# **The Missing Ingredient**

<u>Hebrews 4:2</u> For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, <u>not being mixed with faith</u> in them that heard it.

**<u>2 Corinthians 3:6</u>** Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

### WHAT IS FAITH?

- **Webster's Dictionary:** firm belief in something for which there is no proof; complete confidence
- Unger's Bible Dictionary: conviction of the reality of the truths and facts that God has revealed, based solely upon the testimony of God.

<u>Hebrews 11:1</u> Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**GREEK:** "substance" = "a standing under, a support, a title deed"

<u>Hebrews 11:6</u> But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

<u>Matthew 9:29</u> Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

# **HOW DOES FAITH WORK?**

- It must be a constant attitude/lifestyle, not just a life preserver!
  Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
- It must be unashamedly vocalized.

Romans 10:8-10 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; That thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

• It must be accompanied by action.

<u>James 2:17-20</u> Even so faith, <u>if it hath not works</u>, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my <u>faith by my works</u>. Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that <u>faith without works is dead</u>?

It must disregard the obstacles.

Romans 4:19-21 And being not weak in faith, he <u>considered not</u> his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He <u>staggered not</u> at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being <u>fully persuaded</u> that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

It will not operate effectively where there is doubt present.

Mark 11:23-24 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

<u>Mark 6:4-5</u> But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And <u>he</u> <u>could there do no mighty work</u>, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

## **DEGREES OF FAITH**

LITTLE FAITH - "Why Are You Fearful?"
 (Battles Fear and Doubts God Constantly)

<u>Disciples in Storm</u> - <u>Matthew 8:26</u> And he saith unto them, <u>Why</u> are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

<u>Peter Walking on Water</u> - <u>Matthew 14:31</u> And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O <u>thou</u> of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

<u>Sermon on the Mount</u> - <u>Matthew 6:30</u> Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, <u>shall he not much more</u> clothe you, O <u>ye of little faith</u>?

 FAITH - "Your Faith Has Made You Whole" (Needs Immediate Sign or Feeling to Confirm)

<u>Woman With Issue of Blood</u> - <u>Matthew 9:22</u> But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; <u>thy faith hath made thee whole</u>. And the woman was made whole <u>from that hour</u>.

<u>Blind Bartimaeus</u> - <u>Mark 10:52</u> And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; <u>thy faith hath made thee whole</u>. And <u>immediately</u> he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.

 GREAT FAITH (only 2X in NT) - "Be It As You Will" (Believes "Long Distance" - Without Sign or Feeling)

<u>Centurion with Sick Servant</u> - <u>Matthew 8:10,13</u> When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so <u>great faith</u>, no, not in Israel ... And Jesus said unto the centurion, <u>Go thy way</u>; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.

Woman with Demon-Possessed Daughter - Matthew 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

# MISSING INGREDIENT – MIX THE WORD WITH FAITH!

**Hebrews 4:2** For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, <u>not being mixed with</u> faith in them that heard it.

### THE RESULTS OF MIXING THE WORD WITH FAITH:

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

# THE WORD OPERATES IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF FAITH!