

mountain moving faith: Is Of The Heart

-by KENNETH HAGIN

(Part III of the series: The Most Important Things About Faith)

MARK 11:22-26

22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

23 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.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

In this series of lessons, we are studying the seven most important things you should know about faith. We're down to number three, however, let's quickly review the first two.

1) Every believer has a measure of the "God kind of faith." We looked at scriptures (Rom. 12:3; Eph. 2:8; Rom. 10:17; II Cor. 4:13) which prove that every believer has a measure of the God kind of faith--that every believer has a measure of the kind of faith that created the world in the beginning--that every believer has a measure of mountain moving faith!

2) This measure of faith which the believer has can be increased by (a) feeding it on the Word of God and (b) exercising it; putting it into practice in everyday life.

And now for number three--Faith (real faith, Bible faith, Scriptural faith, spiritual faith) is of the heart and not the head.

Notice that right in the middle of Mark 11:23 it says, "...and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe...." That is, believe in his heart.

Romans 10:10 says, "For with the heart man believeth...."

Just what is the heart of man? Well, first of all, it is not the physical heart which pumps blood through your body and keeps you alive. That is not what God is talking about when He talks about the heart. You couldn't believe with your physical heart any more than you could believe with your physical hand, or eye, or ear, or nose, or foot.

Let's let God tell us what the heart is. God tells us in I Peter 3:4 that the heart is a man.

1 PETER 3:4

4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

Notice that God says this man of the heart is a "hidden" man. That is, he is "hidden" to the physical senses. You cannot see him with your physical eye, nor feel him with your physical hand. And that is because, you see, he is not a physical being. He is the "inward man." The hidden man of the heart is a spirit man.

Paul put it this way in II Cor. 4:16, "...but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day."

These two expressions, "the inward man" and "hidden man of the heart", give us God's definition of the human spirit.

Man is a spirit being. He has a soul and he lives in a body.

We contact the spiritual world with our spirits. We contact the physical world with our physical bodies. We contact the intellectual world with our souls. Those are the only three worlds we live in.

Man doesn't contact any other realms except the physical, the spiritual, and the mental. Are you contacting any other realms? No, you are not, because there are no more.

Man is a spirit being, created in the image of God Who is a Spirit.

It helped my faith just to think like that-- because faith is of the heart, or the spirit, or the inward man. It is not of the head. It is not of the body.

Now write this fact down and don't forget it: Faith will work in your heart with doubt in your head.

Many Christians are defeated because when a doubt enters their minds they say, "I'm doubting, I know I am."

No! He didn't say a thing in the world about not doubting in your head. He didn't say, "and shall not doubt in his head." He said, "...and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe...."

It is heart faith that gets the job done-- not head faith!

Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding." Your own understanding is just simply your own mental processes, your own human thinking, isn't it? Then in other words you could read that verse like this, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own head."

And that is exactly where most Christians miss it. When they are given the Scriptures that will help in their situations they say, "Yeah, but...."

The best way in the world to help people is with God's Word. It is not what we feel, nor what we think that counts, but only what God's Word says. Our faith must not be in our feelings; as sure as it is we'll be defeated.

A lady came to the front of the church one night after the service and asked me to pray for her. When I asked her what she wanted me to pray for she said, "Do I have to tell you?"

"Yes," I replied, "I'm not going to pray unless you do because really it wouldn't do any good."

(I want to emphasize that. I want to show you why it would do no good to pray. If you want me to pray about something you are expecting me to do one of two things. You're either expecting me to have faith for it, or you are expecting me to agree with you that it will come to pass. Well, how in the world am I going to have faith for something if I don't even know what I am believing for? You can't. You can't have faith for something when you don't know what you're believing for and you can't agree on something when you don't know what you're agreeing on.)

"Well," she said, "I'll tell you." And

she went on to explain. "I've been saved for about seven years now and filled with the Holy Ghost about five years. I teach a Sunday School class here in this church. My husband and I were not Christians when we were married. In fact, we were married 14 years before I was saved. He never has been saved. He's a good man, a good provider, and I love him. He even comes to church with me on Sunday nights most of the time, but he has never made a move toward God.

"Before I was a Christian, I was awfully high tempered. But in the last seven years, I hadn't lost my temper one time. Oh, I'd come close to it a few times, but I held on to it. I'd never really lost it. Although my husband has always taken a drink or two with the fellows, he has never come home drunk or anything like that. And here a while back he had taken a drink or two, but when he came in he pretended that he was really lit up good and I thought that he was.

