

WHAT IS FAITH?

INTRODUCTION

The concept of Faith forms the foundation of our Christianity without which one cannot be said to be a Christian or be able to please God. As serious as this is yet the definitions of faith that we have today are so diverse and the understanding obscured. So the understanding of faith stems from several perspectives as we have it today, but we have need to identify a core basic, foundational definition of faith that can cut across whatever perspective one may have of faith which can form a primary understanding of what faith truly is without ambiguities. The interpretations given to the meaning of faith today is so abstract, unsatisfying, vague leaving one with yet a sense of bewilderment after all the merry-go-round explanations of it.

Generally in the discussions on faith, the epistles of Apostle Paul especially that of Hebrews Chapter Eleven (11) and Romans 10:17 are the favourites and have provided the keys to the various shades of understanding that we have of faith basically in Christendom. Paul's writings, teachings and authority on faith have been paramount to these understandings and cannot be overemphasized, but the truth still stands that Paul is not the author and finisher of our faith, Jesus Christ is (**Hebr. 12:2**).

Jesus Christ our Lord and Master lived and walked by faith with God on the earth during his ministry and constitutes our perfect example and basis for investigation on what faith truly is and how we are to follow his example of it also. Our heavenly Father was well pleased with the Son by reason of his walk of faith, by which he had the victory and overcame the world. And on the basis of this truth there is a pertinent need for us to bring out the understanding of faith viewing it from the eyes of Christ our Lord and his lifestyle in particular, while keeping in the background (but not to be ignored) whatsoever understanding we have of faith from our beloved Apostle Paul. This is an approach that very few contemplate or venture to follow but which is essentially why we answer the title "Christians"- Christ like/Christ followers and not Paul-like. Christ must increase and Paul decrease in order for us to truly see as Christ sees, if not we shall run into errors continually knowingly or unknowingly.

It was with the coming of Christ that the faith that worketh the acceptable righteousness of God that bringeth about justification, eternal salvation from sin and the wrath to come was made possible for us. Fear came by reason of the fall, while this faith came by reason of the redemption. From hence, the Just is meant to live by faith even as witnessed by the scriptures. For anything that a man does without faith results in sin by which he cannot please God. And it is by faith that Man exercises the power of God by which he overcomes the devil and

steadfastly resists him till the end. **Rom 1:17; Hebr 11:6; Rom 14:23; I Jn 5:4**. The Devil knows this and therefore has caused religious men, by the wisdom of men, to adulterate, twist the meaning, understanding of faith that men have, in such a manner as to cause them to be operating an erroneously faith unto living a powerless “Christian” life in this world. So they define faith in so many ways apart from the actual true meaning of it as it were.

Whatever perspective that we have viewed the definition of faith in the past without it primarily providing us a clear cut understanding of how it results in pleasing God would not be acceptable to us in this literature.

Qn: Did Christ teach us about faith? In what way? When?

Jesus Christ copious and severally taught us about faith in his parables and sayings, even in his manner of life while he walked on the earth. Many of such teachings were coded in parables (**Mtt 13:34-35**) and yet hidden as mysteries of the kingdom from many who walk not strictly by his Spirit, grace and truth, his teaching, but by the Law still or a mixture of the Law and grace which is an error. The Law is not of faith (**Gal 3:12**). Why? Being not about the kingdom of God or of the Spirit of promise nor of eternal things, but of the knowledge of sin and death (**Rom 3:20; Gal 3:14,17-19**). Christ came preaching and teaching about the kingdom of God which is strictly based on faith and the operations of the Spirit (**Mtt 4:23; Mk 1:13-15; Lk 8:1**). The doctrine of Christ on faith is tied inseparable to the kingdom of God whichever way that you end up viewing it and we shall be particularly mindful of this truth.

We shall approach this discuss of faith from examining how Christ related with our heavenly Father while on earth unto pleasing Him in all things, because there is no other way he could have done it if not by faith. From Christ walk with the Father we shall extract an understanding of the meaning of faith primarily. Christ lived faith and he taught faith, for you cannot give what you do not have. So first we shall examine how Christ lived faith.

CHRIST LIVED AND WALKED BY FAITH ON EARTH. HOW?

We are meant to follow Christ’s example to us about faith. How? By living and walking as he did while on earth (**I Jn 4:17; I Jn 3:2-3,7**). That is how we can discover what faith is truly about to live by. The Father said we should hear the Son in all things whatsoever he shall say unto us and that is what we intend to do, for this is the will of God for us. **Mtt 17:5; Acts 3:22-23**

QUESTION: How did Christ relate with the Father on earth?

If you already knew the definition of faith you would know the answer to this question. So how did he please the Father?

Any definition that we give of faith we would have to see it at play extensively in the life of Christ or else that would be an erroneous definition or understanding of what faith is, please be advised.

Mtt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Jn 15:10 If ye keep my commandments (*ye have faith*), ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments (*by which I lived by faith*), and abide in his love.

Jn 14:31 and as the Father gave me commandment (*receiving of faith*), even so I do (*doing of faith*).

Jn 5:19-20 (Vr.19) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do (*the works of faith*): for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son (*the works of faith*) likewise. **Vr.30** I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear (*the words of faith*), I judge: **Vr.17** My Father worketh hitherto, and I work (*the works of faith*).

Jn 14:10 the words (*of faith*) that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works (*of faith*). **Vr.24** And the word (*of faith*) which ye hear (*for that is how faith comes*) is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

Jn 7:16 My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me. **Vr.17** If any man will do His will (*the works of faith*), he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak (*the words of faith*) of myself.

