jezebel's table and as if that was not enough, he went further and ordered water to be poured on the burnt sacrifice and on the wood on the altar three times and he himself poured water to run around the altar and also filled the trench with water. Now to me that is great faith indeed! Now that brings us to one question - How do you and I believe in God? And do we really know him personally who he is? Prophet Elijah knew him very well.

9. Elisha

AND it came to pass, when the LORD would take up E-li'-jah into heaven by a whirlwind, that E-li'-jah went with E-li'-sha from Gil'-gal.

And E-li'-jah said to E-li'-sha, Tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Beth-'el. And E-li'-sha said unto him, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they went down to Beth-el.

And the sons of the prophets were at Beth-el came forth to E-li'-sha, and said unto him, knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy

head today? And he said, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

And E-li'-jah said unto him, E-li'-sha, tarry here, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jericho. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. So they came to Jericho.

And the sons of the prophets that were at Jericho came to E-li'-sha, and said unto him, knowest thou that the LORD will take away thy master from thy head today? And he answered, Yea, I know it; hold ye your peace.

And E-li'-jah said unto him, Tarry, I pray thee; for the LORD hath sent me to Jordan. And he said, As the LORD liveth, and as thy soul liveth, I will not leave thee. And they two went on.

And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went, and stood to view afar off: and they stood by Jordan.

And E-li'-jah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that E-li'-jah said unto E-li'-sha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And E-li'-sha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

And it came to pass, as they still went on and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them asunder, and E-li'-jah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

And E-li'-sha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces.

2 Kings 2:1-12

Elisha was persistent with Elijah and could not allow Elijah to part ways and to leave him. He had so much faith and in the end, he received a double portion of Elijah as he had requested him.

10. Job

Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they
were printed in a book!

That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in
the rock forever!

For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he
shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though after my skin worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God:

Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall
behold, and not another; though my reins be
consumed within me.

Job 19:23-27

By faith Job gave a very powerful statement
touching on the resurrection from the dead which
even the Church of Christ that was to come later
seemed not to comprehend when it came into being,
going by what apostle Paul told the church at
Thessalonica in his first epistle and also the church
at Corinth (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians
15:35-58).

11. The Centurion

And when Jesus was entered into ca-per'-na-um,
there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him,
And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of
the palsy, grievously tormented.

And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.
The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not
worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but
speak the word only, and my servant should be
healed.

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers
under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth;
and another, come, and he cometh; and to my
servant,

Do this, and he doeth it.

When Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them
that followed, verily I say unto you, I have not
found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

And I say unto you, That many shall come from the
east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham,
and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out
into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 8:5-12

Jesus saw the faith of the centurion which was unique even in Israel and he commended him and his servant was healed (verse 13). The centurion knew about authority and authority holders and realized that for Jesus it was even greater.

12. Jairus and woman with an issue of blood.

While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshiped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples.

And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment:

For she said within herself, if I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole.

But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.

Matthew 9:18-25

Both those two had faith. The former believing in the resurrection of her daughter and the latter believing of her healing without any touch by the Lord by merely touching of his garment alone being enough. All believed in the tremendous power of Jesus Christ.

13. The Syrophenician woman

And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Si'-don, and entered into a house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid.

For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet:

The woman was a Greek, a Sy-ro-phoe-nic'-i-an by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.

And she answered and said unto him, Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.

And he said unto her, For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.

And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.

Mark 7:24-30

That woman by her persistence and saying she portrayed faith and her daughter was well.

14. Men who brought a man with palsy

And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every

town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

Luke 5:17-20

Those men had faith for the healing of the man they had brought to Jesus and the multitude did not discourage them from achieving it and went further and broke the normal protocol in order to present the man before Jesus and Jesus saw their faith and the man was healed (verses 20-26).

15. Job

For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

And though after my skin worms destroy this body,
yet in my flesh shall I see God:
Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall
behold, and not another; though my reins be
consumed within me.

Job 19:25-27

Job had faith in God and it did not worry him the illness which he had then (sore boils) (Job 2:7-10) and believed in the resurrection of the dead. He believed that when he dies as a result of that illness, his body will decay in the grave but afterward he will see God in his own flesh (he himself) and not any other person.