"In all our 21 years of married life he had never done anything like that and I was angry. Just to be honest with you, I lost my temper and I lit in on him. I'll tell you I turned him every way but loose. He finally hollered, 'I'm just pretending! I'm just pretending! I'm not really drunk.' And that made me more angry than ever to think he'd do me that way. So after I'd given him another good piece of my mind, I went into my bedroom, slammed the door and locked it.

"After two or three hours I cooled off and then I was ashamed of myself. Words kept coming back to me that I had said. I could hear myself saying them, and I said a lot of things that I should never have said. They were wrong. So I got out of bed and got down on my knees and I prayed the rest of the night that God would forgive me.

"The next morning at breakfast I apologized to my husband and asked him to forgive me. To make the story shorter he insisted that he was to blame and asked me to forgive him. Brother Hagin, what I want you to pray is that God will give me some kind of a feeling so that I will know that He has forgiven me. I have never felt yet, on the inside, like the Lord has forgiven me."

"Why," I said to her, "I'm not going to do any such thing. I'm not going to pray a lick about it. You've already got the answer to your problem. The Bible says, 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness' (I John 1:9)."

"Oh, I know that verse is in there, Brother

Hagin, but...."

(You cannot help people when they take sides against the Word. You must side in with God's Word if you want it to work for you.)

So I said to her, "Sister, your trouble is that you are not willing to forgive yourself. The Lord forgave you--or else He lied about it, and I don't believe He lied. Do you think your husband lied when you asked him to forgive you and he said he would?"

"No," she answered, "I don't think he did."

"Then you've got more faith in an unsaved husband than you have in God. God said that if we'd confess our sins He would forgive us. And then there is something else here you're telling me. You are telling me that God may have lied about it, but that your feelings don't lie... Your feelings say that He hasn't forgiven you. God says He has, but you can believe your feelings and can't believe what God says."

Well, she got it. She saw how terrible it was.

Our faith must not be in our feelings! Our faith must be in what God says! And faith in what God says will work in your heart with a doubt in your head.

Some of the greatest things which ever happened to me (healing for my body for one, a body practically totally paralyzed with two serious organic heart troubles and an incurable blood disease) came when I began to say, "I believe from my heart that I receive my healing." Yet my head was saying, "It's not so. It's not so. It's not so." Oh, I had trouble with my head. Did you ever have trouble with your head? Just trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding.

HEAD FAITH vs HEART FAITH

JOHN 20:25-29

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

ROMANS 4:17-21

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who

quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

In the two preceding passages we have a contrast of two kinds of faith. Here we see examples of head faith and heart faith.

Thomas' faith was a head faith. Jesus, after His resurrection had appeared to His disciples when Thomas wasn't with them. The disciples told Thomas they had seen the Lord and he had said, "I'll not believe unless I can see the print or the wound of the nail in His hand and put my finger into that nail hole. And unless I see the wound in His side and thrust my hand into it, I will not believe."

About eight days later, the disciples were in a room with the door shut. Suddenly Jesus appeared in their midst and said, "Peace be unto you." And He spoke to Thomas for He knew what Thomas had said even though He wasn't physically present when he said it. "Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing."

When Thomas then said, "My Lord and my God," Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Jesus did not commend Thomas' kind of faith. He said, "You have believed because you have seen." Anyone can have that kind of faith, saint or sinner. That kind of faith is a head faith. It is believing what your physical senses tell you. Jesus said, "Blessed are they which have not seen, yet do believe."

The passage we just read in Romans 4 is God's own account of Abraham and his faith. Paul, inspired by the Spirit of God is writing and the 17th verse reads, "(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations...."

Notice, "I have made thee," not, "I am going to do it."

You can read an account of this back in the 17th chapter of Genesis. When Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord God appeared to Abram and said, "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham (which means Father

of many nations); for a father of many nations have I made thee."

Now think on that a little bit. It's different than human reasoning and human thinking. You will have to meditate on it a little for it to dawn on you.

Let's come back and read that 17th verse again, "...before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."

You see, He did not say, "I am going to make you the father of many nations." He said, "I have made you the father of many nations." Faith is always present tense.

Those people who are always "going to get something" never get it. Some who say, "I'm going to get the baptism of the Holy Ghost sometime," have been going to do it for years and they have never got there yet.

"I'm going to get my healing sometime," some say. And I know people like that who are still sick, and some who have died.

"I believe I will be saved sometime," a man told me. Bless his darling heart, I tried to get him to accept salvation, but he died and went to hell. Right now he is in hell, lifting up his eyes in torment he is there. Yet he said to me, "I am not planning on going to hell. I'm going to get saved sometime." But he didn't. He didn't.