Jn 8:28 And that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me (*the words of faith*), I speak these things. **Vr.29** For I do always those things (*the works of faith*) that please him (*for without faith it is impossible to please Him*). **Vr.40** But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God (*the words of faith*):

Jn 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Jn 10:25 Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works (*of faith*) that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. **Vr.37** If I do not the works of my Father (*the works of faith*), believe me not. **Vr.38** But if I do, though ye believe not (*the words of faith from my mouth*) me, believe the works (*of faith that I do*): that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

Jn 12:47-50 (Vr.49) For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment (*the word of faith*), what I should say, and what I should speak (*the words of faith*). **Vr.50** And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak

therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak (*if Christ was not given a word to speak from the Father he cannot speak until he received one*).

Jn 5:30 I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear (faith), I judge (I do faith): and my judgment is just (*for that is how the just lives by faith*); because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Jn 8:54-55 (Vr.55) Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying (*this is faith walk*)

Jn 4:31-34 (Vr.34) Jesus saith unto them, My (*faith*) meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Jn 10:15-18 (Vr.17) Therefore doth my Father love me (*Why?*), because I lay down my life (*I do the commandment that He gave me*), that I might take it again. **Vr.18** This commandment (*word of faith*) have I received of my Father.

From the foregoing biblical passages of the gospel we can evidently see that “Faith” is tied to the commandments and words of God which we term “the words of faith” that we obey and do, which we term “the works of faith”. Without our receiving and having the word of God to do the works of God we cannot be said to have faith as it were (**Rom 10:14-17**). Faith is given by God and is received by men to execute as commanded, so not all men have faith as it were. If you have not been given faith there is no way that you can receive faith. **Lk 12:47-48; Mtt 13:11**

Faith is therefore the act of receiving words and commandments from God (*hearing from God*) and doing them exactly as He had commanded. This is what makes a servant/steward to be said to be wise and faithful and eligible for a reward from his lord as it were. **Lk 12:42-46; I Cor 4:1-2**

Christ spoke, taught, preached and did only that which he had heard and seen of the Father without which he could do nothing, all in the bid to do the will of the Father who had sent him to the earth. Christ spoke all the words (**Jn 15:15**) and finished all the works that the Father had commissioned him to do ultimately at the cross, that is how Christ lived and walked by faith throughout his life on the earth.

Christ did not go about just quoting the Scriptures as “the word of faith” against the situations he encountered in his ministry work, rather he fulfilled all the scriptures written (Logos) concerning him, while he operated faith via the spoken word (Rhema) that he continually received from his heavenly Father as ministrations and leadings from the Spirit of God with which he was anointed at his baptism in dealing with them. **Lk 4:1,14-15; Jn 11:36-45; Lk 24:44**

Jn 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do (*work of faith*). **Vr.6** I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. **Vr.7** Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. **Vr.8** For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me (*words of faith*); and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

Jn 3:31-36 (Vr.34) For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God (*the words of faith*): for God giveth not the Spirit (*of faith*) by measure unto him.

From the above we can extract three articles of faith to discuss on for further inquiry concerning “faith” and they are: WORD OF FAITH, WORKS OF FAITH AND SPIRIT OF FAITH. We also have another term, seed faith which can either stand as a Word of faith in some instance (**Lk 8:5,11**) and in orders as Work of faith sown (**Jn 12:24; Gal 3:16**). So seed faith falls under word and works of faith and can be captured therein as it were.

COMPONENTS OF FAITH

We shall be exploring more on the following components of faith identified in the previous section more closely in our study on faith, because without the three being at play collectively then faith cannot be said to be complete and living. Every word of faith that a man receives from God is meant to produce works of faith thereafter in order for faith to be truly established and be true. For the faith to be living it must be powered by the Spirit of faith or else that faith is dead, for it is the spirit that giveth life and maketh the faith to be living.

Also with the understanding of these three components of faith that we shall look at, you can be able to distinguish which component individually or as a whole that is being referred to whenever you encounter the term “faith” when used in the Bible. This shall help one to know whether it is the word of faith or the works of faith that is being referred to for you to relate it accordingly to the context in which the term is being used in such biblical verse, usually the spirit of faith is of background process and not explicitly mentioned. Many erroneous meanings of faith have been derived due to ignorance of this component identification/differentiation issue and approach.

WORDS OF FAITH AND WORKS OF FAITH

By the words of faith here, we mean specifically “the spoken word of God” (the Rhema), the ministration of the Spirit and not the letter; for the letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life. Jesus said, the words that I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life- this is the word of faith

we mean and not merely cramming and reciting letters of the scriptures as many are given to doing today, having been taught so by the CAO, without the effectual result/immediate effect (**Jn 5:39-40**). It is able ministers of the new testament, of the Spirit, that are able to speak these words of faith as oracles of God.

The written words are static, while the spoken words are dynamic. It is given by the Spirit at the spur of the moment as needed to do present work (**Hebr 4:12-13; I Cor. 14:24-25**). Faith is active, dynamic in nature as it were, both in words and in deeds. **2 Cor 3:6-8; Jn 6:63; Mtt 13:51-53**

How do we come about having this spoken word of faith?

Mtt 10:19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak (*the word of faith*). **Vr.20** For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

Hebr 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: (*the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus*)

2 Cor.3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Rom 10:5-8 (Vr.8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee even in thy mouth, and in thy heart; that is, the word of faith, which we preach. **Vr.17** So then faith (*the words of faith*) cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

If you cannot hear from God in your heart, then you cannot receive this word of faith. Everyone needs to hear for himself. When you read the letters of the Bible that comprises the words of God, you must also need to hear the voice of the Spirit speaking to your mind and heart in order for you to receive this faith. Many read today, but they do not hear unfortunately, pray fervently, that the Lord would open your eyes to see, your ears to hear and your heart to understand. It is not of him that willeth nor of him that runneth but it is of the Lord that showeth mercy. **Rom 9:15-16,18**

I Jn 2:27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him (*this is how you receive this word of faith on a consistent basis*).

