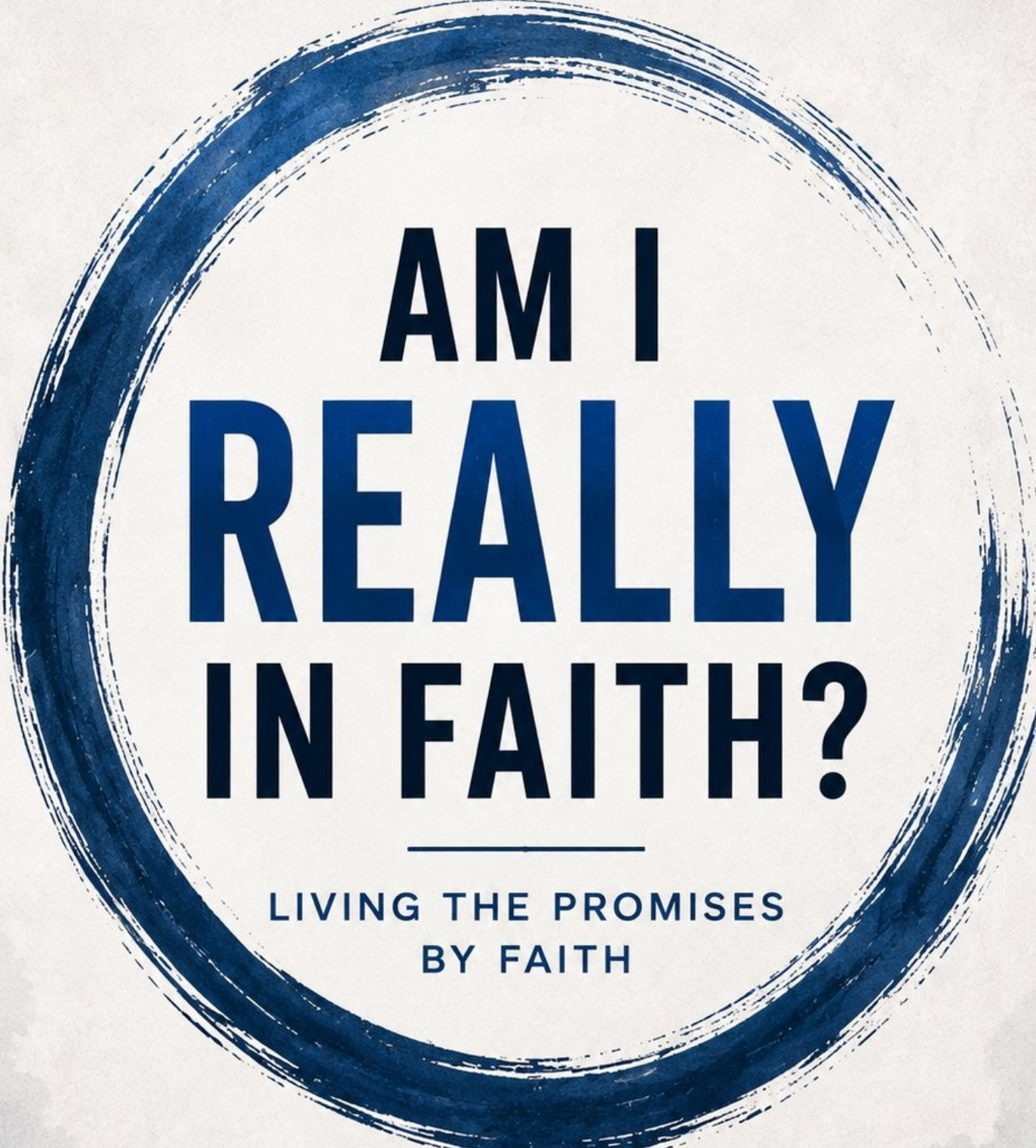




AM I REALLY IN FAITH?

**LIVING THE PROMISES
BY FAITH**



**BY
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Am I Really in Faith?

From time to time, it's good to take a look at ourselves and how we're living our life to ensure we are still actually living by faith, and it hasn't become just a term we use. If we don't guard it, our "Faith" can become nothing more than "religious jargon," or a "cliché."

Most of us realize that everything for a believer and their relationship with God is by Faith.

