

The Substance of Our Faith

Galatians 5:6 AMPC

[6] For if we are in Christ Jesus, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision count for anything, but only faith activated and energized and expressed and working through love.

Hebrews 11:6 AMPC

[6] But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must necessarily believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him out.

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

[1] Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

An NFL Buffalo Bills player named Kevin Everette made a tackle on a kickoff return with a wrong technique that cost him his career. He appeared to duck his head a split second before making the contact, leaving himself with a catastrophic spinal cord injury. His very life was in danger for the first week after the injury. Doctors did not know if he would even live. Trainers examining the injury said Kevin Everette used wrong techniques that cost him his career.

- And so it is with you and when using faith to tackle God's love, sin, and Satan.
- Like Kevin Everette, we can use the wrong techniques of faith and injure our faith.
- Injured faith is discouraged or disillusioned faith.
- So, when I fight wrong I am giving my opponent an advantage over the battle.
- Thus, I experience the injury to my faith that inevitably shows up in how I love myself and others.

We need to talk about faith today because:

1. Too often what we are calling faith is really our emotions and feelings speaking for our will and actions.
2. Our faith has to be rooted in His love for us and not our love for Him.
3. Love and faith go together. They are inseparable.
4. So, when faith worketh by love this means we focus our will power in the Love of God's Word and spirit for us.
5. I need to learn and activate God's Word in order to properly fight the good fight of faith with God's love working through me.

This subject is important because:

- Our faith it is impossible to please the Lord.
- **Romans 5:1-2** says we are justified by faith. This means when all of your five senses are screaming at you to not trust God and loved ones you must pull out this verse and quote it to yourself.
- This means when you cannot feel God, or you battle rejection and loneliness, you stand on this verse in your daily prayer time.
- When you are facing the condemnation of your past, or the guilt of your present, you activate this verse. Let's read it in the Amplified.

[1] THEREFORE, SINCE we are justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us grasp the fact that we have the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). [2] Through Him also we have our access (entrance, introduction)

by faith into this grace (state of God's favor) in which we firmly and safely stand. And let us rejoice and exult in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God.

- This kind of attitude pleases the Lord. It will cause the miraculous to show up.
- This is the substance of our faith when we starve our five senses to declare God's Word.
- We need the right fighting techniques to survive the attacks on our faith.

Faith not only works by love but also through grace:

- Come to God deserving of nothing. But faith says His grace is available for me.
- You cannot look at your good or bad track record and try to feel good about your walk with God.
- We should always feel good about doing a good job at a task.
- But if you want to see and move the miraculous you have to fight with the right techniques.
- **ONLY** faith can activate grace.
- This means when faith activates grace God causes me to become an overachiever at my job and ministry.
- Grace gives me what I don't deserve when faith is applied. Let's read **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Ephesians 2:8-9 AMPC

[8] For it is by free grace (God's unmerited favor) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation) through your faith. And this salvation is not of yourselves of your own doing, it came not through your own striving, but it is the gift of God; 9] Not because of your track record of works.

It is not by the fulfilling of all of the rules and policies of an organization, or the fulfillment of the Law's demands, lest any man should boast.

It is not the result of what anyone can possibly do, so no one can pride himself in it or take glory to himself. This is where some of you are stuck.

- Compare your strengths and weaknesses with others and you no longer have the right kind of faith.
- We look at the wretchedness of this flesh or the repeating failures of the past and we no longer can show faith working by love in human relationships.
- No devil, I am justified by the finished works of Jesus Christ.
- I stand on His grace by faith for those things that overwhelm me.
- And in spite of me or my circumstances I openly declare God still will perform the miraculous in my life.

Some of us say, "Well I just don't have any faith right now." Well, the Bible says every one of us have been given the measure of faith. The problem is we either don't know enough of the Word to activate it, or our faith has been injured by failed expectations. Read **Romans 12:3**

Romans 12:3 AMPC

[3] For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate and think of himself more highly than he ought not to. In other words, stop putting your opinions and feelings above the word of God and you might be able to build some faith in your life.