I Cor.2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. **Vr.13** Which things also we speak (*by the words of faith*), not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth;

Jn 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak (*the word of faith received from Christ is what the Holy Ghost teaches us consistently*):

Mtt 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (of faith) that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

So "Faith" cometh by hearing the word of God, the word of faith. The word of faith is every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord (*the Rhema*) and the works of faith is obedience to the doing of that which is commanded in the word of faith received. The words of faith are unseen, while the works of faith are seen- they are the substance and evidence of the unseen (*word/hope/spirit/kingdom*).

Hebr 11:1 Now faith (*the works of faith*) is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

Jam 2:17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. **Vr.26** For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith (*the word of faith*) without works (*of faith*) is dead also. **Vr.18** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith (*the word*), and I have works (*of faith*): shew me thy faith (*word unseen*) without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works (*of faith*). (*Action speaks louder than words*)

Hebr 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word (*of faith*) preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith (*the works of faith*) in them that heard it.

I Thess 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God (*word of faith*) which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh (*the works of faith*) also in you that believe.

Rom 10:18 But I say, Have they not heard (*the word of faith*)? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words (*of faith*) unto the ends of the world. **Vr.16** But they have not all (*done the works of faith*) obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

Many receive the letter of the word (Logos) by reading or hearing from the words of men's wisdom and then are asked to be confessing them repeatedly with no result, while others truly hear the word of faith by the Spirit in their hearts (the Rhema), but they rationalize it away with their head knowledge unto not doing them and thereby not producing the works of faith intended (being unfruitful); For it is not the hearer of faith that is justified before God, but the doer of faith even as it is with the law. **Rom 2:13; Mtt 13:18-23**

Lk 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God (*word of faith*), and keep it (*do the works of faith*).

Mtt 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith (*the word*) as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say (*the word of faith*) unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove (*have the works of faith*);

Mtt 8:5-13 (Vr.8) The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word (*of faith-give the command*) only, and my servant shall be healed. **Vr.10** When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. **Vr.13** And Jesus said unto the centurion, "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee.

Ps 107:20 He sent his word (*of faith*), and healed them, and delivered them (*the works of faith*) from their destructions.

God gives His prophets/servants words of faith for them to speak and obey accordingly in order for it to produce the desired and expected works of faith in men's lives and situations. Without receiving a word of faith from God you cannot produce the works of faith. Do not be afraid of a prophet that does not have the word of faith from God yet he prophesieth for it shall not come to pass, but ye shall be afraid of the prophet that has the word of faith from God to speak for it shall come to pass as he saith. **Deu 18:18-22; Deu 13:1-5; Jer 27:1-22**

You need the word of faith from God in order to produce the works of faith for men to see and glorify God by. Faith is derived from the truth and worked out in love by grace unto receipt of the promised hope at the end as it were. And now abideth faith, hope and charity.

The word of faith is given by God unto a man, His servant/messenger to speak or prophesy and it shall come to pass as he had said it. If God does not give a man this His word then such a man cannot have faith as it were. The word of faith is based on the spoken word of God (the Rhema) and not merely on the written word (the Logos), the letters. Why? Because Satan and his cohorts also quote the written word with the intention to mislead/deceive, speaking of those things which be of men (carnal) and not of God (**Mtt 16:21-23**). Therefore you need compulsorily to hear from the Lord the truth by yourself in order not to be misled by others.

Unfortunately, many that claim to be “Christians” today do not hear from the Lord rather it is others that they hear from who hear for them. This is a pity, for when they ought to be teachers they are still babes in the Lord. **Mtt 4:4-6; 2 Cor.3:3,6-8; 2 Cor.11:13-15; 1 Cor.2:4-5; Gen 3:5,22; 1 Kings 13:1-32; Hebr 8:10-11; 1 Jn 2:26-28; Jn 6:44-45; Hebr 5:11-14**

Those who receive and have the word of faith speak as the oracles of God and not as mere men with enticing words of men’s wisdom, motivational speeches and the likes. **Hebr 5:8-14; 2 Cor.4:2**

1 Pet 4:10-11 (Vr.10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. **Vr.11** If any man speak (*the word of faith given him*), let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth:

The word of faith produces the works of faith and can be looked at from two (2) positions: How? For there is faith that is a gift of the Spirit and there is faith that is a fruit of the Spirit.

1. God gives the word of faith as a declaration/prophecy to His vessel that He, God, would bring to pass through His divine agents, means, interventions, or workings without further human intervention cum involvement. This is done through he that has received faith as a gift of the Spirit as it were. **1 Cor 12:9; 1 Cor 13:2**
2. Christ gives the word of faith, a commandment, instruction which his disciples are meant to obey, hearken unto to do in order to produce fruits that shall abide. This word of faith produces the fruit of the Spirit, the works of faith- **Gal 5:22** . You need to have the words of Christ richly dwelling in you and the indwelling Spirit of Christ leading you in order for this to be accomplished. **Colo 3:16-17; 2 Tim 2:15; Rom 8:9,14; Jn 14:15-17**

[I] Word of faith as a declaration or word of prophecy- gift of the Spirit: given by God to a man to declare or prophecy concerning certain things that God wants to bring to pass by Himself not requiring any further human input, but by divine manifestations thereafter.

The prophets of old did not go about prophesying the letters of the Law as the words of faith or prophecy, rather the WORD of the LORD came unto them (as the Rhema) and they ran with it to prophesy cum declare unto those concerned or the situation that was to be addressed.