The very first step of our salvation is a step of Faith:

Rom. 10:8-10 (NKJV)

[8] But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): [9] that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

It's interesting to note that everything we receive from God from that time forward follows the same pattern:

- a. We must believe it / know it / own it in our heart,
- b. We must use our mouth / words to speak it and call it into being.

Our entire Christian life is a life of Faith:

II Cor. 5:7 (NKJV)

[7] For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Heb. 11:6 (NKJV)

[6] But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

So it's imperative we understand the basics of Faith and how to live by Faith.

What is Needed to Have Faith?

(1) What does the Bible say about the things we're believing for? Faith comes by hearing the Word. (Rom. 10:17) No Word—No Faith.

Rom. 10:17 (NKJV)

[17] So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word (Rhema) of God.

The Holy Spirit will speak to us and give us a promise / what to believe (Rhema —“Spoken Word”). It is ALWAYS based on the scripture, but it’s not necessarily a scripture. It can be anything the Spirit says to us about our situation and what we’re supposed to believe about it. (Remember: it must be scriptural.) Until we receive a “spoken word” from the Spirit, we don’t have the kind of faith needed to receive and secure / maintain the promises.

(2) Explanation of Logos and Rhema.

There are 2 Greek words in the Bible that refer to the Bible as being the Word of God.

- a. One is Logos. It is the written words we read on the page.
- b. The second is called Rhema. It is when the Holy Spirit takes what is written on the page, and “speaks” it to us / it becomes “alive or living” to us.

Consequently, there are 2 levels of belief.

- a. Believing the written word—“Logos.” (The General Promises)
- b. Believing the words spoken to us by the Spirit—“Rhema.” (The Spoken Promises)

Rhema word is the one that produces RECEIVING Faith in us.

Logos word does more in stabilizing us in our DOCTRINAL Faith / Foundation.

You don’t need to know the written word before the Spirit can speak to us and cause faith in us. But what is said to us by the Spirit, will always agree with what is written in the Bible. (Example: Initial Salvation)

So to receive and maintain any promises from God, we need to hear what the Holy Spirit is telling us to believe. We can read and believe the entire New Testament and not have the Faith to receive the promises. At some point, the Spirit needs to “Speak” to us and make the promise alive / living inside of us.

Here are some examples of Logos and Rhema Faith.

- Do you KNOW what the Bible has to say about the Promises? (Logos Faith)
- Did Jesus secure the Promises for you? Can you claim them as yours? (Logos Faith)
- Are you SURE that the Promises are for Today? (Logos Faith)
- Are you SURE that the Promises are for YOU? (Rhema Faith)
- Are you SURE that the Promises are available to you RIGHT NOW? (Rhema Faith)
- Are you fully convinced that YOU OWN The Promises? (Rhema Faith)
 - You have the “Title Deed” to them by Faith (Heb. 11:1, AMP — they are your property by Inheritance and Faith).
- Do you Know IT IS God’s Will to Heal you? Beginning Right Now? (Rhema Faith)
- Do you Know IT IS God’s Will for you to stay Healed? (Rhema Faith)

(3) The things the Bible (specifically the New Testament) has to say about our receiving the promises are the foundation for everything we receive from God. It's the 1st level of Faith in us that needs to be built to receive the Promises. (Logos Level)

But to consistently live in the promises we need a Revelation / Rhema that convinces us about what the Bible says concerning the Promises—Is Truth.

Our Believing can't be:

- I think so
- I'm trying to Believe
- I Hope so
- Sometimes I believe, and sometimes I don't
- I'm not sure it's God's Will
- God is Sovereign you know—maybe he doesn't want me to receive this promise
- Etc., Etc.

— This type of thinking comes out of Logos Faith.

WE MUST KNOW THAT WHAT THE WORD PROMISES—IS OURS!!!!—WE OWN THEM!!!!

OUR ATTITUDE IS THAT WE DEMAND THINGS / COMMAND THINGS TO TAKE PLACE IN OUR LIFE. IT MUST HAPPEN BECAUSE WE OWN IT.

— This type of thinking comes out of Rhema Faith.

Heb. 11:1 (AMP)

1 NOW FAITH is the assurance (the confirmation, the title deed) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see and the conviction of their reality [faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses].

(4) Has that promise come to life inside of us? Another way of saying it: has the Holy Spirit taken the General Promise (Logos) and spoken it to our heart concerning our situation? Do you have a Personal Word that the Holy Spirit has spoken to you about your situation that you are standing on? Has he weighed in on your personal situation, and told you what to believe for?