- When faith is not working by love we either wrestle with pride or low self-esteem because we have no substance of faith to love in human relationships.
- Goes on to say avoid trying to have an exaggerated opinion of your own importance, because this will hinder your ability to activate faith.

- In other words, it's okay not to control and have your way in close relationships. You don't always have to force your influence on people to get them to like you.
- This is the substance of our faith. This means to rate your ability with sober judgment and the fear of the Lord. You rate your ability based on faith working by love.
- This activates the supernatural and grace over and above your abilities.
- If you live by faith, only in your abilities, you will live in fear and intimidation of people and your circumstances.
- Paul concludes in this verse we all have faith according to the degree of apportioned by God to us.

I never realized how hostile my flesh and human nature is towards faith itself, until God showed me this in prayer.

- * I have noticed when I am under the pressure of deadlines and high expectations I experience panic attacks on my faith.
- * Where I wrestle with the thoughts God will reject or abandon my efforts.
- * This produces high anxieties and the fear of failure.
- * And it can happen so subtly I don't realize what's going on until I get to praying.
- * We see this with King Saul at Gilgal **1 Samuel 13:6-12**. He was told by Samuel to wait seven days at Gilgal for him.
- * Saul panicked, and it made him impatient and very fearful.
- * There is a risk with exercising faith. You could look like a fool. You may get talked about or rejected by people. You may suffer being misunderstood. You could lose valuable things in your life trying to believe. But this is the substance of our faith. Read **1 Sam. 13:6-12**

1 Samuel 13:6-12 AMPC

[6] When the men of Israel saw that they were in a tight situation--for their troops were hard pressed--they hid in caves, holes, rocks, tombs, and pits or cisterns. [7] Some Hebrews had gone over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. [8] Saul waited seven days, according to the set time Samuel had appointed. But Samuel had not come to Gilgal, and the people were scattering from Saul. [9] So Saul said, bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings.

- Saul still went to church. He still kept his routines, but he lost the substance of faith.
- All because his faith no longer worked from the love for God's word, will, or obedience to the man of God.
- So, he offered the burnt offering which he was forbidden to do in verse nine. ***10] And just as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came! Saul went out to meet and greet him.***
- Now God shows up at the end of the seventh day. Samuel did show up on day seven.
- Worry, high anxieties, and loss of love will make you panic and go against God's Word for your life.
- So, in verse ***11] Samuel said, what have you done?***
- Saul is consumed with his self-centered dilemma. He is full of justification. There is no longer any substance of faith.
- He is even blame shifting the problem back to Samuel and he says, Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines were assembled at Michmash, ***[12] I thought, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the Lord. So, I forced myself to offer a burnt offering.***
- This is exactly where some of us are right now.
- Saul's faith was no longer rooted in love. It was rooted out of duty and compliance. He put the fear and the opinions of the people ahead of the fear of God. He lost the substance of faith.

The substance of our faith and the things hoped for speaks to the hostility of own flesh and sin nature.

- The substance of our faith will wrestle with relationship resentment and unforgiveness.
- Faith works by love with substance when we face head on condemnation and failed expectations.
- The substance of our faith stands toe to toe to debilitating fears seeking to paralyze our trust to love each other.
- The substance of our faith is solely rooted in Calvary's finished works.
- I am justified by faith. This is supposed to produce an attitude of the Fruit of the Spirit while I activate faith.
- His grace comes by faith. This causes me to relax while under pressure.
- Faith activated puts love into action. Now I am not just doctrinal or spiritual talk. I show my faith in committed love to others. Otherwise we spiritualized our disobedience to love right out of the lesson God is trying to teach us. This is the substance of our faith.
- For faith without works is dead.
- I got relatives like that. They say I love you. They say I believe God can do anything but as soon as you ask them to inconvenience themselves for you they have a hundred and one excuses why they cannot do it.
- Our love measures our faith in action towards one another. This is the substance of our faith.

So how do we activate our faith? In five ways.