Jer.1:1-10,11-19 (Vr.4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, **Vr.5** Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. **Vr.6** Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. **Vr.7** But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak (that is the way of faith). **Vr.9** Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD

said unto me, Behold, I have put my words (*of faith*) in thy mouth. **Vr.11** Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree. **Vr.12** Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word (*of faith*) to perform it (*to produce the works of faith*). **Vr.17** Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.

Other examples-

(a) The ten (10) plagues of God upon Egypt prophesied by **Moses his servant- Exo. 7;8;9;10;11;12**

Exo 7:16 And thou shalt say unto him (*the word of faith*), The LORD God of the Hebrews hath sent me unto thee, saying, Let my people go, that they may serve me in the wilderness: and, behold, hitherto thou wouldest not hear (*faith*). **Vr.17** Thus saith the LORD, In this thou shalt know that I am the LORD: behold, I will smite with the rod that is in mine hand upon the waters which are in the river, and they shall be turned to blood (*the works of faith*). **Vr.19** And the LORD spake (*the word of faith*) unto Moses, Say unto Aaron, Take thy rod, and stretch out thine hand upon the waters of Egypt, upon their streams, upon their rivers, and upon their ponds, and upon all their pools of water, that they may become blood; and that there may be blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in vessels of wood, and in vessels of stone (*the works of faith*). **Vr.20** And Moses and Aaron did so, as the LORD commanded; and he lifted up the rod, and smote the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh, and in the sight of his servants; and all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood

(b) **Samuel the Prophet- I Sam 3:1-21 (Vr.1** And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli (*in the temple of God yet he had never heard the voice of God before*). And the word of the LORD (*the word of faith*) was precious in those days; there was no open vision. **Vr.10** And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. **Vr.11** And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle. **Vr.15** And Samuel lay until the morning, and opened the doors of the house of the LORD. And Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision. **Vr.19** And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground (*the words of faith*). **Vr.20** And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the LORD. **Vr.21** And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD (*the words of faith*).

(c) **Prophet Elijah- I Kings 17:1-16 (Vr.1** And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, 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 (*the word of faith he receives from the LORD*). **Vr.2** And the word of the LORD came unto him (*the word of faith*), saying, **Vr.3** Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. **Vr.4** And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. **Vr.5** So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD (*obedience to the word of faith*); for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. **Vr.6** And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook (*the works of faith resulting from the word of faith given even to the ravens*).

I Kings 18:1-46 (Vr.1 And it came to pass after many days, that the word of the LORD (*the word of faith*) came to Elijah in the third year, saying, Go, shew thyself unto Ahab; and I will send rain upon the earth (*the works of faith that shall follow*). **Vr.2** And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.

(d) **Prophet Ezekiel – Ezek 37:1-28 (Vr.1** The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, **Vr.3** And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest (*he had not received the word of faith yet*). **Vr.4** Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD (*the coming of the word of faith*). **Vr.5** Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I (*the LORD not Ezekiel*) will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: **Vr.6** And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD. **Vr.7** So I prophesied (*the word of faith*) as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone. **Vr.8** And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them. **Vr.9** Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live (*the word of faith given*). **Vr.10** So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

(e) **Jesus Christ – Lk 5:1-11 (Vr. 4** Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught (*the word of faith given*). **Vr.5** And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word (*of faith*) I will let down the net. **Vr.6** And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake (*the works of faith manifests*).

Jn 4:46-54 (Vr.47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of

death. **Vr.48** Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders (*the works of faith*), ye will not believe. **Vr.49** The nobleman saith unto him, Sir, come down ere my child die. **Vr.50** Jesus saith unto him, "Go thy way; thy son liveth (*the word of faith*)."
And the man believed the word (*of faith*) that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way. **Vr.51** And as he was now going down, his servants met him, and told him, saying, Thy son liveth. **Vr.52** Then enquired he of them the hour when he began to amend. And they said unto him, Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him. **Vr.53** So the father knew that it was at the same hour, in the which Jesus said unto him, "Thy son liveth:" and himself believed, and his whole house.

Mtt 8:5-13 (Vr.7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. **Vr.8** The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word (*of faith-give the command*) only, and my servant shall be healed (*the work of faith shall happen*). **Vr.9** For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. **Vr.10** When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. **Vr.13** And Jesus said unto the centurion, "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee (*the word of faith released*). And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour (*the work of faith manifested*).

Mtt 17:14-21 (Vr.17 Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. **Vr.18** And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. **Vr.20** And Jesus said unto them, "Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith (*the word of faith as given by God*) as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say (*that word of faith*) unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove (*ye shall see the work of faith*); and nothing shall be impossible unto you. **Vr.21** Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting (*that is by waiting upon the LORD to receive the word of faith to speak without which the mountain would not move*).

A man or servant of God that hath a word of faith from the LORD hath authority and power in his tongue and he can speak life or death even as the LORD giveth him utterance/commandeth him and it shall be done by heaven. The words of faith when received and declared produce works of faith in the form of miracles, signs and wonders, for this is how all the prophets of old operated with God even Christ himself. **Mtt 18:18-19; Jn 20:22-23; Acts 2:1-4; Acts 5:1-11; Acts 13:4-12**

Jn 6:63 the words (*of faith*) that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing.

Jn 14:10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words (*of faith*) that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works (*of faith*).

Mtt 21:17-22 (Vr.19) And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, "Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever(*the word of faith*). And presently the fig tree withered away (*the works of faith*). **Vr.20** And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away! **Vr.21** Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have (*the word of*) faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

Isa 53:1 Who hath believed our report (*the word of faith we preach*)? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed (*the works of faith that God does*)?

Rev 19:10 See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus (*the word of faith*) is the spirit of prophecy.