If the answer to that is—No. The chances of you receiving the promises in your life on a consistent basis are very poor.

What do we do? Ask, Seek, and Knock (Matt. 7:7-8). Begin pursuing the Holy Spirit so that he “Speaks” to you concerning what you should believe regarding the situation.

A Rhema word is a specific promise spoken to us (I Cor. 2:12-14; Rom. 10:17). When this happens, it is known as “the Word of Faith” (Rom. 10:8, 17), or the kind of Word that produces Faith.

If that hasn't happened yet, we must pursue it. God will give those spoken words to us, but we will need to pursue God for them. Ask the Holy Spirit to Convince you (John 16:8-11).

Spend time in his written word, and even more importantly—TALK TO HIM ABOUT IT CONSISTENTLY UNTIL YOU HEAR HIS VOICE. It's typically not a problem of him not speaking, it's a problem with our hearing.

Like it says in Matt. 7:7-8 (AMP): Ask and keep asking—Knock and keep knocking—Seek and keep seeking him for specific spoken words for your particular situation.

Listen for and expect him to speak to you. He will give us the promises we need for our specific situation. And don't feel that they need to be scriptures. Rhema words can be anything that God says to us concerning the situation.

He will give as many spoken / Rhema words as we need to be able to stand in faith in our situation.

There are times I have taken a General promise / scripture and stood on it for a situation and it has produced. However, in my own experience, most of the time I've needed a fresh word from God for what was currently happening ("Give us THIS DAY our DAILY bread" — Matt. 6:11). If I didn't take the time to pursue God for a Fresh word from him / Rhema word, many times I haven't received what I was believing for.

(5) When we receive a Rhema word, the Word/scripture is now working to produce Faith in us, it will begin to manifest itself as "Hope." (Rom. 15:4) First will come Hope, then Faith. (Heb. 11:1) We know we have hope because there is "A joyful confident expectation of something good" (Greek definition of Hope) about the situation that is beginning to boil on the inside of us. Hope typically manifests as excitement and anticipation. Once we have Hope, now we are in the position to cultivate Faith. (Heb. 11:1)

In Ps. 119:130 (NKJV) it says "the entrance of your words gives light." Don't mistake the Hope you are now feeling for Faith. It is not. It is Hope. It is a "Joyful, Confident" (emotional) feeling that says this thing could / will turn out OK. There's an excitement and expectation that goes with the entrance of his word. It gives life where there was death. (John 6:63)

(6) The substance of Faith is built as we focus on those Rhema Words and turn the expectation (Hope) into being SURE. Faith is beyond a joyful / emotional expectation. FAITH KNOWS. FAITH CLAIMS OWNERSHIP. (Heb. 11:1, AMP) We're so convinced by the Spirit of what's right, it takes the form of a "spiritual substance" inside of us. (John 16:10; Heb. 11:1, KJV) That substance of Faith can be "great" (Matt. 8:10), "small / little" (Matt. 17:20; Matt. 6:30), "weak" (Rom. 4:19; 14:1), or "strong" (Rom. 4:20). We can have "no faith" (Mark 4:40), or we can be "full of faith" (Acts 6:8), and "abundant in it" (1 Tim. 1:14). Faith can be made void in us (Rom. 4:14) if we don't guard our hearts (Prov. 4:23).

That's why we are told in scripture to Guard Our Heart. It is where Faith flows out from. If we're not guarding ourselves, we can lose / have stolen the things in our heart (Prov. 4:23; Phil. 4:6-9).

We've all been given "the measure of faith" (Rom. 12:3), and what we do with it to allow it to grow (II Thess. 1:3), or diminish and die (James 2:20), is up to us. It can be "increased" (II Cor. 10:15), or we can be "lacking" in it (I Thess. 3:10). But whatever that proportion of faith is—we are to operate in it and not go beyond it because of pride (Rom. 12:6). Be real with yourself about how much you really KNOW in your heart how this is going to turn out. Do you KNOW that you Actually OWN THE PROMISE and THE OUTCOME? That is a test of our Rhema Faith.