Faith is activated by:

1. Our mouths and heart-**Mark 11:23** says speak unto the mountain. Engage your mouth and heart together when dealing with your five senses. You must open your mouth when applying faith for the miraculous. We speak God's Word to the mountains of our predicament. Or you will inevitably speak negatively, discouragement. One or the other and by the way both worlds are very real. We are speaking so much junk into our lives that God does not want us to have. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.
2. Faith is activated by our worship and consecration. - The book of **Jude 1:23** says we build up our most holy faith praying in the Holy Ghost. We must brag on the finished works of Jesus at Calvary in order to justify our faith. We teach around here worship is a weapon of warfare that is vital to our human existence. Some of you have lost the substance of faith in this area. And you can get it back today building your most holy faith up. We start by repentance and receiving the Holy Ghost-if we have beaver spoken in tongues before. We start by praying in the spirit. This requires the persistence of faith. The substance of faith tells me this is what is required in order to operate faith by love. When Jesus saw the Syrophoenicians worship He released the miraculous to her daughter.
3. The third way to activate faith is by our obedience to God's Word and Spirit. Nothing ever substitutes obedience to God's Word. Psalms 15:4 says blessed is the man that in his own hurt he swears with not. Sometimes the whole issue in a battle is teaching us to declare and stand in faith when the pain has not gone away when we thought it should have. All because God seeks to perfect obedience of His Word by faith through grace. This obedience is the substance of our faith.
4. The fourth way to activate faith is by our fasting. Jesus said these kind goes out by prayer and fasting. Fasting kills the unbelief and hopelessness we feel when we are challenged to believe God and His Word.
5. The last and fifth way to activate our faith is in our actions- Mary in **John 11:20** had failed expectations of Jesus and did not go out to see Jesus when it was time for church. Read verse 20, **'When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet Him, while Mary remained sitting in the house.'** This is where some of you are right now. Jesus did not fit your time line on when He said he was going to do something you knew He would and could do. Mary was disillusioned with love at this point. She didn't go to church. She quit paying her tithes. Her

actions proved she lost the substance of faith because her love for Jesus was being threatened. The substance of faith says I will myself in love to do what I have no motivation to do because this is how I practice crucified love. This is how I grow in faith working by love. This is where Jesus reveals a side of His love to you that you have never seen before. That's what happens to Mary when He raised Lazarus from the dead.

God wants to perform the miraculous amongst us today.

1. We will release the substance of our faith in our worship.
2. Our tongues of praying in the spirit.
3. If we choose to truly walk in obedience by grace
4. And to open our mouths to speak to some serious mountains we are facing.
5. And make a quality decision I will fast one day, or two days, or three to kill this negative unbelief in me.

Now here is the most important reason this subject is important to you today to grasp and practice right away:

I'd like everyone to read with me **Revelation 21:8** with me together.

Revelation 21:8 AMPC

[8] But as for the cowards and the ignoble and the contemptible and the cravenly lacking in courage and the cowardly submissive, and as for the unbelieving and faithless, and as for the depraved and defiled with abominations, and as for murderers and the lewd and adulterous and the practices of magic arts and the idolaters (those who give supreme devotion to anyone or anything other than God) and all liars (those who knowingly convey untruth by word or deed)-- all of these shall have their part in the lake that blazes with fire and brimstone. This is the second death.

This is written for end times because in the last days men will be lovers of themselves, lawless with the antichrist spirit of consumed selfishness.

God has provided a way for us to conquer and overcome the forces of these end times.

1 John 5:3-5 AMPC

[3] For the true love of God is this: that we do His commands keep His ordinances and are mindful of His precepts and teaching. And these orders of His are not irksome (burdensome, oppressive, or grievous). [4] For whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith. [5] Who is it that is victorious over that conquers the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on that fact?

Without faith, it is impossible to please the Lord. You will not find Him just in your intellect, emotions, and feelings alone. They will play serious tricks on you.

The substance of faith works by His love towards you. The substance of faith works by your love for His word to activate and grow in faith.

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