[II] Word of faith meant to produce abiding fruit - the fruit of the Spirit: given by Christ as a doctrine, commandment, the testimony of Jesus, the great commission gospel to be carried out by his disciples in righteousness throughout the whole world. This requires our laboring with God by grace and enduring unto the end (**Phil 2:12-13; I Tim 6:11-12**). As he declared severally in the gospel of the kingdom of God:

Jn 15:1-21 (Vr.4) 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. **Vr.5** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **Vr.7** If ye abide in me, and my words (*of faith*) abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. **Vr.8** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit (*the works of faith*); so shall ye be my disciples. **Vr.9** As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. **Vr.10** If ye keep my commandments (*words/works of faith*), ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. **Vr.16** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit (*works of faith*), and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. **Vr.17** These things I command you (*words of faith*), that ye love one another.

Mtt 13:18-23 (Vr.19) When any one heareth the word of the kingdom (*the word of faith*), and understandeth it not (*he cannot do the works of faith*), **Vr.23** But he that received seed into the

good ground is he that heareth the word (*of faith*), and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit (*works of faith*), and bringeth forth

Mtt 7:13-27 (Vr.20 Wherefore by their fruits (*works of faith*) ye shall know them. **Vr.21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven (*works of faith*). **Vr.23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity (*rather than work faith*).

Vr.24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine (*words of faith*), and doeth them (*works of faith*), I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Lk 6:46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things (*the works of faith*) which I say (*word of faith*)?

SPIRIT OF FAITH

The word that we preach in the gospel is the word of faith and the Spirit that we receive of Christ is the Spirit of faith in order that we might do faith continually. **I Cor 2:4-7,10-14; Rom 8:15-16**

2 Cor 4:13 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 (*the word of faith according to the spirit of faith that dwelleth in us*);

Jn 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

I Cor 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: **Vr.5** That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. **Vr.10** But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. **Vr.11** For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. **Vr.12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit (*of faith*) which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. **Vr.13** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth (*the words of faith*); comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Jn 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments (*thereby having faith*). **Vr.16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; **Vr.17** Even the Spirit of truth (*which is the Spirit of faith*); whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Christ fulfilled the promise of the Father to all those that believe in him and obey his commandments, which was to give them the Spirit of faith, the gift of God, that promise by faith of Jesus Christ as it were, by which they are to live and walk in faith. Without being led by the Spirit of faith you cannot manifest living faith. **Jn 1:11-13; Acts 1:8; Lk 24:46-49; Jam 2:20,26; Rom 8:9,14**

Jn 4:10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God (*the Spirit of faith*), and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. **Vr.14** But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Jn 7:37-39 (Vr.38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. **Vr.39** (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given;

Gal 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ (*that is the Spirit of faith*) might be given to them that believe. **Vr.25** But after that faith is come (*by the Holy Ghost release*), we are no longer under a schoolmaster (*the Law*). **Vr.26** For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus (*How? by receiving of the Spirit of faith/truth from Jesus Christ in baptism- Rom 8:9,16; Jn 1:12-13; I Cor.12:13*). **Vr.1** O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? **Vr.2** This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit (*of faith*) by the works of the law, or by the hearing of (*the word of*) faith?

For all those that truly believe in Christ Jesus, you must receive the Spirit of faith by the hearing of the word of faith (**Gal 3:2; Acts 19:1-6**) in the gospel, the laying on of hands, in order to do the works of faith continually by grace in righteousness without which one cannot be said to be born again as it were. Do not be deceived, you compulsorily need to receive the Spirit of faith in baptism for you to do the words of faith in the gospel, the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, for in the flesh no man can please God. The apostles/disciples could not be sent out to preach this gospel of faith without first receiving the Spirit of faith, if not their preaching/witnessing would have been an exercise in futility. **Jn 15:26-27; Lk 24:44-49; Acts 1:8**

Rom 8:8-11 (Vr.9) But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

I Jn 4:12-13 (Vr.13) Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

For faith in a believer to be living such a faith must be Spirit driven unto producing the fruit of the Spirit by grace, that is, good works, as it were, if not such a faith is dead. It is the Spirit that giveth life. **2 Cor 3:6**

2 Cor 4:13 We having the same spirit of faith (*How?*)

1 Cor 2:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Jam 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead so also faith without works is dead.

The word of faith is initially preached to you with the intent that by truly believing ye might receive the Spirit of faith thereafter and begin to live by that Spirit unto life. Without your receiving the Spirit of faith then the word of faith is of no use in your life but mere letter that killeth. The word we preach is the word of faith, while the spirit we are led by is the Spirit of faith. So our whole life as a Christian is a life of faith basically. When you are established in faith and you operate by the Spirit of faith then you would begin to see faith as you read the scriptures and hear faith coming out from the word of God continually in your heart. By the Spirit of faith at work in you, you labour by grace through faith unto producing good works that are acceptable before God as it were. **Eph 2:8-10**

The Spirit of truth operates by faith (and that is why we call it the Spirit of faith also) in order to accomplish the commandments of Christ, even as Christ operated by faith in order to fulfill the commandments that the Father gave unto him to do during his first advent on earth. Faith cometh by hearing the words of Christ and that is how the Spirit of truth receives faith in order to speak and witness Christ, doing the works of Christ (*works of faith*) in order that Christ might be glorified. So the Spirit of truth operates by faith with Christ even as Christ operated by faith with the Father while on earth. How?