16. Paul

And not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Eu-roc'-ly-don.

And when the ship was caught and could not bear up into the wind, we let her drive.

And running under a certain island which is called Clauda, we had much work to come by the beat:

Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and fearing lest they should

fall into the quick sands, struck sail, and so were driven.

And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship;

And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

Saying, Fear not Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar; and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

Acts 27:14-25

Apostle Paul were sailing in a ship and they had a real rough time being tossed by a very bad wind and on many days they underwent the same agony and it reached a point when they could not see the sun or the stars and it seemed they were in total darkness for quite some time and their hope of getting saved was nil. It is about that time (God is ever in time in all situations) that the angel of God appeared to the apostle and told him he must appear before Caesar and that all the people with him are in his hand. The apostle was much encouraged and believed what he was told and he did not care /worry about the situation they were in which looked totally hopeless and went ahead and encouraged all the people telling them to be of good cheer as no one will lose his life but they will all be saved. That was faith which the apostle had in God, otherwise in that situation no one can have the guts to believe anything except loss of life. It was good for the apostle to have delivered the glad tiding, as at such a time many without hope can easily begin

to think of committing suicide as the only solution available to them.

17. A Blind Man

AND as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?

Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay,

And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Si-lo'-am, (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

John 9:1-7

You can see even in the above scripture, the blind man acting on the words of Jesus by going to the pool at Siloam to wash his eyes and came back from the pool seeing - no longer blind. By his obedience he received his sight, his faith worked for him.

Chapter Four

Can faith be destroyed or lost?

The answer to the above question in the title of this chapter is yes faith can be destroyed or lost. We are going to go through some scriptures which point to the above fact.

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying,
Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:
But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,
thou shall not eat of it: for in the day that thou
eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 2:15-17

NOW the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

And the eyes of them both were opened and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, where art thou?

And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? hast thou eaten of the tree where of I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

Genesis 3:1-13

Now the opposite of faith is fear. Adam and Eve now had no faith in God and therefore feared to meet God and hid themselves among the trees of the garden. They were not faithful to God and disobeyed him in unbelief. Deception leads to losing one's faith as God is the truth and when one go out of the truth one becomes faithless. That is why Jesus reiterated to His disciples that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life and that they need continue steadfastly to believe in God the Father and him (John 14:1-6) and that is why the Holy

Spirit too is referred to as the Spirit of Truth as comes from God the Father (John 14:15-17) and that he requires those who worship Him to do so in spirit and truth (John 4:23-24).

PAUL, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace and mercy, from God our Father and Jesus Christ, our Lord.

As I besought thee to abide still at Ephi-e-sus, when I went into Mac-e-do'-ni-a, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

1 Timothy 1:1-4

Any false doctrine can only do one thing if heeded - kill faith in one who has faith in God and which is founded in sound doctrine (God's word). The Apostle Paul advised Timothy to be wary of false teaching and to tell false teachers not to minister as

instead of building (edifying) it would destroy and kill true faith in God in the brethren there at Ephesus.

This charge I commit unto thee, son, Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.

Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

Of whom is Hy-me-ne'-us and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

1 Timothy 1:18-20

You can see the above two have had their faith destroyed (shipwrecked). The apostle Paul advice to Timothy that he has to fight a good warfare by seeing to it he continues to hold his faith not losing it by always to see he has a good conscience which of course comes from holding fast on the word of God.

THIS know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

For men shall be lovers of their own selves covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce despisers of those that are good,

Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,

Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Now as Jan'-nes and Jam'-bres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.

But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also.

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, charity, patience,

Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at An'-ti-och, at I-co'-ni-um, at Lys'-tra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

2 Timothy 3:1-14

Only sound doctrine (the doctrine of Christ) can sustain true faith in God. If one who had faith in God begin to resist the truth, one is already falling away from faith and very soon will be faithless. Therefore as the apostle advised Timothy one need be steadfast in sound doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers; having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

2 Timothy 4:3-4

Now that is a sure way of losing true faith.

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man become a living soul.

And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

NOW the serpent was more subtile than any beast of the field which the Lord God has made.

