

# **THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY**

**(Chapter Eight)**

# THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY

## Chapter Eight – The Source of Faith

The Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God and that He rewards those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). It also says that whatever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23), that Believers must live by faith (Romans 1:17 and Habakkuk 2:4) and that we should walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). In sum it is apparent that the Lord doesn't do anything outside an environment of faith which means that His principles of conduct, including the laws of biblical prosperity, have to also work through faith. Therefore, biblical prosperity is for Believers who live by faith; He will reward those who seek Him in faith.

We tend to limit our concept of faith to mere belief. In other words, we think of faith as just believing in something. But in the last chapter we presented several additional defining aspects of faith that show it to be much more profound than mere belief. Following is brief summary:

- Faith is the act of trusting in God instead of what we see in the natural.
- Faith is the confidence that God will bring to pass what we are hoping for.
- Faith involves taking ownership over the things we are hoping for before we actually receive them.
- Faith requires that we take action on what we believe before it actually manifests.
- Faith is a *force* that is strong enough to overcome the world.

In the previous Chapter we reached the conclusion that faith is a requirement for experiencing the manifestation of biblical prosperity in our lives. If you suspect that weakness of faith could be holding you back from all that God has, the purpose of this Chapter is to help you understand where your faith comes from so you can use that knowledge to make yourself eligible for the fullness of His prosperity.

### Understanding How We Acquire Faith

Faith doesn't come from reasoning. Nor does it come from striving or by our own strength or from our flesh. It's not something we can work up. In fact, if it weren't for God we wouldn't even have any faith. The Bible says that "...*God has dealt to every man the measure of faith*" (Romans 12:3). In other words, you are not the source of your own faith; "...*it is the gift of God*" (Ephesians 2:8). God Himself is the author of your faith (Hebrews 12:2) and "*the measure*" is given to each of us at the moment of salvation so that we will be able to believe and be saved (Ephesians 2:8). We don't do anything to earn it; we don't do anything to deserve it. He gives it to us freely as a loving gift. And at that moment our spirit is reborn, we come back into fellowship with Him and we regain the ability to please Him by living a life of faith.

From the moment Christians are born again, we all start at the same place with the same measure of faith and begin a process under the supervision of the Holy Spirit that will conform us into the image of Christ (Romans 8:29). But we each progress at different rates and in different ways. Some Believers build rapidly on their measure of faith and they soon come to live a life of victory as they steadily grow spiritually towards the image of Christ. Others don't grow much beyond where they started, struggling in their own strength, defeated and dejected most of the time, striving by the flesh to obtain the victory that Christ has already won and is holding out to them for the taking in the spirit by faith. Why is there such a difference?

## Understanding How We Develop Stronger Faith

The truth is we are ourselves responsible for developing the faith we are given at salvation so it will grow in strength and effectiveness. Faith is supposed to be the victory that overcomes the World for us (1 John 5:4) so that we can keep on the path of living by the spirit. But faith is like an undeveloped muscle in that it starts out small and relatively weak. It's big enough for us to believe God for salvation but it needs to be "exercised" in order to strengthen and develop into the force that produces a victorious and overcoming life. Now your question should be: "how do I exercise and strengthen my faith?"

The Bible says that faith comes from hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17) and there are several ways you can hear it. You can hear someone preach and/or teach it. You can hear it read aloud or expressed in music. You can listen to tapes. And you can also study the Word so intently and deeply that it becomes internalized to such a degree you hear it by the Spirit directing you through life. The Word has become "written on your heart." When the written Word becomes God's spoken Word to you personally (*rhema*), your faith will then grow and develop. And then your faith will become strong enough to overcome the World and produce victory in every area of life so that you have nothing missing and nothing broken.

In sum, the key to developing strong faith is acquiring knowledge of the Word of God. A very good scripture for this thought can be found in Proverbs 4:20-22:

*"My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them and health to all their body."*

The Word of God brings life and good health to the Believer that pursues it because it also brings strong faith. Strong faith does not come from trials and tribulations as tradition has tried to teach us. Rather, trials are designed to be the proof that you already have strong faith as evidenced by the fact that you praise and glorify God in the face of everything that happens (1 Peter 1:7). The truth is strong faith comes from hearing the Word of God.

## Conclusions

The reality is none of us can come to know the power of God's provision and prosperity without strong faith and we won't have strong faith if we don't have knowledge of the Word of God. When Jesus was confronted by Satan in the wilderness, He easily defeated him with the Word (Matthew 4:1-11). Any of us can begin to develop that same kind of power once we make the decision to pursue an understanding of the Scripture.

But most of us are lazy because the flesh is lazy especially where the things of God are concerned. We think we'll have more fun doing something else so we don't invest the time in the Word that we know we should. If your conscience is telling you today that you could be studying the Word more, that's most likely the Holy Spirit speaking quietly to you, encouraging you to study so your faith can grow and you will be able to enjoy all the things Jesus won for you.

There's just no other way to come to strong faith except by the Word. The truth is the lack of strong faith produced by ignorance of the Word is why so many of us are stuck at the Cross instead of participating in the Resurrection Victory that Christ won for us. If you are in that picture today, you can change it yourself by simply asking God to help you develop a hunger for the Word. Whenever you ask Him for something important, He will provide the answer and then you will start to develop strong faith that can overcome the World.

## THE LAWS OF BIBLICAL PROSPERITY BIBLE STUDY

### Lesson Eight – The Source of Faith

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2. The Lord doesn't do anything outside an environment of \_\_\_\_\_; therefore, the Laws of biblical prosperity must work through \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Faith is the act of \_\_\_\_\_ in God instead of what we see in the natural
4. Faith is the \_\_\_\_\_ that God will bring to pass what we are hoping for.
5. Faith involves taking \_\_\_\_\_ over the things we are hoping for \_\_\_\_\_ we actually receive them.
6. Faith requires that we take \_\_\_\_\_ on what we believe before it actually manifests.
7. Faith is a \_\_\_\_\_ that is strong enough to overcome the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. God has dealt to every man \_\_\_\_\_ of faith; therefore, He is the author of our faith.
9. God gives us the measure of faith at the moment of \_\_\_\_\_ so we can be reborn and come back into fellowship with Him.
10. Faith is supposed to be the \_\_\_\_\_ that overcomes the World for us but many of us don't develop our faith to be the force it has the potential to be.
11. The Bible says that faith comes by \_\_\_\_\_ of God. Therefore, hearing the Word is the means by which we \_\_\_\_\_ our faith.
12. There is no other way to come to \_\_\_\_\_ faith except by hearing the Word of God.
13. When the \_\_\_\_\_ Word becomes God's \_\_\_\_\_ Word to you personally, your faith will then grow and develop.
14. The Word of God brings \_\_\_\_\_ and good \_\_\_\_\_ to the Believer that pursues it.

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