Jn 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear (*the word of faith from Christ*), that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. **Vr.14** He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine (*the words of faith*), and shall shew it unto you (*the works of faith*)

Jn 8:28 And that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me (*the words of faith*), I speak these things (*the words of faith*). **Vr.29** For I do (*the works of faith*) always those things that please him (*for without faith it is impossible to please Him*)

Jn 5:19-20 (Vr.19) The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do (*the works of faith*): for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son (*the works of faith*) likewise (*that He may be pleased*). **Vr.30** I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear (*the words*

of faith), I judge: **Vr.20** For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth (*the works of faith*): and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel.

We also that witness Christ by the Spirit of truth are meant to operate the very same way of faith as Christ operated and the Spirit operates presently (**Jn 15:26-27**). How? **Jn 12:49-50**

Jn 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words (*of faith*) abide in you, **Vr.5** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If the words of Christ richly dwell in a man (**Colo 3:15-17**) and also the Spirit of Christ (**Rom 8:9-11**), then such a man shall hear his voice continually if he hearkens to do them, thereby having faith and being led accordingly (**Rom 8:14**). Example,

Mtt 10:16-42 (Vr.19) But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you (*the word of faith*) in that same hour what ye shall speak. **Vr.20** For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father (*the spirit of faith*) which speaketh in you.

Mtt 16:13-20 (Vr.16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God (*the word of faith*). **Vr.17** And Jesus answered and said unto him, "Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven (*by the Spirit of faith*).

VARIOUS DEFINITIONS OF FAITH

From all the foregoing we can venture some simple basic definitions of faith as follows:

- Faith means to hear the voice of the word of God, the word of the kingdom, the word of life, the word of truth and to keep or do them accordingly.
- Faith is receiving and knowing the will of God and doing it.
- Faith is being given the commandments of God, receiving and keeping them.
- Faith is tied to OBEDIENCE to the word of God that God speaks to your heart
- Faith is to hearken unto the voice of the LORD
- To hear the voice of the LORD and to do it is faith
- Faith is hearing the TRUTH and doing it
- Faith is doing whatsoever Christ hath commanded us to do.
- Faith is hearing the voice of Christ and obeying it.

Hearing from God and doing the things you hear is what faith generally is all about.

Lk 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Lk 8:11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. **Vr.15** But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. **Vr.21** And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.

Jn 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that (*hath faith and*) loveth me: **Vr.23** Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: **Vr.31** But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do.

Jn 2:5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.

Jn 10:27 My sheep hear my voice (*that is how faith comes*), and I know them, and they follow me:

Jn 18:37 Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice (*hath faith*).

Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, (*such have faith*)

Deu 13:4 Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

Without hearing the voice of the Lord, the spoken word of God in your heart, you cannot receive faith, talk less of do faith and therefore cannot be said to have faith as it were.

Faith does not come by merely reading the written word of God as contained in the scriptures and gospel or by mere confession of them, the letters of the word; rather faith comes in the hearing of the voice of the words of the Lord that the Father hath put in your mind and written in your heart by His Spirit which He uses to teach you before you confess them with your mouth and do them by grace accordingly. Every one that truly hears the Father cometh to the Son that he might heal him. **Jn 6:44-45,65; 2 Cor 3:6-9; Hebr 8:8-11; Mtt 13:14-16**

2 Cor 3:1-3 (Vr.3) Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

Many do not hear the voice of the Lord in the letters of the words of the Bible that they read rather they hear other voices, such as that of men that are their mentors/pastors, sin in their flesh (as feelings), devils (unclean spirits) in their minds, evil thoughts, and worldly voices. Why? Because they know not nor have received of Christ's Spirit in baptism. Men, generally, hear and

speaking according to the spirit at work in them, which speak unto them as voices in their minds, conscience, and heart as it were. **Jn 14:15-17; Lk 9:51-56; I Cor 2:10-14; I Cor 12:2; Eph 2:1-3**

In such are fulfilled the scriptures as in

Jer 5:21 Hear now this, O foolish people, and without understanding; which have eyes, and see not; which have ears, and hear not:

Ezek 12:1-2 (Vr.1 The word of the LORD also came unto me, saying, **Vr.2** Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they are a rebellious house.

Mtt 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. **Vr.14** And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

Those that are without faith are like the idols that they worship whether openly or secretly in their hearts knowingly or unknowingly unto them as it were:

Ps 115:4-8(Vr.4 Their idols are silver and gold (mammon), the work of men's hands. **Vr.5** They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: **Vr.6** They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: **Vr.8** They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.

And as they do not receive genuine faith they resort to the hypocritical manner of the CAO as in

Mtt 15:7 Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, **Vr.8** This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. **Vr.9** But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Unfortunately they that are ministers of the Church as an organization (CAO), being the chief hypocrites, have complicated and twisted the true meaning of faith unto creating complexities and ambiguities where the understanding of the definition of faith is, causing many, that are their adherents, to be operating erroneously according to the flawed meaning given to them of what faith is as it were. Christ warned us about this. When? **Lk 8:18; Mk 4:24-25; Mtt 23:1-3; Mtt 16:6-12**

Ps 11:3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?

The meaning of faith and the understanding thereof is a critical foundation of our Christianity that has been destroyed and the righteous find themselves victims of the error therein till date.

HOW DID JESUS TEACH US ABOUT FAITH?

Jesus taught us about faith through several parables of his from different angles/perspectives but pointing to the very same meaning, though men yet do not see, hear nor understand them (**Mk 4:11-13**). Firstly by the way he related with his Father, as we have been able to see from the previous sections above on how he walked by faith here on earth. This has been hidden from the religious leaders of the CAOs of today, who hear every other servant of God in the Bible (both old and new testament servants) but not the very Son of God that we are commanded to hear and by whom we are to receive faith as it were. He did all things well. **Mtt 13:9-15; Mtt 11:27-30; Jn 10:27; Jn 16:33**

We shall look at some of the topics under which Christ taught us about faith in his doctrine:

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Christ came preaching about the kingdom of God and doing good works (the works of faith). Even after his resurrection from the dead he continued to teach his disciples, that he showed himself unto, things pertaining to the kingdom of God over a forty day period as it were. **Mtt 4:17; Mtt 9:35; Acts 1:1-5,8; Acts 10:38**

Mtt 4:23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom (*the gospel of faith*), and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people (*doing works of faith*).