And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said,
Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat
of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of
the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it,
neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not
surely die:

For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof,
then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as
gods, knowing good and evil.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good
for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a
tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the
fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her
husband with her; and he did eat.

And he eyes of them both were opened, and they
knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig
leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Genesis 2:7-8, 16-17; 3:1-7

Now God is a spirit and what he breathed into the
nostrils of man was a spirit, same to what he

commanded him (John 4:24, 6:63). But we find that it is only when he deviated from the God's word/commandment that he found he was in lack being naked which simply means he lost something which is God's Spirit. To depart from the word of God which is the truth is to lose faith in God. Man was beguiled by the serpent / Satan (Revelation 12:7-9) and ended doubting God's word thereby losing it. So, let no one persuade you otherwise on the word of God as Satan did to the first man that God created and totally messed him up, as it is only by believing in God's word continually that one has faith as faith is a spiritual issue of the heart.

The man Adam died spiritually after believing the devil and doubting God. So, to begin to doubt God is to begin to die spiritually. To be alive spiritually is possible only with the spirit of God in one.

To persuade one contrary to God's word is such a serious issue as it brings a curse in life (Genesis 3:14, Galatians 1:8-9), why? Because the word of God is the truth and it brings life and set's one free from the bondage of Satan and sin (John 14:1-6; 8:30-44).

As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:

Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2:6-8

When one has faith in Christ Jesus, one must remain in him, built and rooted in him, who is the Word of God, so as to be established in the faith. Otherwise if one is not careful, one will spoil one's faith through human philosophy if one does not stick to the word of God.

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom
is Hy-me-ne'-us and Phi-le'-tus;
Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that
the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the
faith of some.

2 Timothy 2:15-18

One need to be studying the word of God for one's
faith to be well established and one need shun
unholy talk and silly talks or else one will have
one's faith thrown in the process; because such
unholy and silly talks eats up one's faith and put
one out of faith eventually.

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for
because of these things cometh the wrath of God
upon the children of disobedience.

Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye
light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Ephesians 5:6-8

Deception comes through vain words and need be
discouraged as they bring ungodliness which
receive the wrath of God and one need not be a

partaker of the wrath of God but to walk in the light as a child of light.

AND when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

Exodus 32:1

We can see here that impatience can make one lose one's faith.

You can see for yourself the people of God now substituting their God for other gods, meaning they have totally lost faith in their God as to look/seek for another. One need to learn to wait on God and not to be in a hurry. Otherwise one may find out much later that one is walking alone in the flesh with no faith.

And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away.

And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone.

But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, it is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

Matthew 14:22-31

When Peter told Jesus that if it is him, let him allow him to come to him on the water, he had faith and therefore walked on the water. But when he saw the noisy wind, he became fearful and let go his faith and that is why he began to sink. But when Jesus saved him, he did regain back his little faith through that deliverance of his life.

We learn that fear can easily make one lose one's faith. As I had said earlier, fear is an enemy of faith and expels faith, pushing it aside.

Listening to wrong teaching or preaching and taking in such which is not Biblical can also result in one's faith destroyed and even lost altogether. That is why the scriptures keep on warning people to beware of false apostles, false prophets, false evangelists, false pastors and teachers. (Matthew 7:15-20, 1 Timothy 1:1-4; 6:3-5, Titus 1:10-16, 2 Peter 2:1-3, Jude 1-4)

The scriptures tell us that faith comes by hearing the word of God and that the word of God is sincere milk which is food for spiritual growth.

Therefore, if we stop reading and hearing the word of God our faith will eventually die, just as in the natural anything that lives when deprived of food for quite some time it will die.

We are going to look at some scripture which point to the fact that faith can die, in the epistle of James the brother of the Lord to the Church of Christ and in the book of Matthew.

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:17

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:20

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James 2:26

We see that genuine faith cannot survive alone as it will die and must be active in good works/righteousness to continue to be alive.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 1:16-17

We must act our faith in life or else it dies. Faith is a living thing. We live by faith, by continuously believing God in His word. If we stop believing, we live without faith but by sight, as our faith is dead.

Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.

But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.

And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. And gain he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee. Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

Matthew 26:69-75

Now the above was the sad case of Simon Peter one of the disciples of Jesus Christ. He literally came out of the scene without the faith in Christ Jesus.