That's not faith. Some have called it believing, but it isn't; it's just hope.

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is.... Now faith is...." If it's not NOW, it's not faith. Faith is NOW. NOW faith is--present tense!

Abraham believed. The 18th verse says that he believed. What did he believe? He believed "...according to that which was spoken...."

He did not believe according to what he could see. He did not believe according to what he could feel. He did not believe according to what his physical senses told him. He did not believe according to what his head, or his mind, told him. He believed according to what God said. He believed according to what was spoken.

If he believed according to what was spoken, exactly what did he believe? He didn't have any children. Yet he didn't believe he was "going to be" a father. He had to believe that God had already done it. He had made him the father of many nations. If he believed what was spoken then he believed he "was made" the father of many nations.

You see, faith calleth those things which be not as though they were. That is what causes them to come into being.

"Yeah," people have said to me, "but, Brother Hagin, common sense will tell you so and so."

And I've said, "I know it. But where did you ever read in the Bible that we are told to walk by common sense?"

You've never read it anywhere for the Bible says that we walk by faith and not by sight. Common sense is based on sight--on what your physical senses tell you.

Common sense will tell you that a man 100 years old and a woman 90 years old aren't going to become poppa and mamma. Common sense will tell you that. But Abraham didn't walk by common sense. He trusted the Lord with all his heart and leaned not to his own understanding.

He believed according to that which was spoken!

That has brought me through many a hard place. I've just stood my ground when the opposition and contradicting circumstances said, "No, you don't have it." All my feelings said, "No, you don't have it." My sight said, "No, you don't have it." And I said from my heart, "I believe according to that which is spoken."

That which is spoken is God's Word. I believe according to that which is spoken. I believe according to that which is written. That's what I believe.

I am not moved by what I see. I am not moved by what I feel. I am moved only by what I believe. And what a difference that makes!

And when you can get folks to act on God's Word, it is the most simple thing in the world to get them healed.

Yes, we believe in the gifts of the Spirit. We believe in praying with an anointing of the Spirit. There are various ways of administering healing. And those things will work for some, but God's Word will always work.

In a certain series of meetings several years ago, some pastors told me they were going to bring a lady from their church some distance away. She was past 70 and hadn't walked a step in four years. Doctors said she would never walk again. The night they brought her I was ministering at the end of the service as we do with an anointing of healing power. But there were many people to pray for that night and after a while, the anointing will sort of lift from you. To be honest with you, by the time I got to her, the anointing was gone.

Well, I knew that I couldn't minister to her under the anointing and I knew they couldn't bring her back another night so I asked them to place her down there and I spoke to her. Among other things I finally said to her,

"Sister, did you know that you are healed?"

I remember how she looked at me. Her eyes got big because there she sat, crippled. "Oh," she said, "am I?"

"You sure are. You are healed. And I'll just prove it to you by the Bible."

Opening my Bible to I Peter 2:24 I laid it on her lap and asked her to read it aloud.

She read, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

"Did you notice," I asked her, "that the last clause says, 'by whose stripes ye were healed'?"

"Yes."

"Is 'were' past tense, future tense, or present tense?"

"It is past tense," she said. And then she continued, "If we were healed--then I was!"

(You see, if you are going to believe according to what God said about healing, that is what you are going to believe. You have to believe that we were healed, or that I was healed. "Yeah, but I'm still sick," you might say. Then you see, you are not believing with your heart, you have gone back to your head. A moment before you might have said from your heart that you believe God's Word but then you switched right back over to what your head told you. You turned right back around and started walking by sight instead of by faith.)

This woman said, "If we were healed--then I was!"

And quickly, before Satan could put a doubt into her mind, (before he could dominate her through her mind by causing her to doubt and say, "Well, if I'm healed why can't I walk? Why am I still crippled? Why isn't it here?") I said, "Lift both of your hands and begin to praise God because you are healed."

I wish you could have seen that dear lady. As simply as a little child she lifted her hands. Her face lit up as she closed her eyes and looking up to heaven with her hands raised she said, "Oh, Dear Lord. Oh, I am so glad I am healed. I am so glad I can walk again. (She hadn't walked a step. But you see, she is talking out of her heart. She believes what the Word says, according to that which is written, according to that which is spoken, that by His stripes I was healed.) Lord, You know how tired I got of sitting around helpless all those four years. (She's got it in the right tense now. It will work for you when you get it in the right tense.)"

Turning to the congregation I said, "Let's

all lift our hands and praise God with her because she is healed."

As we lifted our hands she continued to say, "Thank You, Lord. I'm so glad I am no longer helpless and that I don't have to be waited on any more. I am so glad I can wait on myself. I'm so glad I am no longer crippled."

After we had praised God with her for a few moments I turned to her and said, "Now my sister, rise and walk."

And instantly, God is my witness and about 700 people, she leaped to her feet! She leaped to her feet! Praise the Lord!

Then she sat back down real quick! Then she jumped up again! Then she sat down and jumped up again! Most 72 year old folks couldn't have done that if they hadn't been crippled. Up and down she went. Then she ran over a few steps, stood there, then danced a little jig for joy. For about 10 minutes she would run in different directions, coming back and sitting down in the same place and then jumping up again. And we just all shouted and laughed and hollered and cried with her. Praise the Lord! And I think some of us might have jumped a little with her too.

Now here is a little lady who had been sitting around helpless for four years. Doctors said she would never walk again, yet here she is walking and jumping and praising God like the man who went into the temple walking and leaping and praising God.

Someone went off and said, "That fellow Hagin healed a crippled woman over there last night."

I didn't have a thing in the world to do with it. I didn't have any more to do with it than you could have had to do with it. All I did was just bring her the Word. The Word did it!

She just found out what belonged to her and what had been hers all the time. She was really, in the mind of God, healed all those four years she was sitting around there. She just hadn't believed it yet. She just hadn't gotten her believing in the right tense. All that time she was "seeking" healing.

God's Word IS. Faith IS. Now faith IS--present tense. And faith is of the heart. Faith will work in your heart with doubt in your head.

One preacher said, "Brother Hagin, I'm not going to believe I've got something my physical senses don't tell me I have. I'm not going to believe I've got something I don't see."

"Do you believe you have any brains?" I asked him.

"Certainly," he said.

"Have you ever seen them?"

"Oh," he said, "that's different."

Abraham did. Abraham believed something he couldn't see. Thomas wouldn't do it. And Thomas' name is not listed in the gallery of the heroes of faith, the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, but Abraham's is. He believed according to that which was spoken, "...before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were" (verse 17).

One person said to me, "Well, it would be all right for God, because He is God, to call those things which be not as though they were, but it would be wrong for me to do it."

If it's wrong for you to do it, it's wrong for God to do it. Children of the devil act like the devil. Shouldn't children of God act like God? God is a faith God. And we are faith children of a faith God. Because we are faith children of a faith God, we are to act in faith. And faith calls those things which be not as though they were.

"But," some have said, "my problem is I don't have any faith."

As we have seen in the first lesson in this series, if you are saved you have faith. Ephesians 2:8 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God...."

And then some will say, as one lady in particular did, "I guess I do have faith, but I'm so weak in faith. I want you to pray that I will grow stronger in faith."

"No," I replied, "I'm not going to do that. To tell you the truth about it, Sister, you're strong in faith. You just don't know it. May I ask you a question?"

"Yes, of course," she said.

"Are you persuaded, fully persuaded, that what God has promised He is able to perform?"

"Why certainly," she said. "I know God can

do anything He said He would do. And I know He will do it."

"Then let me ask you this question. Can you say 'glory to God' and praise God for it?"

"Certainly, I do that every day."

"Well," I said, "then you are strong in faith. Just read the 20th and 21st verses of the 4th chapter of Romans. There it tells you what strong faith is. It says that Abraham was 'strong in faith....' (Doing what? What is 'strong in faith'?) 'Giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what He had promised, He was able also to perform.'"

Some have thought Abraham could believe God because Abraham was a great saint of old, but that they could not. However the Bible says he was strong in faith "giving glory to God and being fully persuaded." That's what the Bible says strong faith is.

First, are you fully persuaded that what God has promised He is able to do? That whatever He has promised in His Word He can do? If you are, then you are half-strong in faith. That is half of it.

Secondly, can you give glory to God? That means "praise God." Can you say, "Thank You, God, for Your promise"? Can you thank Him for His Word? If you can, then you are strong in faith.

If you can meet these two requirements, then you are strong in faith.

Make a confession of your faith. Say aloud with your mouth so that your ears can hear, "I am a believer, I am not a doubter. I am fully persuaded that what God has promised, He is able to perform. I can give glory to God. I am strong in faith. I have the Abraham kind of faith. I have a measure of the kind of faith that created the worlds in the beginning. I have a measure of the mountain-moving faith."



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