Faith is of the kingdom of God, for without faith you cannot receive the kingdom of God within you presently nor access the coming kingdom of God at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ at the last day. We receive and operate the kingdom of God and the righteousness of God within us by the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus preached and taught about the kingdom of God he was invariably teaching us about faith but so many are unaware of this fact.

Mtt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; (*How? by faith*)

The preaching of the kingdom of God is synonymous with preaching about faith in many instances. The mysteries of the kingdom of heaven have to do with the mysteries of faith. If you are able to have understanding of the kingdom of heaven/kingdom of God then you would also have entered into the understanding of faith and vice versa. It is those that have faith that shall enter into the kingdom of God at the last day. **Mtt 13:11**

Mtt 7:21-23 (Vr.21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that (*hath faith*) doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Mk 4:13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

The kingdom of God comes to dwell in the heart on men by faith by reason of your receiving the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit is received by the hearing of faith. **Gal 3:1-5; Acts 19:1-6; Mtt 12:28; Rom 14:17**

By preaching about the kingdom of heaven, you are preaching/communicating/sowing the word of faith in the hearts of your hearers. **Mtt 13:3-9, 18-23**

Lk 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: **Vr.21** "Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you. ((How?) by faith. Then what is faith? Faith is obedience to the word of God-hearing and doing it).

When we talk about the word of God here we are not talking in general terms but specifically of the word of the kingdom of God that Christ taught: the word of the kingdom is the word of faith that is by Christ Jesus, as it were.

Even as Christ, severally, referred to the kingdom of God as a seed sown, so also he likened faith as a seed sown in the hearts of men. How do you sow a seed in men's heart? By the words spoken to them, the words they hear and believe. **Mtt 13:31; Prov 4:23; Mk 4:24; Lk 8:18; Jn 14:24; Acts 3:22; Acts 7:37; Heb 8:10-11**

Mk 4:26-29 (Vr.26 And he said, so is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground. **Vr.27** And should sleep and rise, night and day and the seed should spring and grow, he knoweth not how.

Mk 4:30-32 (Vr.30 And he said, where unto shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what comparison shall we compare it? **Vr.31** It is like a grain of mustard seed which when it is sown in the earth is less than all the seeds that be in the earth;

Mtt 17:20 And Jesus said unto them, because of your unbelief; for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Lk 17:5 And the apostles said unto the Lord increase our faith. **Vr.6** and the Lord said, if ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might (*then*) say unto this sycamore tree

Question is- What is the seed? The word of God, in particular the word of the kingdom of God -

Lk 8:10-11 (Vr.11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God (*the word of faith*).

Mtt 13:18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. **Vr.19** When any one heareth the word of the kingdom (*faith comes*),

Jn 15:7 If ye abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you.

If you receive the word of faith in your heart, but do not understand it having not received the Spirit within you that giveth the understanding thereof, then you cannot bring any fruit that you produce to perfection and thereby becoming unfruitful, without faith and unprofitable to the Master as it were. The kingdom of God is a fruitful kingdom and ye cannot bear fruit in that kingdom without having faith. **Mtt 13:3-9, 18-23; Lk 8:4-10,11-15**

A FAITHFUL SERVANT

Christ also taught us about faith in all his parables concerning faithfulness, servants that are diligent, wise and faithful. What does it mean to be faithful? It simply means “to be full of faith”. Christ taught us about faith by teaching us to be faithful. Those that have faith are wise in the sight of God, as it were they have the wisdom of God at work in them.

Lk 12:42 And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? **Vr. 43** Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. **Vr.44** Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.

Lk 18:7-8 (Vr.8 Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith (*those doing his commandments*) on the earth?

Faith was taught by Christ as faithfulness and wisdom found amongst diligent and faithful servants of a master cum lord throughout his parable teachings. So if you want to understand what faith is amongst men then understand the secret of faithfulness amongst stewards under a lord or master that shall tell you or define the essence of faith in a man.

Lk 17:5-10 (Vr.5 And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith. **Vr.6** And the Lord said, "If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you. **Vr.7** But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? **Vr.8** And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink? **Vr.9** Doth he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. **Vr.10** So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those

things which are commanded you (*this is what being full of faith means*), say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do (*i.e. faith – Eccl 12:13*).

Jn 2:3-9 (Vr.5 His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. (*This is the meaning of faith*)

Faithful and wise stewards/servants are mindful to watch and pray for the coming of their master, being also mindful to be doing that which he had commanded them to do when he left them to embark on his foreign trip/journey to get a kingdom and return. If you can decode the effectiveness and workings of servants that received commendation and rewards from their lord at his return from his journey then you can decode what faith is all about or means. **Mtt 24:42-51**

Examples can be found in: The parable of the ten (10) virgins- **Mtt 25:1-13**; Parable of the Talents- **Mtt 25:14-30**; Parable of the sheep and goats- **Mtt 25:31-46**; The parable of the pounds- **Lk 19:11-27**, and so on. **Lk 12:35-38,39-41,42-48**

Lk 16:10-15 (Vr.10 He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. **Vr.11** If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? **Vr.12** And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? **Vr.13** No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. **Vr.14** And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him. **Vr.15** And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

The ministers of the CAO are modern day Pharisees of our times, covetous, always craving for that which is highly esteemed amongst men and teaching their numerous adherents to do same. **Mtt 23:1-7**

DOING THE WILL OF GOD

Christ taught about faith by teaching us to do the will of his Father which art in heaven and his own commandments as it were.