Why? Because he had openly denied Christ not once but thrice in a span of a very short time, probably in an hour. Worse still he denied him with an oath and swore as well! No wonder Apostle Paul later told the church at Corinth to be examining themselves on a daily basis if they still have their faith intact in the Lord (2 Corinthians 13:5).

We need to be careful we who have believed in the Lord Jesus as the Apostle advised lest we walk thinking we have faith yet we have none. Looks like the Lord knew that some of his disciples would be walking literally in the flesh and not being led by the Holy Spirit. Apostle Paul elsewhere he advised the church in Galatia to be walking in the Spirit and not in the flesh (Galatians 5:13-18). Now I do thank the Lord who is the restorer of the

penitent who restored faith in Simon Peter on condition that he repents (Luke 22:31-34) – It is only Simon Peter's repentance and the Lord's prayer that made the difference in Simon Peter's life. The disciple had lost his faith but picked it up again because of the Lord's Prayer and Simon Peter's genuine repentance when he wept bitterly from the bottom of his heart for losing his faith. Let us look at this other example:

Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the Lord;
Thus saith the Lord, Tomorrow about this time
shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel,
and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate
of Samaria.

Then a lord whose hand the king leaned answered
the man of God and said, Behold, If the Lord would
make windows in the heaven, might this thing be?
And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine
eyes, but shall not eat thereof.

2 Kings 7:1-2

Now the above talk by the lord on whose hand the
king leaned is of someone who had totally lost faith

in the Lord God of Israel to insinuate that even when the heaven's windows re opened the famine in the land which was dire could not be a thing of the past. The consequences of losing faith in the Lord God are quite severe as that man died (verses 18 to 20). The man focused on the great famine and not on the Lord God where our help come from (Psalm 121) which is only possible to those who believe in and trust in the Lord God the Mighty one of Israel.

Chapter Five

The testing of faith

Because faith is so important before God, therefore true faith must be tested as the Scriptures indicate as we are going to see.

AND it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Mo-ri'-ah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him.

Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off.

And Abraham said unto his young men; Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father; and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.

Genesis 22:1-14

Abraham passed the test of a true faith by his total obedience to God and we find God calling him as the father of faith and his friend.

AND when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of

your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.

And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed there unto, and said, These be thy gods,

O Israel, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt.

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff - necked people:

Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it forever.

And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

Exodus 32:1-14

Although it is not recorded in the above scripture that God tested Moses, it is more likely that it was so comparing the case of Abraham (Genesis 22:1-12). Moses was truly a leader as he showed not selfishness for himself but showed selflessness by caring more for the welfare of God's people than for himself. He did not want to get honor for himself by accepting God's suggestion to consume the people and to make him a great nation, rather, he wanted God's covenant to be fulfilled through those he had sworn to, that is, Abraham, Isaac and Israel. Moreover, he did not want the Egyptians to misunderstand him as a strong and a weak God who is able to deliver the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt but yet unable to take them safely to the promised land. To me I see that Moses passed the test with a distinction. Now suppose it was us, most likely we would have failed God as most of us are self-centered and not Christ-centered and are more interested in pleasing ourselves than

in pleasing God who created us. Let us look back at the life of Jesus Christ. He lived only to please God doing his Father's will always (John 8:26-29).

ALL the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or on.

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee hunger, and fed thee with man'-na, which thou knowest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

Deuteronomy 8:1-3

God wanted to test the Israelites to see if truly they believed in him and therefore would obey his commandments and found that they were not.

True faith is manifested in obedience to the word of God and that brings life.

Also the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
Son of man, behold, I take away from thee the desire of thine eyes with a stroke: yet neither shalt thou mourn nor weep, neither shall thy tears run down.

For bear to cry, make no mourning for the dead, bind the tire of thine head upon thee, and put on thy shoes upon thy feet, and cover not thy lips, and eat not the bread of men.

So I spake unto the people in the morning: and at even my wife died; and I did in the morning as I was commanded.

Ezekiel 24:15-18

The prophet Ezekiel faced a very tough test indeed but by God's grace he passed the test.

You can read also the following: Job 1:1-2:10, Daniel 3:1-21; 6:1-17.

AFTER these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Ti-be'-ri-as.

And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased.

And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples.

And the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh.

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.

Philip answered him, Two hundred penny worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?

John 6:1-9

Jesus was testing the faith of his disciples and he saw them failing the test miserably as they went by sight and not by faith acknowledging him as the

Son of the living God and who could do everything even the provision of bread for five thousand people to eat and be satisfied. So Jesus instructed them on what they could do to make the men sit down and later after he had miraculously multiplied the loaves of bread and the fish to distribute the same to the men.

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lys'tra, and I-co'-ni-um, and An'-ti-och.

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 14:21-22

Barnabas and Paul exhorted the disciples concerning their faith and reminded them of the various tests on their faith shall come in the form of tribulation but nevertheless they need to continue in the faith unperturbed to reach their final destination which is heaven.

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of most high God, which show unto us the way of salvation.

And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.

And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas and drew them into the market place unto the rulers, And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city, And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive neither to observe, being Romans.

And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely:

Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

Acts 16:16-26

In the above case both Paul and Silas underwent a tough trial and they came out with a big victory after passing it by not bowing down to the pressure of the people and all that was done to them, as they continued with prayers and praises to God whom they were serving and that great and terrible God (Jehovah - El Gibbor) came to their rescue.

But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watchings, in fastings;

By pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left;

By honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

Apostle Paul

In summary his ministry had the above to say, which he was undergoing through. There he was

going through all odds and continuing being steadfast in his faith, in the Lord.

But thou hast fully known my doctrine manner of life purses, faith, long-suffering charity, patience Persecutions, afflictions, which come unto me at An'-ti-och -at I-co-ni-um, at Lys-tra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them the Lord delivered me.

Yea and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse deceiving, and being deceived

2 Timothy 3:10-13

Apostle Paul was reminding his son in the faith, Timothy of what he had gone through and exhorting him to continue being steadfast in the word of God by following his footsteps. The apostle continued further in exhort him so as to have him accomplish the task God gave him as an evangelist, as recorded below.

I CHARGE thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch out thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

It is only by one's endurance in one's calling despite all odds shall one make full proof of the same, as the apostle advised Timothy in the above epistle.

JAMES, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into
divers temptations;

Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh
patience.

But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may
be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

James 1:1-4

Quite an encouragement which Apostle James was
encouraging Jewish believers wherever they were
scattered. The same applies to all other believers in
Christ Jesus, That the difficulties one goes through
as a Christian it is not in vain as it has a purpose in
one's life - to bring patience and later lead to one's
perfection. All the above has to happen to all true
Christians who are born again by water and by the
Holy Spirit, while still here on earth. Now the
question one need to answer if one is a true believer
is, Is he or she going to make it when one leaves the
earth for eternity? (1 Corinthians 3:13-15).

The tests and trials in life for a believer is to prove
to God what type of faith one has in God, if it is
genuine, or not and how far can it go? Also, they
are if one passes for one to be strengthened

spiritually, for growth, refining humbling, discipline as well as establishing and perfecting in God, as can be seen from the scriptures above and therefore in summary they are for one's own good. But temptations do come from Satan and by one's own lust and enticement in the flesh and lead into sin and death (James 1:13-15). You can read also the book of Job (Job 1:6-2:10) and the book of Matthew and Luke (Matthew 4:1-10, Luke 22:31-32).

Chapter Six

Benefits from the texts and trials

Now the following scriptures do attest to the benefits thereof in tests and trials.

Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty;

For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole.

He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.

In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.

Thou shalt be hid from the scourge of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.

At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth.

For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shall be at peace with thee.

And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin.

Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth.

Thou shalt come to thy grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in his season.

Lo this, we have searched it, so it is; hear it, and know thou it for thy good.

Job 5:17-27

Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:

But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Job 23:8-10

O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard:

Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not
our feet to be moved.

For thou, O God, hast proved us: thou hast tried us,
as silver is tried.

Thou broughtest us into the net; thou laidst
affliction upon our loins.

Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we
went through fire and through water: but thou
broughest us out into a wealthy place.

Psalms 66:8-12

THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he
leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of
mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my
cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Psalm 23

Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word.

Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

Thou art good, and doest good: teach me thy statutes.

Psalm 119:65-68

Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

That thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked.

For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance. But judgment shall return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it.

Who will rise up for me against the evildoers? Or
who will stand up for me against the workers of
iniquity?

Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had
almost dwelt in silence.

When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O
LORD, held me up.

In the multitude of my thoughts within me thy
comforts delight my soul.

Shall the throne of iniquity have fellowship with
thee, which frameth mischief by a law?

They gather themselves together against the soul of
the righteous, and condemn the innocent blood.

But the LORD is my defense; and my God is the
rock of my refuge.

And he shall bring upon them their own iniquity,
and shall cut them off in their own wickedness; yea,
the LORD our God shall cut them off.

Psalm 94:12-23

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is
written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we
also believe, and therefore speak;

Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many rebound to the glory of God.

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

WHEREFORE when we could no longer forbear, we thought it good to be left at Athens alone;

And sent Timothy, our brother, and minister for God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ,

to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.

For verily when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labor be in vain. But now when Timothy came from you unto us, and brought us good tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see you:

Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith.

For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord.

For what thanks can we render to God again for you for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?

Now God himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you.

And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

To the end he may stablish your hearts unblamable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

1 Thessalonians 3

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

But God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.
A'-men.

1 Peter 5:6-11

WHEREFORE seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, my son, despise not thou the chastening of the lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

for whom the lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave reverence: shall we not

much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees;

And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hebrews 12:1-14

UNTO the angel of the church of Ephe-sus write;
These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not

bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou has left thy first love.

Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent and do the first works; or else I will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nic-o-la'-i-tans, which I also hate. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them

which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Fear none of these things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; he that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Revelation 2:1-11

And to the angel of Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not but do

lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee. Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Revelation 3:7-13

AND I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

And I John saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

And he said unto me, it is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:1-7

Now to be precise, tests and trials comes from God and is for one's spiritual growth into maturity. But temptations come from Satan and is for one's downfall and to damnation.

Chapter Seven

The Workable and Unworkable faith

There is something like workable faith and also unworkable faith and which obviously are contrary to each other as we are going to see in this chapter. In summing it up, the workable faith is that faith which is alive and active and saves and is anchored in obedience to God and his word. It is unwavering in nature and is the genuine faith. Let us look at the scriptures what it has to say.

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works and I will show thee my faith by my works. Thou believest that there is one God; then doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers and had sent them out another way?

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

James 2: 14-26

Now there is no better explanation better than the above touching on living and saving faith and dead faith. For if truly one has believed in the living God one will have to show it by living to God's standard which is essentially living in total obedience to God's word and that includes the following:

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

2Timothy 2:19

If one says he or she has faith in God, such a one must depart from sinful living as that is against the doctrine of Christ as is directed in the following text.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men,
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ;

Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Titus 2:11-14

One who has genuine faith in God has received his grace which motivates one to do good works that glorify the Lord. Such a person will not waver in the faith and have doubt in what God has done.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 1:5-8

Wavering of any sort in the faith in God produces nothing, meaning it does not work and is equated to double mindedness. It is the same to doubting the word of God as Thomas did when he was told by his colleagues that Jesus had resurrected from the dead and he had appeared to them (John 20:19-25, 1 Corinthians 15:3-7).

Notes to the reader

I thank you in a most sincere way for taking the initiative to read this wonderful book and which have positively impacted your life. In case you have any comments do give us a feedback and using the address given below.

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The growing faith Vol. 2

The fact that faith is very important in life it follows therefore that one need to learn more about it and the issues that surround it. In reading this book one will come to learn the following:-

How to maintain faith when one has it.

Knowing examples of faith giants in the Scripture.

Seeing how people demonstrated their faith in God.

Know the that fact faith can actually be destroyed and it can die and why and how.

Knowing that faith will definitely be tested and the benefits of being victorious.

Being aware of a living faith and a dead faith and how it comes about.

The Author Fredrick Geoffrey Omondi is a born again Christian aged 66 years and is married and are blessed with 4 children. He is a



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