Guarding Our Heart

(7) For our Faith to be strong, healthy, and productive—we must guard it via guarding our heart. (Prov. 4:23; Phil. 4:6-9) To guard our heart, we must stay strong in our spirit and maintain control of our soul (Luke 21:12-19; specifically vs. 19). To stay strong in our spirit we will need to be:

Strong in How We Live

- Strong in our Bible reading. (Remember to stay alive spiritually, we need to eat of his word.) (Matt. 4:4)
- Strong in our Prayer / Conversation with God. Strong in our Praise and Worship. Strong in Thanksgiving. Strong in dying to the old nature and living free of sin.

Strong in How We Pray

- Strong in our Demanding; Commanding; Speaking to the Situation and Telling it what will be. (Mark 11:23)
- Strong in our Binding and Loosing. (Saying No or Yes to what's happening) (Matt. 16:18-19; 18:18-19)

A Principle

- It is not possible to have Strong Faith for the long haul by living a weak christian life. (Matt. 16:24-26; Mark 8:34-35)

I am not trying to give a list of things you have to do to have Faith. I am listing the things that will be there WHEN WE HAVE FAITH.

Living It Out

(8) As this takes root in our heart, our life begins forming around it. (Prov. 4:23) This is especially true concerning our Words. What we really believe in our heart is what we say. If we're convinced and know the promise is ours, we will talk that way. (Matt. 12:33-35; II Cor. 4:13)

There will also be an automatic expression of our Faith via our Thinking, Desires, Priorities, Planning, Behavior, etc. Our life will begin to reflect what we are

convinced is coming to us. We are fully persuaded of what the scripture is saying to us and we're acting like it. (Phil. 1:27; Heb. 13:7)

(9) Since sin and weights (effects of sin) will entangle, or beset our faith (Heb. 12:1-2), we need to stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit's conviction/convincing concerning them. (John 16:8-9) Obviously, if anything in our life is pointed out to us (even the tiny things), it must be taken care of. Repent, and make the changes necessary to stop the sin or get out from under the weights. (Heb. 12:1-3)

(10) Expect your answer. Since you Know it's coming (You're Convinced) and your Expectation is high (you have Hope), you should constantly be looking for the promise to begin manifesting. (Rom. 4:18-24)

(11) Keep speaking (or Calling) it into being. Calling the promise to manifest. Speaking to the situation—Commanding it to align with the promise/scripture. (Rom. 4:16-17)

A word of caution here: we don't need to be telling everyone what we believe about our situation to have faith. Sometimes people feel they need to tell everyone what they believe will happen—or they're not in faith. That is in error. (Ex.: I don't need to tell everyone that when I jump in the air, I will come back down—for it to work, or to have faith. I already know it will work, that's why I have no fear of jumping.) I have faith I'll come back down. I KNOW. Telling others doesn't increase our faith, nor is it a sign of us having faith.

From my own experience, most of the time it's been better if I only tell the people I know will be in agreement with me about what I am believing for. Too often, other people will question what we are doing, or even try to talk us out of it. I've found it's easier to stay in faith when a lot of people DON'T KNOW what I'm believing for. It frees me from their input, and the mental / emotional battles that can go with them knowing / saying things / etc.

(12) There is a tenacity of "ownership" that flows through us. By Faith WE KNOW that WE OWN the Promise / Answer. (Heb. 11:1, AMP—"Title Deed" is ours) The result of that is: we "Demand" the answer to manifest. It's Ours. We Own It. It must come to pass—there are no options. Our mindset is one of "Ownership."

(13) Since you Know it's yours by Faith, we Thank God for what he's doing and for the answer. Thankfulness or Thanksgiving can come from a heart of gratitude, but it can also be a statement of faith. We're so convinced that the promise is ours, that we will Thank God for it before it manifests. (Luke 2:38; I Cor. 15:57; II Cor. 2:14)

The Promises are Still in Effect for You

(14) Persevere. (Gal. 6:7-9; Heb. 10:35-36)

If the answer comes slowly, DO NOT GIVE UP OR QUIT. Too often we'll quit believing before God has had a chance to rearrange the situation, do the healing, or get the answer to us. If we quit, we're guaranteed failure.

Keep On, Keeping On!! (Matt. 7:7-8, AMP)

(15) Realize: God hasn't changed his mind about what he has promised to us:

II Cor. 1:18-20 (NIV)

18 But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." 20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

God's promises are always YES to us. And we are the ones who come into agreement with the promises with the heart and mind that says "Amen" (So be it).

(16) The result of that is:

II Cor. 2:14 (NIV)

14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him.