Mtt 21:28-32 (Vr.28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. **Vr.29** He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. **Vr.30** And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. **Vr.31** Whether of them twain did the will of his father (*had faith*)? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you,

That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. **Vr.32** For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

Mtt 6:9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Vr.10** Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven (*prayer of faith*).

Mtt 7:21-23 (**Vr.21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that (*hath faith*) doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Lk 6:46-49 (**Vr.46** And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and (*have not faith*) do not the things which I say? **Vr.47** Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them (*he it is that has faith*), I will shew you to whom he is like: **Vr.48** He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

HEAR JESUS IN ALL THINGS

Qn: What is the Father's will that we are to do in order to receive faith? Hear His Son in all things that he saith unto us and to do accordingly all that he commands us.

Mtt 17:1-9 (**Vr.5** While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; **hear ye him.**

Acts 3:19-23 (**Vr.22** For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you (*that is how faith comes*). **Vr.23** And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Acts 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; **him shall ye hear.**

Jn 6:37-40 (**Vr.40** And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Lk 12:47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will (*is not a faithful servant*), shall be beaten with many stripes. **Vr.48** But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes (*but both end up in the same place but with varying degrees of punishment. So ignorance shall not be an excuse on that day- Acts 17:30-31; Titus 2:11-15*). For unto whomsoever much is given, of

him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Faith cometh by hearing the word of God. Who is the Word of God? Jesus Christ. Therefore, faith cometh by hearing Jesus Christ, the Son of God, as it were, the author and finisher of our faith, that is our submission- first, hear ye the Son of God, Jesus Christ in all things before any other man no matter how highly anointed he is- Abraham, Moses, Paul, etc. **Jn. 3:10-13,30-36; Jn. 8:23,58; I Cor. 15:47**

BEING FRUITFUL

Christ taught about faith in his teachings to us about bearing fruit that shall abide, being fruitful, being profitable as it were. Faith is knowing the will of God and doing it accordingly unto bearing fruits that are pleasing unto God, for without faith no man can bear fruits that can please the Lord. It is through the Spirit of faith, the Spirit of God that knows the mind of God that you can know and do the will of God constantly producing the fruit of the Spirit thereby. It is through the Spirit of Christ that you can know and have the mind of Christ in you. **I Cor 2:9-16**

Unfortunately, the CAO erroneously teach bearing fruits always to mean one winning souls for Christ contrary to what Christ taught. We are branches in the vine that individually are meant to bring forth fruit on our own branch for the Master (**Jn. 15:4-5**), not to bring forth fruit on another branch. The fruits we are to bear are the fruits of righteousness, the fruit of the Spirit and not souls. It is the husbandman, the Father that saves souls not man (**Mtt 19:25-26; Ezek 18:4**). It is not in the power of any man to save another, rather it is given unto us to preach the true gospel that bringeth about the manifestation of that power of God which saves others, that is the good works that we do in evangelism, while we continue to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling in holiness without which no man can see the Lord. **I Cor. 1:18; I Cor. 9:24-27; Phil 2:12; Lk 1:74-75; Lk 13:23-24,25-30; Hebr 12:13-15**

Jn. 15:1-8,16-17 (Vr.2 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. **Vr.4** 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. **Vr.5** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **Vr.7** If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, **Vr.8** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. **Vr.16** Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain:

Jn. 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

Mtt 13:18-23 (Vr.23) But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty (*this is the heart that hath faith*).

Mtt 7:15-20 (Vr.16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? **Vr.17** Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. **Vr.18** A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. **Vr.19** Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. **Vr.20** Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

God gives faith to His children for fruit bearing purposes for that is what pleases Him in us. If you receive faith and you do not bear fruit then you are an unfruitful tree like Adam was in the garden of Eden. **Lk 13:6-9**

CONCLUSION

There is so much to know and talk about faith, such as- the basis for our faith under the New Testament; old time faith (faith under the Old Testament) versus the faith that came by Christ Jesus; how to walk in faith; who has faith and who doesn't; the measure of faith; Is there anything really like asking in faith or receiving by faith?; faith is given and faith must be received; not all men have faith, the just shall live by faith, and so much more.

This is but the intro to our further discuss on faith which we shall continue in sequels to follow by the grace of God, for now there is a pertinent need for us to consider and digest that which has already be said herein and to ask God to give you understanding in them thus far. It shall form the foundation of our future sequels on faith as it were.

Whatever way, angle, view or perspective one may want to define or understand faith if it does not end up in "the doing of the will of God and pleasing He", who is a Spirit and not flesh, then such cannot be a true representation of faith. Why? Because the CAO have in several ways portrayed the faith that is by Christ Jesus as a means of acquiring the carnal things of this world, reigning and dominating their fellowmen on earth and the likes but this is an error.

Faith is for living spiritually in this carnal world of ours and not for pursuing the very same things that the Gentiles seek after. It is those that worship and serve God in spirit and in truth that have faith, not those that walk after the flesh. Brethren, you compulsorily need to start hearing from the Spirit of God, because for too long you have stayed and remained in the state

of reading of the letters of the Bible, and hearing men thereafter, you need to more on unto perfection. **Rom 8:4-9; Mtt 6:32-33; Deu 2:1-3; Hebr 5:11-14**

Jn. 4:20-24 (Vr.23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. **Vr.24** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Be looking forward to the sequels, until then may the good Lord and Shepherd of our soul keep you by his Spirit that he has given to all those that truly believe, in Jesus name. Amen

Eccl 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments (*this is what faith is*): for this is the whole duty of man.

FEEDBACK

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA.