



# FAITH

Can  
Change  
Your  
World

*Dr. Lester Sumrall*

**STUDY GUIDE**

**LESTER SUMRALL TEACHING SERIES**

# **FAITH**

*Can Change Your World*

by

**DR. LESTER SUMRALL**

LeSEA Publishing  
530 E. Ireland Road  
South Bend, IN 46614

**PLEASE NOTE:**

This study guide is designed to be a companion to the audio/video teaching entitled *Faith Can Change Your World* by Dr. Lester Sumrall.

All scriptures, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the *King James Version of the Holy Bible*.

Copyright © 1982. All Rights Reserved  
Reprinted June 2001  
Reprinted January 2004  
This printing September 2017

*FAITH CAN CHANGE YOUR WORLD*  
ISBN No. 0-937580-65-1

Printed in the United States of America. All rights reserved under International Copyright Law. Contents and/or cover may not be reproduced in whole or in part in any form without the express written consent of the Publisher.

LeSEA Publishing  
530 E. Ireland Road  
South Bend, Indiana 46614

[www.leseapublishing.com](http://www.leseapublishing.com)

**STUDY GUIDE**  
**INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**FAITH**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. INTRODUCTION.....	5
2. FAITH TO CHANGE THE WORLD, PART 1 .....	9
3. FAITH TO CHANGE THE WORLD, PART 2 .....	13
4. THE ETERNAL QUEST, PART 1.....	17
5. THE ETERNAL QUEST, PART 2.....	19
6. THE ETERNAL QUEST, PART 3 .....	25
7. TWO BASIC ELEMENTS OF FAITH .....	27
8. FAITH AS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT .....	35
9. FAITH AS A SIGN GIFT.....	39
10. FAITH IS AN EXCELLENT SACRIFICE .....	45
11. FAITH IS WALKING WITH GOD .....	55
12. FAITH IS A WORK .....	65
13. FAITH IS A PILGRIMAGE.....	73
14. FAITH IS A WOMAN’S COURAGE .....	79
15. FAITH IS A CHOICE.....	83
16. FAITH IS A STRING .....	87
17. THE FAITH GALAXY OF BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS.....	97
18. FAITH HAS A CLOUD OF WITNESSES .....	103
19. THIRTEEN THINGS JESUS SAID ABOUT FAITH .....	109
20. TEN THINGS THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID ABOUT FAITH.....	113
21. TEACHING A YOUNG MAN FAITH .....	117



# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 1*

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. THE GREATEST POWER

Natural man, through his scientific knowledge, can explode a hydrogen bomb with its many megatons of destructive energy. He considers that to be bomb power at its ultimate. Faith, such as the prophet Elijah had, sealed the heavens from providing moisture for three and one-half years. Then prayer prayed in seven bursts of strength brought instant and abundant rain to a famine-stricken land.

Man can push a button and cause mighty machinery to move and create things for him. The faith Moses had caused the Red Sea to part with the sweep of his hand. With a word, the sea formed a wide path so that more than two million people could cross dry shod.

Faith is the greatest source of energy available to man.

### 2. MAN IS A CREATURE OF FAITH

God built faith into the tripartite structure of spirit, soul, and body of each human on the earth.

Faith is normal, natural, and instinctive to every person. God said in Romans 12:3 that every person has been given a measure of faith. It is his seed-faith to plant.

This dynamic force of faith has power to change the world!

Our first step is to know what faith is.

God is not ignorant and does not condone ignorance. He says that His people are destroyed by the lack of knowledge. You must be informed to be able to change this world.

The second step is to accept what God indicates is absolute truth. It is the same faith that the three Hebrew children had in the Babylonian fiery furnace. It is the same faith that Daniel had while resting in a lair of lions for a night.

Introduction  
Lesson 1

The third step is action. Faith is an act. Faith is not just an idea, emotion, or impulse. Faith is an intelligent, volitional decision which commands God's power to act in man's behalf.

### 3. HOW GOD TAUGHT ME FAITH

My wife and I were ministering on the beautiful island of Puerto Rico in the West Indies. One night I felt as if I could not preach. I needed to pray. It was a Saturday evening and I had a big day coming up on Sunday. I asked my wife to preach while I stayed at the house to pray.

Later, I made my way alone to the flat roof of the home and paced back and forth. Occasionally, I paused to view the beautiful coconut palms silhouetted against the shimmering moonlight and to feel the gentle breezes from the Caribbean Sea. I began to pray my favorite prayer, "Lord, give me faith." I had been praying that prayer for so many years that I could hardly count them. However, this was a night that changed my life. God spoke to me.

God said, "I can't give you faith."

I cried out, "But Lord..."

He spoke back, "Millions of people have asked for faith and received nothing. Some people ask for faith for forty years and have less faith at the end than at the beginning. Open your Bible to Hebrews 11 and I will reveal to you what faith is."

I did this and I have never been the same. It is the heart of my total life and ministry.

### 4. FAITH OBTAINED

In order to contact God, we need faith. The prophet said in Isaiah 7:9, *...If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established.*

- A. Paul said in Romans 10:17, *...faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.* This is a direct action on your part.
- B. How to obtain this living faith, and maintain it, is one of the major victories and triumphs of the Christian faith.

When we have faith, we can do like the Apostle Peter said, and add to that faith the virtues of God. In fact, the number of things that we can add to our spiritual being through faith is almost beyond our comprehension.

- C. We can hear testimonies about faith which will inspire us, but they will not necessarily build our faith.

## Introduction

### Lesson 1

- D. The Word of God cannot build faith within us unless it becomes a part of our being. We cannot simply read the Bible like a book, novel, newspaper, catalog, or magazine. Jesus said in John 15:7, *If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you....* It is not just hearing the Bible, it is having the Word live and abide in you that is important.

## 5. FAITH RETAINED

- A. Faith can realistically be called “the eye that can see the invisible.” We have not seen what will come to pass, but the spiritual eye can project it. In living faith, we wait for the moment of fulfillment.
- B. Faith can be called “the ear that hears the inaudible.” Our natural ear can hear what our neighbors or friends say, but our ear of faith can hear what God says.
- C. Faith is “the hand that feels the intangible.” Faith is possessing what you do not possess. Faith is feeling that which cannot be felt.
- D. Faith is the power that creates, and brings into being, what is humanly impossible.

## 6. FAITH RELEASED

- A. In Joshua 6, Joshua commanded the walls of Jericho to fall down. The wall actually fell down inwardly. Archeologists have dug up the ruins and proven that the walls fell in. These walls fell while the people shouted praise to God. We can get more from God through praise than by asking.
- B. In II Kings 6:1-6, Elisha prayed for an axehead to float. The axehead flew off the handle and sank in the Jordan river bottom. By the power of faith, Elisha said to the axehead, “Swim.” It came up by a power that seemed beyond nature and contrary to the law of gravity.
- C. Matthew 17:24 is the story of how Peter got his tax money from a fish’s mouth. It was contrary to the law of supply and demand. The law of supply and demand said to take a fish hook, catch a fish, and eat the fish. Or, if you want money, catch a fish, but don’t eat it, sell it. Jesus had said that the first fish Peter caught would have a coin in its mouth and it would be enough to pay the taxes for both of them. This was a simple working of faith. Jesus said to do a specific thing. Peter obeyed in faith and it happened exactly as Jesus said.

## 7. FAITH IS EXCITING

My functioning in faith and seeking for faith have been the most exciting part of my life. I have never found anything so remarkably exciting as living faith.





# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 2*

## FAITH TO CHANGE THE WORLD— PART 1

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The goals of faith must challenge, never discourage. You do not find giants until you begin to conquer the Promised Land. You do not see plagues like frogs, flies, and lice until you confront Pharaoh. You do not drown by falling into the water, but by staying there.

### **READING:**

All things are possible, only believe!

Matthew 19:26, *But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.*

Mark 9:23, *Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*

Mark 10:27, *And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.*

Mark 14:36, *And He said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto Thee; take away this cup from Me: nevertheless not what I will, but what Thou wilt.*

Luke 18:27, *And He said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*

### 1. WHAT IS FAITH?

- A. It is possible to grasp a principle of information or knowledge, and yet not actually have inner possession of it.
- B. Your soulish, Adamic, mental faculty or ability can receive, accept, or give assent to principles of truth before your spirit-being comes into possession of them.

Faith to Change the World—Part 1  
Lesson 2

- C. Christian parents can teach their children the facts of Christianity which have not yet been born within their own hearts.
- D. A seminary professor can elaborate on biblical truth to students who have only facts in their minds and not in their spirits.
- E. The human mind, a part of the soul, can be illuminated when the spirit of man has not yet brought the truth to birth in the inner life. The message of faith must not bring condemnation. The devil brings condemnation. Faith must not bring a feeling of guilt or bondage. Faith must bring liberation from fear.

2. FAITH IS THE ESSENCE OF LIFE, PEACE, AND VICTORY

- A. I speak of faith as a spiritual life. You are saved by faith.

*John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

*John 3:36, He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

- B. Faith removes darkness.

*John 12:46, I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness.*

*Acts 16:31, And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*

- C. Justified by faith

*Romans 5:1, Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

- D. Kept by faith

*I Peter 1:5, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

*Acts 3:16, And His name through faith in His name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by Him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

*Mark 9:23, Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*

Faith to Change the World—Part 1  
Lesson 2

3. THE FAITH OF MOSES--A CHOICE

- A. Exodus 2:2, *And the woman conceived and bare a son: and when she saw him that he was a goodly child, she hid him three months.*
- B. Hebrews 11:23, *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*
- C. Hebrews 11:24-25, *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; v. 25, Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.*

4. DEVELOPING FAITH

To develop the muscles in your arm, you must use them. To develop your faith, you must also use it.

5. THE WORD OF GOD IS THE FINAL AUTHORITY

Proverbs 4:20-22, *My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. v. 21, Let them not depart from thine eyes; Keep them in the midst of thine heart. v. 22, For they are life unto those that find them.*

- A. The final authority is not men or denominations. It is God's Word.
- B. Meditation in the Word is thinking on God's promises and directions.
- C. Negativism, worry, and fear destroy faith.
- D. Wrong meditation will destroy faith.

6. LIVE THE WORD

Faith works in the same realm as do the gifts of the Spirit. There are two foundations.

- A. Unity - I Corinthians 12
- B. Love - I Corinthians 13

7. THE QUEST FOR FAITH

- A. Faith can be compared to a diamond. A diamond has 52 facets, and each facet radiates light. Faith is similar.

Faith to Change the World—Part 1  
Lesson 2

- B. You hear a teacher minister about faith and you think you have it. Then you hear the next minister and find out you didn't know it all. Then the next minister comes and you hear some more about faith and you say, "Well, when am I going to understand faith?"
  - C. Faith is like life and love. They are indefinable by the human mind, but they are enjoyable. Faith is as enjoyable as drinking white milk coming from a black cow who ate green grass all day. You may not understand the process, but it is refreshing.
  - D. Faith is refreshing. It is alive! It is light.
  - E. You do not seek faith. You are faith.
8. **FAITH, THE GREATEST UNUSED POWER!**

Faith is the greatest power generated on planet Earth. It is the number one source of energy yet discovered by man.

# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 3*

## FAITH TO CHANGE THE WORLD— PART 2

### READING:

Romans 12:3, *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

#### 1. FAITH IS THE GREATEST UNUSED POWER IN THE UNIVERSE

- A. Faith has no limitations.

Faith knows no boundaries whether they are racial, economic, social, or religious.

- B. Faith accepts no compromise or arbitration.

- C. Faith, functioning and operating in Spirit-filled men and women, records no cowardice, defeats, nor failures. They die joyfully. It is total victory!

- D. Faith knows superb fulfillment. Faith lives with great joy. No scholar or philosopher ever spoke the total words relative to faith.

No person has ever claimed to possess the total definition of faith. Faith, in the hands of God, is so pliable that what is faith in one life may not be for another life. There is no set pattern to obtain faith or retain it.

#### 2. THERE ARE DEGREES OF FAITH

- A. Measuring faith

God gives each born-again person a measure of faith (Romans 12:3).

Faith to Change the World—Part 2  
Lesson 3

B. Weak faith

Romans 4:19, *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.*

C. Little faith

Matthew 8:23-27, *And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him.*

v. 24, *And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep.*

v. 25, *And His disciples came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.*

v. 26, *And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.*

v. 27, *But the men marvelled, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!*

D. Growing faith

II Thessalonians 1:3, *We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth.*

E. Strong in faith

Romans 4:20, *He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God.*

F. Great faith

Matthew 8:5-13, *And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto Him a centurion, beseeching Him,*

v. 6, *And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*

v. 7, *And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.*

v. 8, *The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.*

v. 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.*

Faith to Change the World—Part 2  
Lesson 3

v.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.*  
v. 11, *And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*  
v. 12, *But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*  
v. 13, *And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*

G. Perfect faith

James 2:22, *Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?*

H. Rich faith

James 2:5, *Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him?*

I. Full of faith

Acts 6:5, *And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch.*





**STUDY GUIDE**  
**INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**FAITH**

*Lesson 4*

**THE ETERNAL QUEST—  
PART 1**

**INTRODUCTION:**

We cannot please God without having faith (Hebrews 11:6). Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). It must become a part of us.

**READING:**

Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

Hebrews 11:9-10, *By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: v. 10, For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

**1. THE ETERNAL QUEST FOR FAITH**

- A. Every Christian desires to possess this tremendous asset to spiritual victory called faith.
- B. It is an eternal quest. We realize above all things that, in order to please God, we must have this faith.
- C. In order to contact God, we need faith.
- D. It has to do with knowing God by experience.
- E. Faith has to do with growing in God.
- F. It has to do with spiritual maturity.

The Eternal Quest—Part 1  
Lesson 4

- G. We must have faith to develop the fruit of the Spirit.
- H. We need faith to receive the gifts of the Spirit.
- I. Faith has to do with all the vital issues of Christianity.
- J. The prophet Isaiah says, *If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established* (Isaiah 7:9). The establishment of our Christian faith, security, and life is based on the faith we have within us. This means it is imperative that we comprehend faith and then apprehend faith. We must not only understand faith but develop it. Let me assure you, no one who ever sought real faith came away disappointed.

2. OUR FAITH IS A SIXTH SENSE

- A. Your five senses, which contact the physical world around you, are things that you understand. But we can consider faith a sixth sense beyond the reach of the five senses. Through this sixth sense Christians are aware of God.
- B. We are aware of the spiritual world that the natural eye cannot see, and the natural hand cannot feel. We know it is there because we have made contact with it. We have a relationship with it and know it is available to those who seek God.

3. OBTAINING AND MAINTAINING LIVING FAITH

- A. Learning how to obtain and maintain this living faith is one of the major victories and triumphs of the Christian faith.
- B. If we have faith, then we can do as the Apostle Peter said, *...add to faith, virtue...* (II Peter 1:5). Manifold things can be added to our spiritual being through faith. These things are not of this world. Faith is the factor that propels you through this life to great victories. We must have faith.
- C. As Christians, we all have faith--to a greater or lesser degree--but we must learn to seek for it the right way.

# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 5*

## THE ETERNAL QUEST— PART 2

### READING:

Hebrews 11

#### 1. FAITH COMES BY HEARING

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

Proverbs 4:22, *For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*

Faith is developed through hearing and receiving the Word of God. You can read books or hear testimonies about faith, and they will inspire you; but they will not necessarily build your faith. They cannot guarantee faith because only God's Word creates faith.

Hearing another man's testimony does not actually give you faith. The Word of God, the Bible, is our only source of receiving this divine thing that we call faith. It comes into our spiritual being through the Word of God. Even then, the Word of God cannot build faith within us unless it becomes a part of our spiritual person. You cannot read the Bible like a book, novel, newspaper, catalog or magazine, and have faith automatically grow within you. The Word of God must become a part of your inner man, and when it does, faith begins to grow. The movements of growing faith are positively motivated by reading, receiving, and understanding the Word of God. We must learn to accept it that way.

#### 2. DIVINE FAITH IS THE WORD OF GOD ABIDING IN YOU

A. *If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you...*

It is not just hearing the Bible, the Word of God must abide in you. When God's Word abides in us, then *ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you* (John 15:7).

- B. Some friends miss this truth. They think that they have faith because they read the Word, but it is not just the reading of the Word, it is the abiding of the Word of God within us.

### 3. FAITH HAS BEEN CALLED THE EYE THAT SEES THE INVISIBLE

- A. Your natural eye can only see the visible. It is the spiritual eye within us which perceives the invisible.
- B. For example, before I owned a television station, my spiritual eye had already seen that I would have a television station and a television ministry. I knew this ministry would reach out to the world. That spiritual eye has already seen as many as ten thousand people delivered from Satan's power by one prayer. I have not witnessed this yet, but the spiritual eye has seen it. This is living faith.
- C. So faith is the eye that sees the invisible.

### 4. FAITH IS THE EAR THAT HEARS THE INAUDIBLE

- A. Our natural ear can hear when our neighbors or our friends speak to us. Inside of us we have faith that hears the inaudible.
- B. For example: on the road to Damascus, Saul of Tarsus found the Lord Jesus.

*Acts 9:3-4, ...he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven:*

*v. 4, And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me?*

The group of people accompanying him saw him fall to the ground. They were possibly also startled by the light, but they did not understand the voice.

*Acts 22:9, ...they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of Him that spake to me.*

*Acts 26:14, ...when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*

Paul's escort did not get into the inner workings of God.

- C. Faith within you is an ear that hears the inaudible. We hear things that the natural man does not hear. We conceive things through faith that the natural man cannot conceive. If I can bring you into a place of faith, you will have your eyes seeing the invisible and your ears hearing the inaudible. Really, it is a new man living on the inside of you who acts, works, and accomplishes realities through the great power of God.

## 5. FAITH IS THE HAND THAT FEELS THE INTANGIBLE

- A. Faith is possessing that which you do not possess.
- B. Faith is a feeling that which normally cannot be felt. You say that is unreasonable. It is not unreasonable, for I will present to you men who accomplished things by faith that could never have been accomplished any other way. They had the hand which felt the intangible.
- C. I have also felt a certain thing would be mine and it would later come to pass. With my natural hand I could not feel it, but with my spiritual hand I knew I had it. This is faith, and it is the power that works the impossible.
- D. I have often said that God called me to understand the “unshowable,” to do the “undoable,” and to perform the impossible. Everything I have ever done for God, I could not do on my own. I started around the world with \$12 in my pocket. I had no other money and no other resources in the whole world. I had no denomination or church to support me. I departed from San Francisco Harbor to evangelize the world saying, “God, You are going to supply my needs,” and He miraculously did. The first missionary evangelistic tour took two and a half years and God supplied every need that I had. He has done so ever since.

## 6. FAITH CREATES AND DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE

- A. Faith is not only the hand that feels the intangible, it is also the power to create and bring into being the impossible. It makes events and things come to pass. This is what I wish to teach you for your own life. I want faith to take place in your life.
- B. The central truth of these studies is the formula of faith. You will be able to measure your faith. You will be able to weigh faith. You will absolutely know how to increase your faith. With living faith, you will never be the same. You will witness faith to be the power that creates the impossible.

All the great men throughout the ages have manifested this power that makes the impossible become possible by a power outside of themselves. They knew it was not their mind, their emotions, nor their will; it was something other than themselves that made these things possible.

- C. Jesus manifested this faith.  
Daniel manifested this faith.  
Paul manifested this faith.
- D. By increasing your faith, you will be able to weigh your own faith. You will be able to increase your own faith and you will be glad when you observe that your faith has increased.

You will see your faith transcend the natural realm. Faith deals in the world of the supernatural.

## 7. HOW TO RELEASE YOUR FAITH

- A. Some Christians may not desire to search out faith. Faith is the world of the supernatural, and it makes things come to pass.
- B. May I show you how to release this faith? Sometimes it seems to contradict what we call natural law and natural order. Sometimes faith does contradict the natural forces around us.
  - 1) For example, in Joshua 6, when Joshua commanded the walls of Jericho to fall down, the walls of Jericho actually fell down inwardly, which is absolutely contrary to the natural laws of warfare. Unbelievers would not accept this fact for a long time, but archeologists, who have excavated old Jericho, have proven that the walls fell inwardly. The Word of God had already said this a long time ago.

The victory that day was a great one for God. The enemy had mocked God for seven days, and God said to those walls, “Fall down.” When the people of God shouted, that shout was a praise of victory.

- 2) In II Kings 6:1-5, Elisha prayed for an iron axe head and the iron swam! A young preacher, who was a member of the school of the prophets, a Bible school in those days, borrowed an axe. (Most Bible school students borrow something.) He went to cut a tree down near the Jordan River. (A woodsman would say that if you are going to cut a tree down with an axe, you should soak the axe in water the night before. Then the axe head is tight. If the axe handle gets dry, it shrinks. When you swing, the axe head can come off the handle, but if you soak the axe in a bucket of water, it will be tight for work the next day.)

This Bible school student did not know this fact. He lost the axe head. He cried to his spiritual leader for help. It was contrary to the law of gravity for Elisha to cause that axe head to swim. The natural thing would have been to get a scuba diver and look for it. This would have been difficult because there was a foot or two of mud in the bottom of the Jordan. He would have had a muddy mess down there looking for a piece of iron buried in a foot of mud. By the power of faith, this man Elisha said to the axe head, "Swim!" It floated to the surface by a power beyond nature and contrary to nature, because the power of gravity took it down and the power of faith overcame gravity to retrieve it. The young preacher reached into the river, picked up the iron axe and retrieved it for the person he had borrowed it from. This is a divine force that we call faith. The power of faith can introduce you to a new life. Its power can make you money. It can give you a happy family. It can cause a good relationship in the church. It can better your spiritual relationship with God.

- C. Faith is praise. More can be gained from God through praise than asking. When Israel shouted the praises of God, Jericho's walls fell inwardly. It was a feat of faith.
- D. Hebrews 12:2, *Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our faith. He is the Giver and Protector of faith.

- E. Our word "faith" is a Greek word *pistelino*. Its present tense is *pistis*. It is translated 248 times as "belief," "fidelity," "confidence," and "a true pledge."





# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 6*

## THE ETERNAL QUEST— PART 3

### READING:

Hebrews 11

#### 1. FAITH CAN

Faith can help you gain things you never had before. Faith can say things you never said before. Faith can believe things you never believed before. Faith can know God in a way that you never knew Him before. For example, when Peter caught a fish and took money out of the fish's mouth, in Matthew 17:24, it was contrary to the law of supply and demand. The law of supply and demand says to take a fishhook, catch a fish, and eat the fish. If you want money, take the fish and sell it for money. Contrary to this law, a man caught a fish, not to eat nor to sell, but to take a coin out of its mouth.

Jesus told Peter, "The first fish that you catch will have a Roman coin, not an Assyrian coin, but a Roman coin. Take the coin out of the mouth of the fish and it will be enough to pay your taxes and my taxes."

One coin--evidently Rome was not charging as much in taxes as we pay today. This was a simple working of faith. Jesus said if you obey, it will be done. Peter obeyed and it happened.

#### 2. FAITH IS TRUTH ON FIRE

A. It is truth that changes and transforms.

It is dynamic truth.

Peter walked in truth.

The Eternal Quest—Part 3  
Lesson 6

- B. Another faith story about Peter is in John, chapter 21. Peter, who was a native Galilean fisherman, discovered that faith can be contrary to natural experience. Peter had fished all night and caught nothing. Then Jesus said, “Put your net on the right side.” Peter could have quarreled with Jesus and said, “Wait a minute, my natural experience tells me that I fished all night and caught absolutely nothing.” Instead, Peter said, “Nevertheless, if You say do it, I’ll do it.” That is faith!

Peter threw his net over on the right side of his boat and caught 153 beautiful fish! He had to call for another boat to help him bring in the catch. It was a matter of faith. It was against the years of experience Peter had accumulated since he was a boy. He did not let his mind rule by crying out, “I am weary and I am tired.” No doubt Peter did not want to do it, yet he said, “Nevertheless, at Your command, I will do it.” He obeyed, and look what happened!

### 3. I WANT YOU TO KNOW FAITH

- A. My quest for faith has been the most exciting part of my life. My functions in faith, my search for faith has been the most exciting portion of my life. I have never found anything so remarkably fulfilling as living faith. Through the grace of God, I want to bring you into a place of living faith.
- B. I want you to know the bone structure of faith. Faith has a solid structure. Faith is not something entirely ethereal. Faith is common and a real commodity. You will enjoy new revelations of the dynamics of living faith--the faith that can change the world.

# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 7*

## TWO BASIC ELEMENTS OF FAITH

### INTRODUCTION:

There are two qualities of faith: substance and evidence.

### READING:

Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

#### 1. HAVE FAITH

It is not a whole truth to say, "Have faith in God," and not to explain more about faith. I grew up in a religious atmosphere, yet during my youth, I do not remember anybody teaching me what faith really is. When I began to minister, I listened to other preachers, but I did not meet anyone who could define faith. They would say, "Faith is mysterious." I thought great faith was a rare gift of God for the few people who had it and they were special, privileged people whom God loved more than the rest of us. The average person did not possess faith. I decided simply to go through life saying, "Well, thank God for Moses. He had faith, but I do not." I was ready to live and die that way. I was wrong.

In this lesson we will learn the two basic elements of faith.

#### 2. WHAT IS THE ANATOMY OF FAITH?

- A. We must know the bone structure--the grit and gristle--of faith.
- B. Some people think faith is a mysterious element like magic. You say to one, "Die," and to another, "Live"-- and this is faith. However, this is not true. It is a misrepresentation of faith. What man calls faith and what God calls faith can be two different things.

Two Basic Elements of Faith  
Lesson 7

- C. Faith is one of those truths with which I wrestled for many years. The Lord Jesus told the Apostle Peter in Matthew 16:17 that *...flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven*. There are truths that only God can make real.
- D. This truth is not something I read in a book. I did not study it from some teacher. I am presenting a truth that was born within my spirit.
- E. For years I realized, as I ministered the Word of God, that I did not have the real essence of the definitions of faith within me. I would preach on faith and say, "Faith is wonderful, marvelous, glorious." Well, it was! But what is faith? It is not adjectives!

3. GOD SHOWED ME THERE ARE TWO BASIC ELEMENTS OF FAITH

- A. Faith can be measured.
- B. Faith can be weighed.

4. FAITH IS A DECISION

- A. It is not a mundane decision. It is a not rational decision. It is not a decision that emerges from the soul.
- B. Faith is a spiritual decision that comes up out of the newborn spirit within us.

5. FAITH IS A KEY TO LIFE

Hebrews 11:6, *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.*

- A. Without faith it is impossible to please God.
  - 1) You may have sacrifices which would not please God.
  - 2) You may work or labor without pleasing God.
  - 3) You may possess traits which are beautiful to your neighbors, but do not please God.

Two Basic Elements of Faith  
Lesson 7

- B. Faith opens doors.
  - 1) It takes faith to come to Jesus Christ and be saved.
  - 2) It takes faith to walk the Christian walk.

6. FAITH BELIEVES THAT GOD EXISTS

- A. If you come to God, you must believe that He exists. To please God, we must have faith.
- B. The Bible says that everyone has a measure of faith.

Romans 12:3, *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

All Christians have a certain amount of faith. It takes faith to come to Jesus Christ and be saved. It takes faith to walk the Christian walk. You must learn how to increase, enlarge, and understand your faith.

- C. If you are ignorant about faith, you can lose your faith and not know it. Your faith must be anchored in divine knowledge from the Word of God so the devil cannot steal it from you.
- D. You must know there is a God in order to have faith. The knowledge of God is the foundation stone on which faith rests. This is very beautiful because the more you know of God, the greater the faith you can have. The less you know of God, the less faith you have.
- E. In my travels throughout the world, I found that the greatest impedance to faith in any country is the lack of a knowledge of God. I have known great men of faith, like Smith Wigglesworth, Howard Carter, and Donald Gee, a man of outstanding faith. These men I knew intimately; I labored, worked, and traveled with them. We call them men of faith, but possibly we do not recognize or realize that they were men with a tremendous knowledge of God. Their faith was in relationship to their knowledge of God.
- F. The concrete footing of your faith rests upon something real. You must have a resting place for your faith or the devil will attack it to try to destroy your faith.

Two Basic Elements of Faith  
Lesson 7

- G. Hope and faith are different powers. You can hope for a million dollars and die without a dime. If you have faith for a million dollars you will get it, because faith is an act. Faith is a movement. When you have faith, it is never static, it keeps moving. It is a driving force. Faith is vitality that is invincible. You cannot hold it back. You cannot hold it down, it is a living thing. It begins with your foundation of faith.
- H. Faith is a living experience within you that is very dynamic--you foresee something specific from God and you know you have it. You are thrilled with it. How wonderful it is to have living faith within you that gets tremendous things accomplished!
- I. Any communist, who is a real Marxist, could not have faith. He does not know anything about God and God is the beginning of faith.

An agnostic could not have faith because he is ignorant of God. An unbeliever cannot have faith in God because he does not believe in God.

- J. The very beginning of this tremendous power and force that we can release is a knowledge of God.

“To know God is to believe Him; to know God is to trust Him.”

To know God is an amazing force moving you to being the person you want to be.

- K. Our first footing of faith is shown through the great men of the Bible like Abraham, who walked with God. These men, who accomplished stupendous things, were men with a real, intimate relationship with God. That is living faith!
- L. If you enter into an intimate relationship with God, faith will spring up within you as a living expression.

## 7. GOD REWARDS THEM WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM

- A. You can know that God is God. You can know Him as the Creator of the whole world. You can know God’s power and yet not know Him as a rewarder of those who seek Him. He is not just someone who sits upon a great throne as you wonder if He will really give you what you ask.
- B. Matthew 8:2, *And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.*

Two Basic Elements of Faith  
Lesson 7

The leper had faith in Jesus' power to heal, but he was unsure if Jesus wanted to heal him. He was not acquainted with Jesus. Jesus' response was, *I will; be thou clean* (v. 3). There are millions of people like that today. They say, "We know You can, Lord, but will You?"

You cannot get things from God until you know that God will give them to you. You cannot just say, "Now, Lord, Thy will be done." That is not faith!

- C. Isaiah 45:11, *Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask Me of things to come concerning My sons, and concerning the work of My hands command ye Me.*

God is saying, "Command ye Me."

- D. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7:7, *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.*

That is movement, going after victory.

- E. These two colossal footings upon which our feet rest cannot be moved by earthquakes, storms, or anything of man. They are:

- 1) We know there is a God, because we have knowledge of Him.
- 2) We know He is a rewarder of them who diligently seek Him.

- F. When we lift up our hands, He puts His hand down to us! When we lift up our voices, we hear His voice coming down.

This makes us men or women of faith. We must get our foundations deep. If we are going to build an Empire State Building, a Hancock Building, or a Sears Tower, we must dig deep footings. Otherwise, the devil will knock us off our faith foundations and footings.

- G. You could not shake Moses because he had a knowledge of God. He had talked with God in the burning bush. Pharaoh could not shake Moses. The spiritists, astrologers, and star gazers could not shake Moses. All the charlatans in Egypt's court could not shake Moses because he knew God. When he said, "Lord, send the plagues," he knew they would come. How did he know? Moses knew that God was a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Get your footings on these two basic elements of faith and you are ready to build for eternity.



## 8. FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR

- A. God said faith is a substance. Many people do not know that faith is a substance. They think faith is something ethereal, mystical, or magical. It is beyond their reach and their prayer is, "Oh, Lord, give me...faith." No, that is not faith. The Word of God says in Hebrews 11:1, *Now faith is the substance...*

What is a substance? Your Bible is a substance. You can weigh it. You can measure it. You can read it. The Bible says that faith is a substance! We must believe and accept the Bible, not tradition.

- B. Faith is like a desk; it is a substance. It was once a tree, but now it is a desk. It is a substance. It is not the air that you cannot feel. It is not something out there that you cannot know.
- C. Faith is a substance and a substance is reality. A substance is something you can analyze. It is not mysterious. A substance is something that you can measure to see how big it is. You can weigh it and see how much it weighs.

You might not believe that we can, but I will show you that it is absolutely true. We can tell you how to increase your faith. That is very important. We will show you how your faith can enlarge itself because you want it to be enlarged.

- D. I was once captured by bandits in Tibet. I had spent three months on muleback and was very weary. We had gone to the border of Tibet, and preached in the villages and tribes. We had visited missionaries struggling and working for God along the border between China and Tibet. War was in the area. Some people had been killed, and it was a bad time for that part of China and Tibet. One afternoon our group was captured by three men. I did not know whether they were military men or rebels, but they stuck their guns in our backs and said, "March." We were their prisoners.

They marched us for three hours with guns in back of us. Finally I said, "God, am I going to die or live?"

God said, "You're going to live."

I said, "If I'm going to live, that man can't do anything, can he, Lord?"

The Lord replied, "No!"

Two Basic Elements of Faith  
Lesson 7

I needed some assurance that I was hearing from the Lord. “Can you prove it, Lord? Those Chinese bandits with those old-fashioned guns to the backs of our heads are bad.”

The Lord always speaks to me through His Word. He said, “Read Revelation 19:6.”

I took out my New Testament and it read, *Hallelujah, for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*

I looked at it and said, “Well, God, if you reign, that robber doesn’t.” Then I turned around and laughed in his face. That Chinese man slowly dropped his gun. He said he wanted money. We gave him money. He asked for food and we gave it. Then the bandits left and, we walked down that jungle trail, saved by the power of God. You have to know that you know God and know that if you talk to God, He will answer you.

9. FAITH IS THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN

- A. Not only is faith a substance of things hoped for, it is evidence of things not seen.
- B. What is evidence? Evidence is something you know.

Suppose there was a wreck outside and you and I sat here and heard the wreck. If we were requested to go to court, the judge would say, “What do you know about the wreck? Did you see it?”

We would answer, “No, we were inside the studio.”

He would say, “Did you hear it?”

Our response would be, “Well, I heard something go ‘bang.’”

He would say, “What do you know about the accident?”

“Somebody told me...”

That judge would reply, “That is not evidence.”

- C. Faith has its evidences. It produces. Abraham believed God for that little son of his and he produced Isaac. That is faith.



# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 8*

## FAITH AS A FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

### INTRODUCTION:

Faith is as brilliant as a diamond and more valuable. Faith is unique. It is a gift of the Spirit as well as a fruit of the Spirit.

### READING:

Galatians 5:22, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith...*

#### 1. THE GIFT OF FAITH & THE FRUIT OF FAITH

- A. The gift of faith and the fruit of faith compliment each other. As a fruit of the Spirit it does not appear suddenly, but it grows constantly.
- B. Fruit faith must abide in the Vine. It must continue in fellowship with Jesus to exist.

John 15:5, *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.*

- C. Fruit faith moves from immaturity to maturity. It works “in Christ.” This means that the natural man cannot develop faith.

I Corinthians 2:14, *But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

Ephesians 2:8, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.*

## 2. THE LAW OF PROGRESSION IN FAITH

- A. A plant grows gradually. A baby has to grow to mature. It cannot negate the law and suddenly become an adult.

Mark 4:28, *For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.*

- B. So faith can rise higher and higher as a Christian grows. One can add grace to grace.

James 4:6, *But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*

II Peter 3:18, *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*

Romans 1:17, *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

## 3. THE LAW OF THE WORD

With an understanding of the laws of faith as found in the law of the Lord, one matures in his faith as a fruit of the Spirit.

Psalm 1:2, *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in His law doth he meditate day and night.*

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

## 4. THE FARMER KNOWS PROGRESSION

The farmer understands the progression from seed to harvest.

Mark 4:26-29, *And He said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;*

*v. 27, And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.*

*v. 28, For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.*

*v. 29, But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.*

Faith as a Fruit of the Spirit  
Lesson 8

5. THE FRUIT OF FAITH WORKS WITH:

A. Love

Galatians 5:6, *For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*

B. Joy

Galatians 5:22, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.*

C. Peace

Galatians 5:22, *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...*

D. Longsuffering

II Timothy 3:10, *But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith...*

E. Gentleness

I Timothy 6:11, *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith...*

F. Goodness

I Timothy 4:12, *Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*

You cannot separate them!



# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 9*

## FAITH AS A SIGN GIFT

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The sign gift of faith is the opposite of the sign gift of the working of miracles. Faith has many facets, like a diamond. Faith is a sign gift in the gifts of the Spirit.

### **READING:**

I Corinthians 12:8-10, *For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; v. 9, To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; v. 10, To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.*

### 1. THERE ARE NINE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed in I Corinthians 12:8-10. The gifts of the Spirit are perfect. Everything God does is divine perfection. The Godhead is triune: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### 2. THE NINE GIFTS ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE CATEGORIES

- A. There are three gifts of revelation.
  - 1) The word of God's infinite wisdom
  - 2) The word of knowledge
  - 3) The discerning of spirits



Faith as a Sign Gift  
Lesson 9

- B. There are three gifts of power.
  - 1) The gift of miracles
  - 2) The gift of faith
  - 3) The gifts of healing
  
- C. There are three gifts of inspiration.
  - 1) The gift of prophecy
  - 2) The gift of supernaturally speaking with tongues
  - 3) The gift of interpreting tongues

These are the nine sign gifts given to the Church by the Holy Ghost.

### 3. THE SIGN GIFT OF FAITH

- A. The gift of faith differs from the gift of working of miracles because God does the action. In the gift of working of miracles, man does the action.

Miracles are only miracles to us, not to God. He speaks worlds into existence. His voice speaks the universe into being. Anything beyond human activity is called a miracle.

- B. The working of miracles occurs when God does something through the human person.

For example, there was a man named Samson. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon him and he worked miracles. He took the jaw bone of an ass and killed a thousand well-armed soldiers. He could not do that under normal circumstances.

Judges 15:15, *And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it, and slew a thousand men therewith.*

To Samson and his people that was a miracle. The functioning of a supernatural work through a human being is the sign gift of the working of miracles.

Faith as a Sign Gift  
Lesson 9

Later, Samson was in a city of Gaza and his enemies were laying in wait to kill him. In those days all cities were surrounded by walls and had gates. Samson walked over to the city wall, picked up the city gates, which could run two chariots through them side by side, and ripped them off their hinges. They were fortified gates, very heavy and strong. He put those gates upon his back and walked off with them. According to the Bible, there were two directions he could go. If he turned left he would walk downhill; if he turned right, it was uphill. Samson carried the gates uphill.

*Judges 16:3, And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron.*

Normally he could not take the gates of a city and put them on his back. If he ever got them on his back, he would not go uphill with the problem! This was the working of miracles.

C. Daniel and the sign gift of faith (Daniel 6:16-24)

There was another man in the Bible, Daniel. Since he had an ardent relationship with prayer, he was ordered by King Darius of Babylon into a den of lions. These lions were mean and hungry. They were Babylonian lions.

When Daniel touched bottom, the lions said, “Grrrr!”

Daniel calmly told the lions; “Everything is all right. I will not hurt you. I need to get up early tomorrow, so I cannot stay up late with you. Lie down and get a good night’s rest. Bozo, move closer. I feel a draft. Nina, stop snoring. I cannot sleep with your snoring.”

That was the most peaceful night that lions’ den ever had!

Have you ever thought what would have happened if they had put Samson in that den of lions? When he hit bottom he would have started killing lions left and right. There would have been lionburgers for sale in the marketplace the next morning. Every street-corner vendor would have been selling them.

The power of God was demonstrated two different ways. For Daniel, God sent an angel and closed the mouths of the lions. Samson received supernatural strength from God.

Faith as a Sign Gift  
Lesson 9

- D. It is very easy for us to become critical of what God is doing. We think God ought to work in a set pattern. God does not do that. If He wants to work the powers of faith through you, He does.

If God wants to work through you, that is one thing. If He wants to work for you, that is another thing.

4. THE GIFT OF FAITH IS NOT STRUCTURED TO THE OTHER ASPECTS OF SIMPLE FAITH

- A. Every Christian has the living faith that flows through every born-again person. Romans 12:3 says, ...*God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith*. God gives faith. He says, "Take it. Nourish it. Make it grow. Make it wonderful. This faith is yours to develop!"
- B. The sign gift of faith occurs when God sovereignly gives you a gift of faith. Then things get done supernaturally.

- 1) In England, George Müller founded an orphanage which had a thousand orphaned children in it. He reared them to adulthood. George Müller never asked for offerings. He never hired anyone to ask for offerings. He never mailed letters saying, "Would you please help me? I have faith to feed a thousand children. Would you please send me money so they will not starve?"

George Müller reared those children from a prayer closet. He believed that God would send the money. There were times when they set the tables, put water in the glasses, and still had no food. Every time, before he stopped praying, there was food for the table. Sometimes the bakery truck would drive up with loads of bakery goods. The owner of the bakery would jump out and say, "God. has been dealing with me all night. At midnight I began to bake this bread and here it is! Hot bread. Trucks full of it. Feed your children!"

Müller lived by faith. He simply did not have any human help. God supplied his needs for fifty years. He never asked for anything.

- 2) Living at the same time was a man named Dwight L. Moody. He was an American evangelist. He led thousands of people in Europe and America to salvation.

He once made the statement, "If you know of any millionaire in America whom I have not asked for a donation yet, give me his address. I will call on him."

Faith as a Sign Gift  
Lesson 9

- 3) Some people would criticize George Müller and others would criticize Dwight Moody. In each, God was demonstrating Himself. It was the power of God working differently.

How many of us are willing for God to work any way He wants to? Do not criticize others if they are not doing everything the same way we are.

## 5. HOWARD CARTER HAD THE GIFT OF FAITH

- A. Howard Carter once offered to buy a church and donate it to a small group in London, England. When the money did not come in, he did not get upset about it. The night before the eleven o'clock a.m. closing of the deal, God gave him every cent of the money in one package.

Howard Carter did not ask anyone for the money, he received it anonymously through the mail. He had the gift of faith.

- B. The sign gifts of the Holy Spirit began functioning when he was in jail during World War I. That is where the truths concerning the gifts of the Spirit were born.

Howard Carter was a conscientious objector. He would not fight in the army, so he was put in jail. While there, Howard Carter, under the Holy Spirit's anointing, wrote the truths of the gifts of the Spirit.

The police put him in a small cell. Its top was concrete. The sides of it were steel. Water was dripping through a crack in the ceiling. His cell was so small he could not get out of the way of the water, which was hitting him on the head. The constant splattering almost drove him crazy.

He cried unto the Lord, "I can't stand this water dripping on me!"

The Lord said, "Well, do something about it."

Howard Carter retorted, "That is what I was going to ask You to do."

"I am not going to do anything about it," said the Lord.

"Lord, what can I do about it?" Carter wondered.

The Lord replied, "You can tell it to stop."

Faith as a Sign Gift  
Lesson 9

Howard Carter was amazed. “You mean, Lord, I can talk to water?”

The Lord said, “That’s right.”

Howard Carter lay there for a while, then with deep courage and conviction said, “Water, reverse your flow. Return upward!”

From his nose, the water started upward and re-entered the crack! It never dropped on his head again for the duration of the war.

That was the functioning of the sign gift of the gift of faith.

# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 10*

## FAITH IS AN EXCELLENT SACRIFICE

### INTRODUCTION:

Faith IS.

The Bible says that faith “is.” It does not say “was.” It does not say “will be.” It says “is.” The Bible means that faith is right now! The amount of faith that you have now will not be the amount of faith you will have tomorrow. Tomorrow’s faith can be larger or smaller. It can increase or diminish. It has to do with your relationship with Jesus and the Word of God. That relationship makes it larger or smaller.

#### 1. FAITH IS A SUBSTANCE

Astonishingly, faith is a substance. That statement has been in the Bible for almost two thousand years. It was not put there last week! Yet, most sermons we hear on faith are about the mysteriousness of faith. These sermons claim that faith is unimaginable, amazing, glorious, and remarkable. When you get through with all the adjectives, there is not a lot left. God says faith is a substance. You can feel it. You can measure it. You can love it. Faith is a reality!

#### 2. FAITH IS A SACRIFICE

- A. Mark 12:42-44, *And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.*  
v. 43, *And He called unto Him His disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:*  
v. 44, *For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.*

Jesus was amazed at the little woman who dropped in the two smallest coins in the kingdom. There was one reason; it was all she had! She did not have anything else. He looked in her back pocket and there was not anything there.

Faith is an Excellent Sacrifice  
Lesson 10

“Look!” He said, “It’s empty.”

Then Jesus said, “I have to do something about this.” That is when faith functions.

- B. When we begin teaching about faith, everyone wants to have faith. About the time we reach the third lesson, some people say, “Faith is too much of a problem. I do not want that. I only thought I wanted it.”

I have never met a great man of faith who was not a liberal soul that gives and gives. If you do not have a liberal spirit within you to give to God, then God cannot do what He wants to do for you.

If you knew the actual life behind those men called great men of faith, you might not want to imitate them.

- C. Faith is alive. Faith is alert. Faith moves dynamically to accomplish things. Maybe there is no area of the Christian life where we are in such tremendous need of information as in this area of living, vital faith.

Faith is not imagination.

Faith is not hope.

Faith is not magic.

Faith is a living, dynamic, strong, and true substance.

### 3. FAITH IS AN ACT

Faith is not an ethereal thing; it is an act. Faith has no relationship to magic. The Bible says faith can be measured and weighed. You can know the faith that you possess. Faith can be increased.

### 4. RUDIMENTS OF FAITH

- A. Hebrews 11:4, *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

I have to admit that I had read this many times and it did not affect me at all. When God called me on the housetop in Puerto Rico, I said, “Oh, God, give me faith.” God said, “It does not come that way.”

Faith is an Excellent Sacrifice  
Lesson 10

- B. Abel had faith although he did not claim to have any faith. The remarkable thing about greatness is that the person who has faith does not know it. You can tell a great person that he is great and he will look at you in astonishment and say, "What are you talking about?"

- C. God showed me what faith is and what it consists of through a revelation.

God said, "A man named Abel offered me a more excellent sacrifice."

I said, "What does faith have to do with the collection plate?" I wanted to laugh about it. The Lord spoke to me quickly and said, "You can only give in relationship to the amount of faith you have. If you do not have the faith to give, you cannot give."

As you increase your giving, you increase your faith. Faith and giving go together. You cannot separate them from each other. God said, "Rich men refuse to give because they lack faith."

- D. The man who will not give cannot victoriously pray for the sick. He cannot receive miracles for other avenues of his life. The rudiments of faith are not in him. There is barrenness and bleakness inside him. He cannot have living faith because it must function in all the areas of his life.

## 5. THE THINGS OF GOD EDIFY OTHERS

- A. Proverbs 11:25 reads, *He that watereth, is watered.* When you give what God has given you, you will receive in return.

Abel was not boasting and saying, "I had faith." In Hebrews 11 God said Abel had faith. If God said it, then it is finished. Abel had faith!

- B. How was Abel's faith manifested?

The Bible tells us very specifically, By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than his brother, Cain.

Abel's faith was demonstrated through his giving to God, and doing it correctly. The Bible says he offered a more excellent sacrifice.



Faith is an Excellent Sacrifice  
Lesson 10

C. How did Abel know about giving?

Abel had to learn this truth of giving. Abel's father was Adam, who communed with God in the Garden of Eden. When Adam sinned, he must have seen the whole spectacle of sin. Adam hid himself from God and God said, "Now, Adam, these two innocent lambs are being offered as a sacrifice for your sin. You will have to do this later. The skins of these animals will cover your nakedness."

Genesis 3:21, *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.*

An offering of life covered Adam's sins when he came out of the Garden.

D. If Abel were with us today and I said, "Abel, God says that you have faith. We want to know what faith is," he would smile and say, "Yes, it was God who said I had faith."

E. A dear lady walked up to me once and said, "You know, Brother Sumrall, I have all nine gifts of the Spirit."

I had never met her and I did not know her name, but I looked at her, smiled, and replied, "All nine gifts of the Holy Spirit?"

"Oh, yes, I have all nine gifts of the Spirit," she assured me.

I said, "There might be one you do not have."

She looked puzzled. "Which one is it?"

"Possibly you don't have the gift of humility."

Her face fell and she saw she had made a great mistake. We do not need to say, "I have this" and "I have that." If rivers of living water are flowing out of us, people will be refreshed by those waters. Usually, if anyone is boasting about what they have, beware of them.

There is not an orange tree that has ever grown in Florida or Texas that has had to boast it was an orange tree. All it did was produce oranges, and everyone was convinced that it was an orange tree. If we have spiritual power or faith, we do not have to say, "Look at my faith." Your faith will flow out of you as naturally as water flowing from a spring.

Faith is an Excellent Sacrifice  
Lesson 10

- F. Exodus 34:29-33, *And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him.*  
v. 30, *And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him.*  
v. 31, *And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him: and Moses talked with them.*  
v. 32, *And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai.*  
v. 33, *And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a veil on his face.*

I have noticed that great men seldom know their greatness. When Moses had talked with God for forty days and came walking down the mountain, he did not say, "Hey, everybody, look at my face and see how it shines."

When the people looked at him, they said, "Moses, your face is so bright, would you hang a cloth over it, please?" Moses had to wear a veil as he talked with Israel, because his countenance was so bright. They could not stand to look at his face.

## 5. CAIN'S AND ABEL'S SACRIFICES

Genesis 4:1-8, *And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.*

- v. 2, *And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.*  
v. 3, *And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.*  
v. 4, *And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*  
v. 5, *But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.*  
v. 6, *And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?*  
v. 7, *If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.*  
v. 8, *And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

Abel found the most beautiful lamb in his entire flock, flawless, and spotless. It was so beautiful that he grabbed it in his arms and said as he hugged and kissed it, "You are the prettiest lamb I have among a thousand." Then he said, "I will give you to God." He gave God his best. He gave God an excellent sacrifice.

Faith is an Excellent Sacrifice  
Lesson 10

What did Cain do? Abel was his brother. Cain knew everything Abel knew. There was no difference in their father. There was no difference in their being clothed with the skins of animals. They both understood that it took a sacrifice for their sins to be forgiven. Cain said, "Wait a minute, God, I cannot afford a lamb. I have a nice vegetable patch. I will give you some onions and turnips. Lord, these are good onions. I'll build an altar and give You some onions."

But God said, "Onions cannot save anybody. It is the blood that saves, because the life of the flesh is in the blood, and until blood is offered up for the forgiveness of your sins, I cannot forgive you."

Cain replied, "Listen, God, you're going to take what You can get out of me."

So Cain offered a lot of vegetables, such as a big cabbage, and a bunch of turnips and onions on his altar. God said, "I do not accept it." Cain went away with a heavy heart.

Across the way was his brother. Abel's face was lit up with beauty, loveliness, and joy. Cain asked, "What are you so happy about?"

Abel replied, "I love God. God is filling my being, and I am so happy. I thank God that I have made my sacrifice."

Cain retorted, "Oh, you bloody fellow, you killed a lamb."

Abel replied, "Well, you had lambs too, but you didn't want to give God a whole lamb. I've given Him the finest one I had. Oh, I love You, God, I love You."

God said, "I am pleased with your sacrifice."

The Bible says that Cain became angry with God.

## 6. FAITH IS AN OFFERING

- A. Faith is an excellent offering unto God. Faith is giving to God what He requires of you. That is faith.
- B. I did not believe this when God first told me. He had to drive it into me. God said to me, "You remember in Indonesia the night that two men knelt at the altar to be saved?"

I replied, "Yes, I do, Lord. I laughed at it."

Faith is an Excellent Sacrifice  
Lesson 10

God said, "I saw you laugh, but you should not have laughed. One of them got saved and one of them didn't."

In that church they did not pass the offering plates among the people. They put a plate by the door and as you left the building, you put your conscience money into it.

Well, these two men were praying to be saved, and the others in the congregation went home. There was only a missionary and myself left with the two men. One of them really did receive Christ with joy. The other one did not get anything. The two were the last people to leave the building.

The pastor and I were ready to leave, too. As we came to the door, the man that did not get saved looked at the offering plate and walked down the steps into the dark.

I did not think anything about it because over half the people that go to church do not give anything. The other man pulled out his wallet, turned it upside down, and shook it. Everything he had fell out. I heard him as he walked down the church steps saying, "Oh, I'm so glad to be saved! Thank you, God."

I laughed and remarked, "One man gave everything, and one man gave nothing."

It all had to do with their faith. The one who had faith to give also had faith to receive his salvation. The one who had no faith neither gave nor received.

C. God taught me about faith.

God said, "You didn't understand that the same faith it took to get saved was the same faith at the offering plate. The man who could not find Me in salvation could not give Me anything at the door. He had no faith, either at the door or at the altar. The man who had faith at the altar had faith at the front door.

"The person who has faith in Me gives to Me. The person who has no faith does not give to Me. The man who goes to church and grumbles when the offering is received does not have faith. He is barren like a desert."

I said, "Lord, I have never heard this kind of preaching."

God responded, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain. This is faith."

Abel is recognized as a man of faith because of his offering to God.

Now I understand why some widows give more than wealthy men do in a church. I could not see it before.

## 7. A WOMAN WITH FAITH IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES

- A. When I was building the church in Manila, Philippines, the people of Manila paid for most of it. Perhaps twenty percent of the money came from America. One of the persons who helped me was a high school teacher.

We paid the contractor day by day. The money God gave me daily we gave to the contractor, and the building moved along according to the money we had. This high school teacher was a devoted person. She came to know the Lord through my ministry. When she presented her offering, in it was her entire check for the month from the government.

- B. Since I have a pastor's heart and love my people, I went to the school and said, "Lady, did you get your change back from your monthly check?"

She said, "What change?"

"You put in your whole check Sunday," I replied.

She looked at me and said, "Pastor, it is my business what I give to God!"

I persisted. "Excuse me. I only wanted to know if you got your change back."

She said, "I did not ask for any. I gave it to God."

"Thank you very much," was all I could say.

The next month she did the same thing. Across my desk came this check from the government for an entire month's salary at a high school. I looked at it and said, "There's something funny here. This is the second month she has given her check. I asked the secretary of the church, "Did this teacher receive any money back?"

"No," she said, "it's all in our books."

I went to her again and said, "Now, I love you. You are a great person and I appreciate you, but your whole check is in the offering. Did you get your change back?"

She looked at me and said, "Pastor, I love you, too. However, I'm not used to pastors meddling in my business."

Faith is an Excellent Sacrifice  
Lesson 10

I said, "You have never had a pastor like me. I'm interested in you, and I cannot let you give all of your money. How are you going to eat? How are you going to buy clothes?"

She said, "God will take care of me."

I inquired, "Are you eating properly?"

She looked at me and began to cry. "Pastor, I do not think you have any right to ask that."

I saw the bottom of her shoe--it was worn through. She had cut newspaper in the shape of her foot and put it inside of her shoe. She said, "Pastor, I'm doing this for Jesus. I am not doing it for you. I love Jesus. You know, Pastor, dozens of children have had their lives changed in school this year. All my needs are met."

Friends, there is a place where you give to God, and you also receive something from God.

I discovered this woman was influencing hundreds of people. She had a Bible study group in her home. She gave in proportion to the faith that she had.

## 8. WILL A MAN ROB GOD?

Your tithe is the proper way to give to God. If you are not willing to sacrifice, then you do not have faith.

*Malachi 3:8-12, Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings.*

*v. 9, Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.*

*v. 10, Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove Me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

*v. 11, And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.*

*v. 12, And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.*

God had to teach this to me.

He is willing to will teach you!



# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 11*

## FAITH IS WALKING WITH GOD

### INTRODUCTION:

Aspire to become very well acquainted with faith. The Bible says that it is impossible to please God without faith. If you wish to please God, learn more about faith. Faith is the force and power that draws us near to the heart of God. It is imperative that we stimulate faith. Our faith must be healthy. We must learn to act in faith. We need to cause our lives to be motivated by faith and not fear. We need to learn that faith comes into our lives through the actions we take. Faith is a walk.

### READING:

Hebrews 11:5, *By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

#### 1. ENOCH HAD FAITH

- A. The translation of Enoch is one of the unique stories of the Bible. However, we do not wish to deal with its uniqueness, but deal with it from the aspect of faith. God said Enoch had faith. If God said it, it must be true, because God cannot lie; therefore, Enoch had faith.
- B. Enoch did not proclaim or declare that he had faith. This is not a man's testimony of himself. The Bible states that God said Enoch had faith. Enoch's faith caused him to have a private and personal translation. This honor is only shared with Elijah.



## 2. ENOCH HAD TRUE FAITH

- A. The Bible declares Enoch had faith. What an honor it would be to talk to him from heaven, “Enoch, God says you have faith. Please tell us what faith is.”
- B. With most great men, self-definition is very difficult. They only know themselves through the natural out-flowing of their personality, and so it is difficult for a great man to explain his greatness. Others can see it, understand it, and write about it. Within himself, he is flowing naturally; therefore, it is not easy for him to tell you that he has a certain amount of anything, whether it is mercy, goodness, faith, love, or whatever.

## 3. ENOCH’S GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER, ADAM

- A. God went on record that Enoch had faith, and so we would say, “Enoch, God said you had faith. Please explain to us what faith is in your life.” Enoch would probably say, “This is the only thing I can tell you. I had a great-great-great-great grandfather, Adam. And my great-great-great-great-grandfather, Adam, was about 600 years old when I was born.”
- B. Adam lived to be about 930; of course, he lived altogether with Enoch for over 300 years.
- C. Grandpa Adam was 600 years of age when Enoch was born, and was very proud of his great-great-great-great grandson. Naturally, he was a favorite of his great-great-great-great grandfather’s love and affection.
- D. Enoch could remember, “My great-great-great-great-grandfather told me of the Garden of Eden, which was truly the garden of God. He said that in that garden everything was beautiful, lovely, and delicious.”
- E. “Into that garden Jehovah Himself would walk with my granddad at eventide. They communed and had fellowship together. Then he would look at me and say, ‘Son, how wonderful it was.’ I would look at my grandfather and say, ‘But Granddad, why did God stop walking with you?’ And he would say, ‘It’s a sad story. We ate the forbidden fruit, our spirits died within us, we lost communication with God, and God has never walked with me again. I have lived 600 years without God walking with me. It is very sad to have once walked with God and not be able to walk with Him now.’”

Faith is Walking With God  
Lesson 11

- F. You know how unique a boy about 12 years old can be. You can just see him looking up and saying, “But, Granddaddy, I didn’t sin. You sinned.”

“Yes, that’s true. I understand that.”

“Well, then God will walk with me.” “Oh,” Adam responded, “I’m not sure of that. I don’t think God has walked with anybody since we sinned.”

“But I didn’t sin,” replied Enoch.

“I know that, my son. You can ask God if He will walk with you. I do not see Him anymore.”

- G. Enoch grew up under the shadow of catastrophe. He knew Adam personally for 300 years. That is a long time to know a man. He heard the story of the Garden of Eden again and again. It was the only story worth telling. He knew it frontwards, backwards, and inside out. I can see him being a boy out looking over the fields watching the grain grow. Old Grandpa Adam would get a little weary and sit down on a log, and I can see the little Enoch say, “Grandpa, tell me the story of Eden again. I want to hear the story about the angel with the sword. I want to hear the story about God, Elohim, who does not walk with you anymore.”

Enoch would hear the story again and somewhere down inside he said, “I want to walk with God.” When alone, Enoch would pray and say, “God, walk with me as You walked with my great-great-great-great-grandfather. Walk with me, please. I want You to walk with me. I desire to walk with You. Please, God, walk with me.”

- H. Nobody has ever sought God without being heard. Nobody has ever cried out to God without God’s responding. Nobody has ever said, “God save me,” unless God saved him. God wants to do tremendous, amazing, and wonderful things for anyone that will just say, “Walk with me, God.” God craves fellowship with His creation more than anything else.

I do not know how many years this young man prayed. I do not know how long he called out to God. I know the Bible says that Enoch walked with God. One day as he was praying, “Lord, walk with me,” he felt an awesome presence. He said, “I’ve never felt this way before. There is somebody here.”

The Lord said, “Yes, Enoch, it is God. We are going to walk together.”

Faith is Walking With God  
Lesson 11

When Enoch returned from his first walk, he had a story to tell that nobody would believe. He said, "Listen, you do not have to go back to the Garden of Eden. I have been walking with God now."

His family and friends said, "Something has gone wrong with you. God is not walking with anybody."

- I. If you have a strong personal relationship with God, neither the members of your family, nor your neighbors, nor your friends will understand you. How can they understand you? They are out of step with the God that you walk with. They do not understand you nor comprehend you.

Walking with God is faith. How do you walk with God? By faith. How much faith do you have? Faith is measured by how close you walk with God. If you lack of faith in your life, you can do something about it. Walk closer to God. That is faith. That is not asking for faith. That is not begging for faith. Walking with God is faith. It is the out-flowing of an artisan well of life that flows up out of you because Jesus said in John 7:38, *Out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water.* It is living faith and it can flow from you.

#### 4. WALKING WITH GOD

- A. If you are going to walk with the world, its sins, and its amusements, you will not be walking with God.
- B. If you are going to walk over people in order to get the best job at work, you will not have time to walk with God.
- C. You may go to church on Sunday and sing "Amazing Grace." Sometimes it is amazing that you do not have any grace.
- D. When you get up in the morning with your hair all tangled up and grouchy, saying you don't feel well, you are not walking in faith.

#### 5. SMITH WIGGLESWORTH HAD GREAT FAITH

- A. I asked Smith Wigglesworth, that great man of faith, "Brother Wigglesworth, I've seen you so many times. You always look the same. You always have the same spirit. How? How can you be the same all the time?"

He said, "Brother Sumrall, I do not ever ask Smith Wigglesworth how he feels."

Faith is Walking With God  
Lesson 11

“But you are Smith Wigglesworth,” I retorted.

“Yes, but I never ask him how he feels,” was his response. This was Smith Wigglesworth talking to Smith Wigglesworth. This was his spirit directing his soul. This was his spirit within him talking to his mind, his emotions, and his will, telling his mind what to think, his emotions how to feel, and his will how to decide. His spirit was the king of his life. He was totally motivated by faith. If anyone of our time walked with God, Smith Wigglesworth did.

- B. If anyone criticized another brother in his presence he would say, “We do not criticize others in my house.”

If you are going to be a talebearer, you are not walking with God. If you walk with gossipers, you are not walking with God. The telephone system we have in this country will send millions of people to hell.

- C. When I asked Smith Wigglesworth, “Tell me how you get up in the morning.” He said, “I put my feet on the floor and dance all over my room with my hands raised.”

This was an international evangelist speaking. He was a man who had ministered to literally tens of thousands of people. In the countries where he went, you could not find an auditorium big enough for the people who came to hear the famous Smith Wigglesworth. Yet, he danced before the Lord for ten minutes when he got up every morning. After dressing, he went downstairs and read the Word of God. Then he knelt and prayed before he counseled those in need.

- D. The first time I went to see Smith Wigglesworth in Bradford, England, I had just gotten off the train. Under my arm I had a big *Daily Express* newspaper. I had my little briefcase in one hand, the newspaper under my arm and an umbrella like they carry in England across my arm.

I rang the doorbell, he opened the door and looked at me. We were friends and had preached together in a conference at Cardiff, Wales. He said, “What is that under your arm?”

I replied, “The London newspaper.”

He was abrupt. “Leave it outside.”

Taken by surprise, I said, “Pardon?”

Again he said, “Leave it outside.”

Faith is Walking With God  
Lesson 11

“Yes. Why?” I just had to ask.

He said, “I do not permit lies in my house. Hitler and Mussolini will soon be in hell. Why should I permit lies about them in my house?”

I put the newspaper behind the bushes until I got out of his house. Inside his house were godly books and magazines, but not a single newspaper. You say, “Why?” I met a man who walked with God!

- E. Very few men now days spend time talking and walking with God like this man. No wonder he was different. No wonder whole nations were shaken by his preaching. They told me in Sweden that nobody had ever shaken that nation like Smith Wigglesworth did. They told me in Switzerland that nobody ever had the crowds like Smith Wigglesworth had. The same was true for India and Africa.

Most people only saw the natural man and the natural things: big crowds, marvelous healings, and daring faith. Behind that was a man who communed with God. He walked with God.

- F. Smith Wigglesworth taught me many things. He did not believe that you had to get sick to die. He died without getting ill. In fact, he died in church. He was in a small vestry off the pulpit at a church where he was to minister. He was about 87 years old. Many of those churches in England have the auditorium up on the second floor, and on the ground floor is where they have their Sunday School rooms. At 87 years of age, he had walked up twenty or thirty steps and sat down in the vestry until they asked him to preach. He said, “After you have had the preliminaries, I will be in to preach. I will say a prayer here.”

Smith Wigglesworth bowed his head to pray. Later, the pastor came back; they shook him, but he was gone. Nothing was left but the carcass. The real man had already gone to heaven, no grunt, no pain, no agony, nothing. When they returned, he had slipped away to his reward.

No one ever faced death so easily. Without anybody hearing or knowing about it, he just slipped away to heaven. The angels carried him home and said, “Well, he has worked hard enough.” No doubt, he wanted to die near the pulpit anyway. He went to heaven close to the thing he loved. He had no pain or sickness of any kind. He just slipped home. He walked with God and that is faith.

Many people get on the telephone and yakkety-yak. They say, “Have you heard the latest on Brother So and So? Let me tell you about Sister....” This is not walking with God. It will drain God’s strength and power out of your being and you will be as empty as a gourd.

## 6. A GREAT EVANGELIST WHO WALKS WITH GOD IN FAITH

- A. There is a great evangelist in this country. It was my privilege to be the one to pick him up and take him to church during a crusade.

He said, "Lester, I appreciate you and I love you. In the morning we can have fellowship together, we can play golf together, or whatever you like. However, at 3:00 in the afternoon I do not fellowship until I have preached my sermon. At 3:00 p.m. I close the curtain to humanity and walk and talk with Jesus until 8:00 p.m. Then you can pick me up in the car and take me to the pulpit. I stand up and speak as a man who has just heard from God."

I heard him speak many times without notes. He said, "The message has gone through me for five hours. I do not need any notes."

He spoke to the people with such power and some would say, "Oh, he is an orator."

No, no, they had missed it. He had walked with God. He prayed and things happened. The man is Oral Roberts.

People said, "Look, he is a man of faith." They thought it was magic, but it was not that at all. He had just spent five solitary hours in the divine presence of Jehovah. God said, "That is faith."

- B. Now do you still want faith? Do you really want faith? Well, stop crying for it! Do not say, "Lord, give me faith. Please Lord, give me faith."

I have heard people pray for faith for 40 years. At the end of 40 years they had less faith than they started with. There is no need to think you are going to someday get faith-- because that is not faith.

## 7. WHAT WE OBSERVE IN MEN OF FAITH IS THE FRUIT OF THEIR LABORS

- A. You must see the sap inside the tree of life that flows and produces fruit. That is faith. If you wish to have living faith, then walk with God.
- B. If you are going to be worldly and desire the riches of this earth, you are going to miss the riches of heaven.

Faith is Walking With God  
Lesson 11

- C. I am giving you the structure of faith, the anatomy of faith, to show you that it has a solid structure. If you want faith, you need to walk with God, otherwise, you will not have faith. If you wish to walk with God, you must isolate yourself from this world and say, “Dear old world, you have gone one way, but I am going another way.” When you do that, the world will call you funny names. I found out a long time ago that the worst place in the world to have your happiness is in someone else. My happiness is not in anyone else. What people think of me has nothing to do with my happiness. My happiness is a well of life that flows out of me. I am happy inside. When I am with someone, I am happy and when I am by myself, I am happy. My happiness has no relationship to people. My happiness has to do with God. It flows from me all the time. In my communion with God, I have happiness, and the way to get it is to walk with God!

## 8. FAITH IS GOD’S POWER

- A. Today, it is very popular for women to dress like the world. Any minister who mentions it is called a “clothesline preacher.”

God knows that a woman who exposes her body is doing the wrong thing, and if you do not know it, you should learn it.

While in California, a sweet little woman came to me. She was a nervous wreck. I laid hands on her and prayed for her and she said, “Oh, that feels good.”

I said, “What?”

She replied, “My nerves just laid down in peace.”

I held her hand and said, “Then lady (she was a married woman), would you go home and put some clothes on before you come back to church? Your body is not clothed properly.”

She was back in the afternoon teaching session and had on a pant suit. She came up to me and said, “Is this all right?”

I told her, “It looks to me like you are covered pretty well.”

Her response was, “Well, I do not have a dress that is decent.”

Faith is Walking With God  
Lesson 11

- B. In any aspect of walking with the world, you cannot have God's power. You can have man's power and man's pleasure. You can have all the things that belong to man, but you cannot have God's blessing.
- C. Faith is God's power.
- D. Faith is not an accident. You are not born with it. Faith is a gift of God, and it comes into your life by set laws. Among these laws God says in Luke 6:38, *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

When you give to God, He will give to you.





# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 12*

## FAITH IS A WORK

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Never before have people been so interested in learning as at this moment. The pursuit of truth has become a vital part of people's lives these last few years. I do not believe that in any period of history have people so diligently sought after truth as now. A teacher can give a message and people become very excited about the teaching.

### **READING:**

Hebrews 11:7, *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.*

#### 1. NOAH--A MAN OF FAITH

- A. Noah prepared an ark and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.
- B. There had never been rain before that time. Noah had to simply believe God or not believe Him.
- C. Noah had no knowledge of big waters or boats.
- D. Faith is working for God. It relates to personal experiences.
- E. Faith is an activity. It has to do with action.

#### 2. PERTINENT TRUTH

Faith is pertinent truth. Pertinent truth directs the well-being of a spiritual person.

### 3. EVERYBODY HAS FAITH

- A. The Bible says that to every person is given a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). We all have our measure. Our measure may be small, but it is a measure.
  - 1) Faith can grow.
  - 2) It can develop.
  - 3) Faith can be measured.
  - 4) It can be weighed.
  - 5) You can learn about faith.
- B. Faith is not a mystery; neither does faith deal in mysteries.
- C. Faith is normally the opposite of what most people think it is. For that reason we must come to understand and comprehend faith in order that we might live resourcefully. You can take your faith, increase it and make it stronger and greater.
- D. Faith does not come through prayer. Some people say, "I will pray for faith." You do not receive faith in that way. I am going to show you from the Word of God how faith is multiplied in your life.

### 4. GOD ATTRIBUTED FAITH TO NOAH

Noah did not say that he had faith. God said that Noah had faith. God called Noah an example of faith. It was Noah's faith that condemned the world.

### 5. GOD TOLD NOAH ABOUT A NEW THING HE WOULD DO

- A. God said that He would send rain from the heavens and open fountains of the deep.
- B. This was something new. It had never rained or flooded before.
- C. Noah believed. He was obedient and put his faith to work by building the ark of God as a place of safety.
- D. Living, vital, pertinent faith cannot be demonstrated without stepping into the area of the new and the unknown.

## 6. WORKING FOR GOD

- A. Hebrews 11:7, *By faith, Noah, being warned of God of things not seen....*

God always works with elements with which your natural person cannot cope. It has not been seen as yet.

- B. The Bible further says that some people were moved with fear, some with love, and some with respect.

- C. Noah *...prepared an ark...by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness, which is by faith.*

- D. If Noah were to come from heaven to talk to us, we could say: “Noah, God did not say you were a good craftsman. He did not say you were a smart man. But He did say you were a man of faith. Noah, what is faith? We want faith.”

Noah would be as reticent as the other men of faith.

- E. Noah would tell us the story. He was praying one day, and God said, “Noah, you must build a boat. I do not want to have to go through the great creative procedure again, but I will cleanse the earth of corruption and contamination.”

Noah looked up and said, “Lord, I am a good farmer, but I am not so sure of shipbuilding.”

God said, “In the middle of this field I want you to build a boat.”

“A boat in a grain field?” Noah asked. “Isn’t it just a little strange to build a boat in a grain field?”

God’s response came, “Noah, it’s all right. I’ll bring the water to the boat. You won’t have to drag the boat to the water.”

It was very fortunate that Noah did not have to move the ark because man never built a boat that size again until 1850 A.D. The amazing truth is that Noah did not stagger at God’s command.

- F. When God tells you to do something that cannot be done, do you stagger? Noah did not stagger. Noah said, “Lord, in that case, I suppose you will draw up the blueprints.” Of course God did.

Faith is a Work  
Lesson 12

Noah continued, “Lord, send me some extra money, and I will employ the big giants who have six fingers and stand ten feet tall to assist me in building the boat.”

The giants moved those big timbers and put them in place.

- G. Noah was the foreman on the job. We ask him, “Noah, what is faith?”

Noah replies, “Faith is working for God.”

“Is that all?” we inquire.

“Yes, it is doing what God tells you to do.”

- H. Since I was seventeen years old, I do not remember Jesus’ asking me to do anything that I did not do. I always tried. So what is faith? It is doing what God tells you to do.

For someone to refuse to do something for God is amazing to me. I can hardly imagine such a thing. I have tried to do everything God wishes of me.

## 7. GOD DIRECTED ME TO GO INTO TELEVISION MINISTRY

- A. I was used to living on a hundred dollars a week. In television you can lose fifty thousand dollars in a month and hardly know where it went.
- B. As Christians we cannot do what we want to do. We do what Jesus tells us to do. That is faith!

## 8. FAITH IS LIVING IN GOD’S WILL

- A. Faith is not praying, “Lord, give me faith.” It is living faith which can change the world.
- B. From my experience, ninety percent of Christians are living in the will of God. How do I know? Simply because you cannot be out of the will of God unless you have rebelled against His will.
- C. God has given us a mind. God tells us to live by the spiritual mind that He gave us. It is His will that our day-to-day activities are directed by our mind.

## 9. FAITH IS A QUALITY OF THE UNKNOWN

- A. Unless you move with God in the area of the unknown, you can never demonstrate what we call living, vital, pertinent faith in God.
- B. Noah may have talked it over with his family; at least, I presume he did. The family joined with him, and they began to build the ark. God laid out the design of it. It is interesting to note that until 1850 A.D., there was never a boat to sail the seas as large as Noah's ark. When men study the dimensions of the ark as given in Genesis, they say that these dimensions for floating dead weight are the best there are.

Evidently, God knows how to build boats. God told Noah how to build it, and Noah said, "I'm willing to work for you."

- C. Is that not beautiful? It touches me deeply. There are many people who are not willing to work for God. There are millions who work for themselves and themselves alone. I can tell you out of the depths of my heart that ever since I was a boy, I have worked for God. When I was seventeen years old, I became a minister and conducted meetings. I worked hard and would not take time off. I would finish a meeting on Sunday in one city and start on Monday in another town or city. I did this in order to see souls saved.

When I was twenty years old I became a missionary-evangelist. I went around the world. I departed America with only \$12 and no denomination or church to support me. I just went. God said, "Go," and I went. Faith is the only answer I have.

- D. God said, "Noah, build an ark," and the instrument that produced it was faith. The powers of faith came into being and Noah carried out the directions of the Holy Spirit as he received them. He obeyed and did the job. Faith is a work. You do not have to have a great amount of strength or ability to do this kind of thing.
- E. I read about a lady who was an invalid. She wanted to work for Jesus. She ordered tracts and stamped on the back of them a few words of her own. The reader could contact her if he needed more help. Sitting in a wheelchair by her window, she would drop tracts out whenever she saw someone coming.

The letters began to come back and souls got saved. Finally, she was saving more souls than the ministers in the town.

Faith is a Work  
Lesson 12

She was an invalid! But she did not quit working. Her work was not altogether a physical thing. She just sat by the window and stamped her little tracts. She would say a prayer over them and drop them out the window. Now God said that is faith!

- F. Faith is a work. Faith is an act. Faith is not just an idea. Faith is reality. Faith is living. Faith is a labor of love. Faith always has to do with activity. It has to do with doing things for God.
- G. The words of the reformer Martin Luther are interesting. He said, "It is a busy, active, living reality that does not ask, 'What shall I do?' but before the time that you ask, you are already up and doing it. This is faith."

It is beautiful! Faith has to do with a man looking for a job, searching for a work to do, and getting it done.

## 10. DAVID HAD FAITH

- A. David had to kill a giant. He knew that he had to do this, and it took something other than physical strength because he did not have the physical strength to match that giant. Goliath stood ten feet tall. He was a monster with hands like hams. He had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot. David knew that he could not combat him physically, so he had to find another way. He said, "God, how shall I do it?"

God said, "Go in My name and use your slingshot." That required faith.

God was going to cause that giant to fall. Goliath had armor all over him and a warrior in front of him that carried a shield to protect him. He had a spear that must have been 18 feet long. If you came within 18 feet of Goliath, he could just reach over and kill you with his spear.

- B. How could little David, without any armor except a piece of sheepskin stretched around him for clothes, fight a giant? David used what he had. God never asks you for what you do not have. You give God what you do have and if you are worthy, God will give you more.
- C. David said, "I do not have a sword. I was offered one, but it did not fit. I gave it back to King Saul. I know how to use a slingshot. It is not meant for warfare, but I can throw a rock at a sheep and it helps to keep it in line."

Faith is a Work  
Lesson 12

- D. David took a smooth stone out of the brook. He wound that sling up and threw the stone with all his might. That stone had to pass a lot of barriers. Goliath had armor all over him. He also had a guard with a shield dancing up, down, and sideways to keep anything from coming at Goliath. God directed that stone until it went to the right spot and sank right between the eyes. Goliath was stunned; he was not killed. He fell to the ground before everyone. David had great courage. He ran up, grabbed that man's sword and cut his head off. Goliath was a dead giant. David manifested labor. It was a laboring faith. It was the faith Noah had.

## 11. FAITH IS AN ACT

- A. There are people who want to work for God.
- B. There are people who dream of teaching a Sunday School class, but never do it.
- C. There are people who talk about doing personal evangelism, but it is only a dream. They are not going to do it.
- D. You may say, "Well, I do not have faith." Faith is an act. Faith has to do with labor. If you desire faith, demonstrate it in labor.

James 2:17, *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

- E. Faith is a living sacrifice, a daily walk and communion with God. It is a labor of love.
- F. Faith requires the commitment to act on the unknown. We must say, "Lord, I am willing to listen to you. I am willing to work for you."

## 12. EXAMPLES FROM MY OWN LIFE

When I left for the mission field and gave up my church in South Bend, Indiana, I called five or six men I thought were outstanding ministers. I asked them to come and see the church. When they came, they saw our great ministry:

- A. Radio program
- B. Literature program
- C. Printing
- D. Bookstore



Faith is a Work  
Lesson 12

- E. Day school
- F. Nursery
- G. School for the blind

These ministers would say, "How many are doing this?" I responded that I did it in my spare time and that there were still others things I was doing. They responded that they did not want the job. Two or three of the finest preachers in the country said, "If I don't have time to play golf in the morning, I am not going to do it. If I cannot have at least one or two days off in the week, I am not going to take the church."

A true Christian does not know what a day off means. He labors every day of his life for Jesus because the dividends are there. Someday he will cash in on these dividends. When Jesus says, "You worked for Me," that will be the reward!

# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 13*

## FAITH IS A PILGRIMAGE

### INTRODUCTION:

Faith is like a diamond. A cut diamond has 52 facets, and faith has many beautiful dimensions. There are two basic elements of faith: the knowledge of God and knowing that He will reward those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). These basic elements shine forth through many splendid aspects. Faith cannot be described in one definition.

### READING:

Hebrews 11:8-10, *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.*

v. 9, *By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:*

v. 10, *For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

### 1. PILGRIMAGE: A SPLENDID ASPECT OF FAITH

- A. God told Abraham to separate himself from his beautiful home, go out into an unknown land, and live in a tent for the rest of his life.
- B. Ur of the Chaldees was a city of beauty. In its ruins, archaeologists have found many beautiful solid gold filigree works.
- C. It was a city of comfort. They had paved cobblestone streets. They had a sewage system below street level.
- D. It was a city of culture. Great philosophers lived there and spent many hours discussing the great questions of life.

## 2. GOD ASKS EACH OF US

- A. To be willing to give up the pleasures of our lives to follow Him.
- B. He may never ask us to give them up, but He does want us to be willing to do so.

## 3. A CALL UNHEEDED: A PILGRIMAGE UNMADE

Once I was sitting at a table with a minister and we began to talk about missions. "You know, Brother Sumrall," he said, "God has called me to India. He said that if I would go there, He would give me a great move of the Spirit and hundreds, maybe even thousands, would be saved. I want to go so badly that I don't know what to do."

His wife suddenly burst out crying. I looked at her and she began to talk. Her face became red and angry. "If you want to go to India, go by yourself!" She blurted, "I won't be without my conveniences here in my home! I will not. I will die before I go!"

Those people are still alive today, but the minister has suffered a lot of sickness and defeat. He has had heart attacks and faced death several times.

## 4. A CALL HEEDED

What a contrast to my wife. She is continually willing to heed the call of God. She would go to the moon with me if the Lord provided two tickets.

- A. She went with me to Hong Kong.
- B. She moved to the Philippines with me.
- C. When there was a red-hot war burning in Korea, I asked if she wanted to go with me. She responded, "Let's go."

## 5. FAITH IS A PERSONAL AFFAIR

- A. I cannot have faith for you.
- B. You cannot have faith for me.

Faith is a Pilgrimage  
Lesson 13

C. God uses each individual in His own way.

- 1) God did not take Noah and make an Abraham out of him.
- 2) God did not take Abraham and make a Moses out of him.

6. FAITH IS AN ACT

A. Abraham acted on God's leading.

- 1) He loaded his donkeys and camels.
- 2) He said his "good-bye"s.
- 3) He started his pilgrimage.

B. God called me to the Philippines and I acted.

- 1) God spoke to me at 3:30 in the afternoon.
- 2) I responded, "Lord, I have been to Manila. Ninety percent of it was ravaged by war (World War II). The rats are as big as cats there. Do You mean that You want me and my family to go and live in that kind of place, Lord?"
- 3) He assured me that He wanted me to go and that He would do more for me than I had ever seen before. He spoke three times saying the same thing.
- 4) I walked downstairs where my wife was cooking dinner and said, "Honey, we are going to Manila."
- 5) She looked at me and said, "When?" I answered, "Right away!"
- 6) We called the deacons to a special session, resigned the church and set everything in motion for the move to Manila.

## 7. THE SECURITY OF FAITH: THE NATURAL MAN SEEKS SECURITY

- A. Faith comes because we:
  - 1) Give to God
  - 2) Walk with God
  - 3) Work for God
- B. God is the security of our faith.
- C. God is the strength of our faith.
- D. Human security and dependence will destroy faith.
- E. Faith is accepting things that are not as though they were.
  - 1) This is the kind of faith by which Abraham and Sarah received their son. There are rewards to faith.
  - 2) This faith is secure in God, not in the natural situation.

## 8. FAITH AND IMMORTALITY

Hebrews 11:10, *For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

## 9. ABRAHAM

- A. The most popular human who ever lived in the history of the world is Abraham. “Oh, no, no,” you say. “The most popular man was Jesus!”

However, that is not true. The Jews do not name their children Jesus, but they love the name Abraham! The Moslems do not accept Jesus as the Son of God. They admit that He lived, but they do not accept Him as a Savior. They say that He did not die on the cross, they believe that He just sneaked away and fooled everybody. Jesus was no fooler. He was the real thing.

Faith is a Pilgrimage  
Lesson 13

There are seven hundred million Moslems who love Abraham. They say that Abraham is their father. So the most popular man who ever lived is Abraham. He is loved and respected by more human beings than any person that you know.

- B. Abraham was a man who became a nobody. He became a nomad. He did not have a house. He had a goatskin tent to live in.

10. GOD CAN BLESS YOU MORE THAN THIS WORLD CAN

- A. God can give to you when this world cannot.
- B. God can supply your needs when this world cannot.
- C. God can make you famous in spite of the world.
- D. The first war that is recorded in the Bible was fought by General Abraham.

Genesis 14:14-16, *And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.*

v. 15, *And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.*

v. 16, *And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.*

- 1) Soldiers came from Ur which was a part of Elam. (The kingdom of Elam is called Iran today.) They took Sodom, Gomorrah, and Lot. When Abraham heard about it, he was angry and said, "What? Five kings with their armies came and took my nephew and all the gold and the silver of Sodom and Gomorrah? Let's go after them!"
- 2) The Bible says that Abraham had three hundred and eighteen men in his household. The Bible says that he had trained them to carry a sword and use a spear. His servants had hearts like a lion. Abraham was no slouch.
- 3) You may say, "Why are you telling us this?" You think faith is baby stuff and I am trying to show you it is not. If you believe all that story about the gentle Jesus, you should have seen Him. You should have seen those jaws of His pop out when He got mad. You should have seen His clenched fists when He hit the tables and they burst into pieces. He was a carpenter with a carpenter's fist. Jesus was much more than a baby in a manger. Abraham was a man's man.

Faith is a Pilgrimage  
Lesson 13

- 4) General went after the five kings and their armies with his three hundred and eighteen trained servants. He crossed the desert. Passing through Hebron, he went up into the mountains of Judea and through Jerusalem. Melchisedek was already the king and the priest there. Abraham might have said to him, "Hold everything back. I'll be back with my tithes and offerings in a few hours."
- 5) He crossed the plain of Armageddon where the last battle will be fought. He drank water out of the Sea of Galilee and kept going. He found the army close to where Damascus is now and divided his own army of three hundred and eighteen into three parts. At midnight he said, "Boys, don't let a single one of them be alive by daylight. Go get them!"

Before daylight he had defeated five kings and demolished their armies. Did the Chaldees have a surprise when they found out "Old Abe," who had left them a few years ago riding a camel, was now General Abraham with an army of mighty men who could destroy kings when they pleased! This faith business gets mighty big when you start working with it.

"What is faith, Abraham?"

His answer would be, "It is complete dedication to God. It is saying, 'God, I will go where you want me to go. I will be what you want me to be. I will say what you want me to say.'" That is faith.

# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 14*

## FAITH IS A WOMAN'S COURAGE

### INTRODUCTION:

Another powerful, dynamic aspect of faith occurs among women. Thus far a woman has not been given as an example of faith to change the world. Women of faith have performed monumental works on the mission field and at home. I truly thank God for every woman of faith. They are a real challenge to the devil.

### READING:

Hebrews 11:11-12, *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised.*

v. 12, *Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.*

#### 1. GOD CHANGED HER NAME

Genesis 17:15,16, *And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.*

v. 16, *And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.*

A. "Sarai" means "contentious."

B. "Sarah" means "princess."

#### 2. THROUGH FAITH, SARAH RECEIVED STRENGTH TO CONCEIVE A SEED

Genesis 21:5, *And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him.*



Faith is a Woman's Courage  
Lesson 14

What a miracle. The Bible says faith gave Sarah strength to conceive a son named Isaac. Faith knows! It was not hope in Sarah's heart, but faith. Sarah received faith as a fact. She received strength to conceive seed and was delivered of a child when she was past childbearing age.

Sarah was 90 years old when Isaac was born. Abraham was 100 years old. Ishmael was 14 years old.

3. THE KEY WORD IS "BECAUSE"

*...because she judged Him....* Sarah judged Him faithful who had promised. Though her body was considered dead, she received seed and the promise of descendants as many as the stars in the sky in multitude and the sand which is by the seashore. Her blessings were innumerable.

We might ask, "Sarah, God said that you have faith. What is faith?"

Sarah would reply, "Since God said it, that is the final word. When God says it, act like you have the thing you believe for. Do not cringe and say, 'Oh, God!'"

4. HOW DID SARAH ACT?

- A. Every morning when Sarah would get up, she would grab her pillow, nestle it in her arms, and dance all over her tent saying, "Oh Isaac! You are so sweet. You are so lovely. You are mine!"

Sarah's servants, no doubt watching her, would say, "Our mistress has lost her marbles! She is kissing a pillow!"

Naturally-minded people never understand people of faith. Sarah acted daily as if she had her son. How does the Bible say it? She counted God would bring to pass the thing He had promised. Sarah stood firmly on the promises of God.

What is faith then? Faith is resting on the promises of God. It simply does not matter how many devils say that God will not keep His promises, He will do it. *He who has promised will fulfill His promises.*

Do not get the idea that faith is easy. If it were, everybody would have a lot of it. These are the principles of faith and this is what faith means.

## 5. SARAH WAS NOT A NERVOUS WRECK

Sarah had faith in God. She felt that God would move the constellations of heaven before failing her.

## 6. WAITING FOR GOD IS A VIRTUE

- A. Sarah said, "God, standing in my front door, said I would have a son. I believe Him!"

Somebody else cannot have faith for you. Hagar could not have Sarah's faith. Things get so messed up. Old Father Abraham and Hagar the Egyptian's having a child messed up the family for three thousand years! In fact, the biggest problem in our world is because of the mix-up of Abraham's having two sons rather than one. The world has the Arabs by Ishmael and the Jews by Isaac. Either one of them could precipitate a world crisis tonight. Either group could throw our world into an Armageddon-type war.

- B. Abraham acted in unbelief. He would have been better off with one son instead of two. One son has the oil, and the other has the gold. What would we have done with a third son?
- C. By faith Sarah became the mother of many nations. As Abraham is the father of the redeemed, Sarah is the mother of the redeemed. Sarah stands like a Gibraltar of fidelity and faith.
- D. Impatience is a vice and a sin.
- E. Sarah uplifts womanhood. She had heiresses, like:
- 1) Jachobed--the intrepid mother of Moses
  - 2) Miriam--the amazing sister of Moses
  - 3) Esther--a queen of an empire
  - 4) Mary--the mother of Jesus



# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 15*

## FAITH IS A CHOICE

### INTRODUCTION:

One of the greatest facets of faith is choice. It adds immeasurably to your understanding of the subject in Hebrews 11:23-26 when God speaks to Moses. If Moses could tell you of his experiences, he would tell you things stranger than fiction. Certainly, if you would ask, he would tell you about faith.

“Moses,” you would say, “You are one of the great leaders of history. You brought deliverance to the people of Israel. You liberated them and led them to the borders of the Promised Land. God said you did it by faith. Please reveal your secret of faith.”

### READING:

Hebrews 11:23-26, *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.*

v. 24, *By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;*

v. 25, *Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;*

v. 26, *Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*

### 1. MOSES' UPBRINGING IN EGYPT

Moses was brought up in the palace of the Pharaoh. Egypt at that time was the greatest civilization of the world. He was placed in the best schools of the country so he could learn the wisdom of that day and be ready to occupy the Egyptian throne. When Moses grew to manhood, however, he could not forget his own people, the Israelites. He would leave the palace with its beautiful garden and with its pleasures and go out into the fields where the people were toiling. His heart felt sad when he saw the cruel taskmasters oppressing the people. He believed in his heart that God

Faith is a Choice  
Lesson 15

had spared his life when he was a baby in order that he might some day help His people and lead them out of bondage.

## 2. CROSSROADS

- A. One day Moses came to the crossroads of decision. On the one hand were the pleasures and treasures of Egypt, on the other were the hardships and poverty of the afflicted people of Israel. He had to make a choice between being a prince and being identified with the despised Israelites. Happily, he did not make his choice on the circumstances of the moment. Had he done so, he would have made the wrong choice. When he made his decision, he saw the end to which his choice would lead. He saw in the “reproach of Christ” greater riches than those of the imperial court of Pharaoh had to offer. He knew that in the end it paid to believe God, so he chose to turn his back upon Egypt and to go God’s way. God called that faith.
- B. Faith, as Moses demonstrated, is a choice between two opposite ends. It is a choice of the right path one will take in life. Sometimes it is a choice between pleasures and treasures on one hand, and affliction and reproach on the other. Like Moses, can you trust the circumstances of the moment? It is the distant goal which you must consider.
- C. The Bible has much to say about choice. In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, He declared, *No man 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* (Matthew 6:24).

The word “mammon” refers to anything considered a god of the heart. Our Lord makes it very clear that you have to make a choice between this world and eternity. To love God is to serve Him with a whole heart.

- D. In the same message, Jesus said, *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it* (Matthew 7:13,14).

The Lord makes it clear that there are two paths which stretch out before men: the broad road leads to destruction; the narrow way leads to life everlasting. The choice you make is a faith choice; you refuse to become identified with this world and choose to believe God’s Word, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the world has to offer. This is faith.

### 3. FAITH IS A CHOICE

Faith, as a choice, has given birth to man's greatest achievements.

- A. Frank Winfield Woolworth, a small-town merchant, had a conviction that there would be a great market across the nation for merchandise in the five-and-ten-cent range. He made a choice; and when he died, he left behind him a fortune in excess of sixty million dollars and Woolworth stores throughout the country.
- B. Henry Ford had a conviction that automobiles could be mass produced at low cost. He made a choice; and when he died, he left a fortune in excess of a billion dollars.
- C. Faith, as a choice, is the greatest element in the advance of civilization. Just as human faith gives birth to such achievements in the natural realm, so the believer's faith in the Word of God gives birth to spiritual achievement.
- D. Some of the greatest adventures I have had in my ministry have come as the result of faith being a choice.

### 4. \$12 IN THE WORLD

I was on my way to Australia, to meet and travel around the world with a man I had only met once. I had made a choice. When Howard Carter and I met in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, God made it very definite to us both through a prophetic utterance given to Mr. Carter that we were to travel together. Now, a few months later, I was walking up the gangplank of a steamer bound for Australia.

No church or society was sending me. No one was sponsoring the tour financially. Someone asked, "What was your financial reserve?" It was exactly \$12. I learned that you do not need to depend upon material resources when you make a choice in God's Word by faith. Faith, as a choice, is just as real today as it was in the day of Moses.

As the *R.M.S. Makura* slowly pushed away from the dock, breaking four colored streamers, I waved farewell to Mr. Craig, founder of the great Glad Tidings Temple and Bible Institute of San Francisco, and his students. Soon the ship passed the famous Devil's Island Prison, and under the Golden Gate, into an unknown world for me. There I was at sea, adventuring around the world with Christ, just a young man.

I remember the night was majestic, and the starry city of God was lustrous above me. The *Makura* was slightly pitching as she plowed through the mysterious deep of the Pacific. Below were the silvery waves, splashing the trustworthy vessel. My face was being bathed in briny mist.

## 5. I KEPT MY PROMISE

- A. Certainly now I have kept my promise to you and shared the secret which God gave to me the night He spoke to me in Puerto Rico about the all-important matter of faith. You and I have “talked” with those whom God identifies as men and women of faith. Out of these conversations, you learned that faith is substance and the truth of God, which, like the character of God, has no variableness, neither shadow of change (James 1:17).
- B. Faith is not some sloppy thing that moves around like jelly. Faith is something strong.
- C. The Bible says that faith is a substance. Substance is something you can analyze. Substance is something you can weigh. Substance has its evidences. Evidence is something that you can prove. You can put it in a court of law and it can stand its ground because it is heard, seen, and understood--it has its evidences. Therefore, faith is not a mystical power. Faith is basic, and its operation is common to man. Faith is something you deal with in your everyday life.

My relationship with faith was and is an involved and personal situation. Faith is not making a sermon; it is living with your faith and trust in God’s hands.

# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 16*

## FAITH IS A STRING

### INTRODUCTION:

Faith is discovered in strange and sometimes unexpected places. In the doomed and cursed city of Jericho we find faith. This is an amazing discovery. “Rahab” means “tumult.” Her life had been one of trouble. She is the second woman listed in the lineage of faith.

### READING:

Hebrews 11:31, *By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace.*

#### 1. THE STORY OF RAHAB

Joshua 2:1-21, *And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot's house, named Rahab, and lodged there.*

v. 2, *And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither tonight of the children of Israel to search out the country.*

v. 3, *And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country.*

v. 4, *And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were:*

v. 5, *And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them.*

v. 6, *But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof.*

v. 7, *And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they which pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate.*



Faith is a String  
Lesson 16

- v. 8, *And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof;*
- v. 9, *And she said unto the men, I know that the LORD hath given you the land, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you.*
- v. 10, *For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed.*
- v. 11, *And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath.*
- v. 12, *Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the LORD, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father's house, and give me a true token:*
- v. 13, *And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death.*
- v. 14, *And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the LORD hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee.*
- v. 15, *Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the town wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.*
- v. 16, *And she said unto them, Get you to the mountain, lest the pursuers meet you; and hide yourselves there three days, until the pursuers be returned: and afterward may ye go your way.*
- v. 17, *And the men said unto her, We will be blameless of this thine oath which thou hast made us swear.*
- v. 18, *Behold, when we come into the land, thou shalt bind this line of scarlet thread in the window which thou didst let us down by: and thou shalt bring thy father, and thy mother, and thy brethren, and all thy father's household, home unto thee.*
- v. 19, *And it shall be, that whosoever shall go out of the doors of thy house into the street, his blood shall be upon his head, and we will be guiltless: and whosoever shall be with thee in the house, his blood shall be on our head, if any hand be upon him.*
- v. 20, *And if thou utter this our business, then we will be quit of thine oath which thou hast made us to swear.*
- v. 21, *And she said, According unto your words, so be it. And she sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.*

## 2. WHEN HER CITY FELL, JOSHUA, THE GENERAL, FURTHER DESCRIBED HER STORY

Joshua 6:16-17, 25, ...*Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.*

v. 17, *And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.*

v. 25, *And Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had; and she dwelleth in Israel even unto this day; because she hid the messengers, which Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.*

## 3. A HARLOT SAVED BY FAITH

A. It is amazing that a harlot is listed with Sarah. She is listed in the gallery of great heroes along with Abel, Noah, Abraham, and all the other marvelous people of faith. It was her trust in Jehovah that put her there.

B. Matthew 1:5, *And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse.*

God honored Rahab's faith and placed her in the very lineage of Jesus Christ, the Savior.

C. Faith made her house of disrepute into a house of repute. It was the only house that stood when all the other houses of Jericho fell.

## 4. FAITH IS A STRING

A. Rahab let the men down the city wall by a small rope. She hung a string outside her window to save her household. It was a red string typifying the blood of Jesus for salvation.

B. James 2:25, *Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?*

Rahab hung the string as an action, a work, to accompany her faith.

C. Rahab hid the spies and made an escape plan as an action of her faith that God would deliver Jericho into the hand of the Israelites.

Faith is a String  
Lesson 16

- D. Rahab hung a string as a lifeline for her family. Her faith became a shelter for her whole family.
- E. Rahab's string was part of the lifeline of the human race. She became the great-grandmother of David and part of the lineage of Jesus.
- F. Rahab's faith was a string that pulled her out of guilt. Her sins were totally forgiven and forgotten.

## 5. THE ANATOMY OF FAITH

- A. By "anatomy" we mean the bone structure of faith...what faith really is. What does it stand upon? Where is its strength?
- B. Faith is motivational power. It is not your muscle or brain, but your faith which becomes your strength whereby you make decisions and do the things of life that you should do.
- C. God is a wonderful God. Here is a harlot from Jericho who slipped into the great gallery of faith heroes. Rahab's big, life-size picture is on the wall with Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and the marvelous people of Hebrews, chapter 11. A harlot slipped in. How did she make it? God said, "Totally by faith, believing, trusting, and relying."
- D. It does not matter how far down you have gone, God can bring you to the plateau we are talking about. It does not matter how sinful you have been, God can bring you into the celebrity group. That is beautiful! God can bring you into the group of heroes, place you there and make you one of the great heroes of our time. If a harlot can make it, you can make it.

## 6. YOU CAN BE A PART OF FAITH

- A. It does not matter if you have just been in jail.

It does not matter if you have been on drugs.

It does not matter if you have sold your body for sin.

If you will come to God and believe God, you can be enrolled in the beautiful memorial saying, "Here is a person of faith." Your name can be there.

Faith is a String  
Lesson 16

- B. When that beautiful woman, Mary Magdalene, came to Jesus, He said, “I cast seven devils out of you.” Until the day she died she was known as ...*Mary Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils* (Luke 8:2).
- C. The Bible is a very candid book, a book of truth, and how glad we are for the truth. It says, *By faith the harlot Rahab perished not*. It was not that she was any better than anybody else in the city. No doubt there were women in that city a thousand times better than she was, but Rahab became a great person by faith alone. She reached out to God and God touched her.

## 7. RAHAB WAS JUSTIFIED BY HER WORKS

- A. James 2:25, *Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?*

What were the works of Rahab? She rescued the spies. She accepted two strange men and said, “Come into my house. You will not be safe elsewhere.”

When the soldiers and police came looking for them, she hid them in the flax on the roof of her house. She must have been a hard-working woman. In those days, flax was made into all kinds of cloth. She would be a very industrious woman. She lived by the wall and must have been a very clever woman to have had a house on the wall. She could look out over the plains. The wall was a place of prestige.

Rahab must have been a strong woman, because she let them down over the wall. She was a woman who made up her own mind. She said, “I can tell you how to be safe.” When the soldiers came to get the spies she said, “They went out the gate. Run and get them.” Actually she had hidden the men.

When the spies were ready to go over the wall, she said, “Go into the mountains, stay there three days and then leave.” She was a woman who knew how to preserve life. She was not stupid. She told the men how to save themselves. Then she asked them to save her and her house.

When the spies came, she said, “I know that God will give you the city.” She was a woman of faith. She knew God would give them the city. When everything looked as if He would not, she knew that God would give it to them. These works of hers are faith, because faith is an act. Faith is works. Faith is not dead, it is a living thing! It is a working thing. You have to know that, or you can never have faith. Rahab’s family was sheltered under the shadow of her faith, yet they believed also.

Faith is a String  
Lesson 16

- B. Faith is a shelter. If you can have faith, it will shelter your whole house. Faith is a power. Faith is an anointing. Faith is a light. Faith is a strength. Faith is not just an idea. Faith is not an abstraction. Faith is real. You can have more through faith actions.
- C. Rahab earned a place of honor. She is the most astonishing character to be placed in the lineage of David and the Messiah. It is an amazing thing that she permitted these men to come into her house. She sheltered them and kept them even though she did not know them personally. She was willing to take a chance.
- D. Joshua 6:24, *And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.*

When the walls fell down they fell inward. Scientists said for many hundreds of years, "It cannot be." When they dug down they found that the walls had fallen to the inside just like God had said. The only house left standing in the whole city was the one on the wall. It was Rahab's house. They rescued her and her family then burned the city with fire. What a tremendous thing it was that Rahab became part of the people of God. In the great lineage chapter, Matthew 1, Rahab the harlot is listed as the great-grandmother of David.

When Rahab became part of Israel, she married into a good family. She had brains. She became a good woman and lived uprightly.

- E. Faith means freedom.

When you come to Jesus, He forgives the past. Your neighbors may scar you forever, but God will not. When you come to God and put your faith in Him, He forgives and eliminates the past. You are free forever. You do not have to bear the scarlet sins of the past. You can wear His white robes of righteousness, cleanliness, holiness and purity by exercising living faith and trust in God. While the whole capital city of Jericho fell down, and the people were destroyed, one family rose up strong. They did not come out as slaves, and they were not downgraded. When they came walking out of Jericho, they said, "We helped deliver this city into your hands. We saved the two messengers alive. My family and I did it and now we want to believe in your God. We want to serve this living God and be a part of you."

When Rahab chose her husband, and he chose her; she joined the right kind of people, married, and came into the lineage of the Messiah. What an inspiring story. Faith did it. Faith on a string!

Faith is a String  
Lesson 16

- F. The beginning of Rahab's faith, according to her own words was, "We heard how you have been delivered from Egypt." I am sure that she was not an old woman. I would say at the time she might have been 20-22 years old. Being a young woman, she was probably not the head of the house, and she probably lived with her parents. The Bible does not tell us. She was a strong-minded individual. She knew what she wanted and she went after it with all her might.

When Rahab heard about the Israelites she said, "I believe these stories. I like this God, the God that is with the people of Israel. I do not know Him, but I will. We have heard of the things that God did since you came out of the land of Egypt and we believe that God will deliver this land unto you." That is faith.

- G. Rahab heard the story, and she believed it. Do you believe what you hear, or are you always full of unbelief? There is the story of the girl in the Philippines who was delivered from the devil's power, Clarita Villanueva. I have met people that have said, "You know, I do not believe that story." I do not ask people to believe anything. You can believe it if you want to, but it is true. Whether you believe it or not is up to you.

Rahab not only believed what she heard, but she put her belief into action. When the spies came, she accepted them although they were strangers. She believed them and said, "I will put my life on the line. If they find me, they will kill me. I will be dead and you will be, too. However, they are not going to find us. I am too clever for them. I will save you. I will hide you under the flax on my roof. They can search for you, but they will not find you."

"But she lied," you say. Yes, she was a very poor example of a godly woman at that time. She was to move into truth after she was delivered.

She would be taught the Ten Commandments after she had joined the people of God. She would then be taught things which are right and to do those things. All she knew was that she wanted to join them. She preserved the spies so that she could get into the group. She said, "I will let you go free, but I ask one favor--save me that we can be part of you." Is that not beautiful? Rahab became a greater part than she had ever dreamed. Maybe she had thought she would always be a servant, nothing more. But God is too good for that. He saw the faith and courage in this woman. That faith moved the heart of God and He said, "I will do good things for you. You are the kind of person I like, a person that believes in Me and trusts in Me."

Rahab had only heard about God, and she said, "I believe in you, God." The more she knew about Him, the more she believed and accepted Him. God said, "I count that for faith." So He included her in the beautiful story that He wrote on faith in Hebrews chapter 11.

Faith is a String  
Lesson 16

We would downgrade her. We would spit upon her--but not God. God can do things that man cannot do.

- H. After preaching in Russia and Germany prior to World War II, I heard a story that was considered very exciting at that time. Not many people had been around the world and I had been further than most people. For several weeks, I had been in Germany while Adolph Hitler was in power. I had traveled extensively in Russia and rode the Trans-Siberian Express for nine days through the vast and barren countryside of Siberia. In Moscow I visited Red Square. There was much to tell.

Afterwards I went to Alaska and was on the radio daily. I was introduced into a very beautiful society living in Alaska. I do not tell people much about it, but the year I was there they let me be one of the judges to choose the most beautiful lady in the territory to be Miss Alaska. I lectured in the University of Alaska and had a really great time. I also met the mayor and, of course, his wife. That is when I heard this story.

People said, "Do you want to hear...?"

"What story?" I asked.

"The mayor of our city was a bachelor. He made a lot of money with gold, then he got into politics and became the mayor. Not many women lived up here, only men. Like the other men, the mayor visited the red-light district. He found a prostitute whom he liked really well.

He told her, 'Honey, do you want to be a harlot?'

She said, 'No, but I have to make a living.'

The mayor said, 'If I were to make you my wife, would you be a good woman?' She promised she would so he took the girl out of the red-light district and made her Mrs. Mayor."

When I was there she was a most gracious person. Behind her back they might have said, "Oh, she came out of the red-light district." But at all the state functions she was Mrs. Mayor. She was the head lady of the city, and you had to admit and accept it.

Just as this lady rose up out of her condition, so can you. That is my message. Faith can bring you out when nothing else can. Believe me. Here was a woman, Rahab the harlot, who married into the lineage of David and Solomon and into

Faith is a String  
Lesson 16

the lineage of the Messiah, Jesus! What amazing faith that woman had. Won't you rise up and believe God? Faith is not an idea. Faith is not just hope. Faith is a reality. Faith is a fact. Faith is an act. Faith is a wonderful thing!

I am excited about faith. Faith is one of the vital issues of life. If you have it, you will go places, get things, and do things that you would never do without the great flowing power of faith. Faith comes from God. You get it from God and it flows through you. It can bring you from the lowest to the highest. It can do things for you that you could not do yourself. You do them through the strength of the greatest force of this world-faith. The greatest power in the world is faith, so the Bible says. "Have faith in God." Jesus said, "All things are possible, only believe." I would say the same thing to you, "Only believe!"





# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 17*

## THE FAITH GALAXY OF BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS

### INTRODUCTION:

Faith takes a new dimension in Hebrews 11:32-34, yet these men are part of the whole. God said these men had faith. What kind of men were they? Surely they were winners.

### READING:

Hebrews 11:32-34, *And what shall I more say? for the time would fail me to tell of Gedeon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthae; of David also, and Samuel, and of the prophets:*

v. 33, *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*

v. 34, *Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

### 1. GIDEON--FAITH IS COURAGE

Judges 6:11, *And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites.*

- A. Gideon was Israel's sixth judge, about B.C. 1256.
- B. Gideon judged Israel for forty years.
- C. Gideon's name means, "Hewer; one who cuts down a tree."

The Faith Galaxy of Blood, Sweat, and Tears  
Lesson 17

D. Gideon's faith is seen in his calling together of the army.

1) He reduced 32,000 soldiers to 10,000 men.

*Judges 7:3, Now therefore go to, proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.*

2) Then he reduced those troops to only 300 men.

*Judges 7:6, And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men: but all the rest of the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.*

3) He equipped this small band of men only with trumpets, pitchers, and lamps and went out to victory.

*Judges 7:16, And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers.*

## 2. BARAK--FAITH INSPIRED BY A WOMAN

A. *Judges 4:6, And she sent and called Barak the son of Abinoam out of Kedeshnaphtali, and said unto him, Hath not the LORD God of Israel commanded, saying, Go and draw toward mount Tabor, and take with thee ten thousand men of the children of Naphtali and of the children of Zebulun?*

B. Deborah was a prophetess. In the land of Israel, the people were challenged to go to war. A general named Sisera came against Israel with so many thousands of people that Israel trembled. The prophetess spoke to the man and said, "Barak, did God not tell you to go?"

He said, "I will not go unless you go!"

It seems like a form of weakness that the man would not go unless Deborah went along! How many men would say, "Yes, I'll go and fight for the country, but my wife has to come along too!"

Imagine the battlefield if there were ten thousand men with their wives hanging on to them. Perhaps it would be the other way around: the men hanging on to their wives. The remarkable thing is that the Bible said that this man had faith.

The Faith Galaxy of Blood, Sweat, and Tears  
Lesson 17

Where does his faith come? It was inspired by a woman. She called his attention to what God had said, and he latched on to it. She went with him. Sisera and all of his armies were destroyed. Barak was not even permitted to destroy the head man. A woman put a nail through Sisera's head and killed him. We might ask, "What in the world was Barak's faith?"

Well, at the least, his faith was evident in that, if someone had heard from God, he would accept it. His faith was that if the Lord said, "Go," he would go. His faith was evident in that he had a meek spirit within him. He would be subject to someone else.

### 3. SAMSON--FAITH, A CONSECRATION

- A. Judges 13:24, *And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him.*
- B. When Samson was born, his mother made him a Nazarite through talking with God. This mother knew how to communicate with God. As a Nazarite, Samson could never touch a dead person. He could never touch wine. He could not cut his hair. Those were the three marks of the Nazarite. He had to keep those spiritual conditions after he was grown.

Samson lived a carnal life. He married a woman who was a pagan. He committed adultery. Even when his eyes were put out, he was in the wrong place with the wrong people. However, he did very remarkable and supernatural things. He took the doors off the gate of the city. They were so wide that eight horses with a chariot could pass.

No other human being that ever lived could pick up such a gate. If you have been to Old Jerusalem and have seen the gates there, especially the Damascus gate, you will know what we are talking about. The Bible says that Samson lifted the gates off their hinges and walked uphill with them. Samson did things that were phenomena to the human race, which have never been repeated. Through his Nazarite consecration, Samson had strength that no other person has ever paralleled before or since. Faith in his life was God's power displayed through his doing the supernatural. He took a lion and tore him apart with his naked hands. Samson's faith was manifested through some strange movements.

### 4. JEPHTHAH--RETURNED FROM BEING A REFUGEE

Judges 11:1, *Now Jephthah the Gileadite was a mighty man of valour, and he was the son of an harlot: and Gilead begat Jephthah.*

The Faith Galaxy of Blood, Sweat, and Tears  
Lesson 17

Jephthah's own family said, "We do not want him here. He is a son born out of wedlock, and we do not want him."

They threw him out of the house, and he went into another country to live. Then the home folks got into trouble and war. They did not have a single brave man among them to fight for them, and they had to send for the one they had thrown out. He was a refugee, but he returned home to fight. He fought a battle and brought victory. Then he became a judge in Israel. There are some very remarkable attitudes of faith in this man. First, he was willing to come back and help those who had thrown him out. Second, he had trust in God. He said, "Lord, even though I am nothing, I believe you can bring this victory."

Jephthah brought a great victory for the entire nation. God said, "That is faith."

## 5. SAMUEL--DEDICATION, LEADERSHIP

*I Samuel 1:20, Wherefore it came to pass, when the time was come about after Hannah had conceived, that she bare a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, Because I have asked him of the LORD.*

Samuel lived one of the most beautiful lives in the Bible. He was a very spiritual person. He was a priest and a prophet over the nation. He was also a government leader over the nation. Samuel was a tremendous person in all aspects of leadership. He had just one serious defect in his life, he was not able to train his own sons to serve God. God had to destroy his sons because they mocked the ministry. They laughed at God and God said, "I will not have it! I will destroy them."

As for Samuel's own life, God called him "a man of remarkable faith."

## 6. DAVID--COURAGE, PATIENCE

*I Samuel 16:1, And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.*

David was a man who fought lions, bears, giants, and enemies from all sides. He was a man who led a nation and forged a dynasty. He was a composer of psalms of praise and worship. But most of all, he was a man after God's own heart.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Faith is trust. A person who wants to find faith, must first find trust. Trust is believing. Believing does the superhuman. It goes beyond the natural into the supernatural. The function of faith is to cause the believer to be what he normally would not be. The function of faith causes the believer to perform things that normally he could not perform.

God wants us to be people of faith so when the great emergencies of life come, we will not depend upon our brains or our neighbors and friends. The Lord wants our dependence to be upon Him.

God says, "That's faith! I am pleased with faith. You may have a lot of shortcomings, but in the area of faith, your trust is strong."

Those that have faith will be close to God in heaven. It will be a great reception for the Lord to say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."



# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 18*

## FAITH HAS A CLOUD OF WITNESSES

### INTRODUCTION:

We are admonished to keep running the race, because we are surrounded by a host of witnesses who not only ran the race but finished it.

Hebrews 11:39-40, *And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*

v. 40, *God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*

Hebrews 12:1-7, *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,*

v. 2, *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

v. 3, *For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against Himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

v. 4, *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.*

v. 5, *And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him:*

v. 6, *For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth.*

v. 7, *If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?*

### 1. OBTAINED GOOD REPORT BY FAITH

- A. Hebrews 11:39, *And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise.*



Faith Has a Cloud of Witnesses  
Lesson 18

- B. Hebrews 11:4, *By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.*

Abel's faith was related to a big sacrifice. He gave a sacrifice that pleased the heart of God.

- C. Hebrews 11:5, *By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.*

Enoch walked with God. God gave him a good report.

- D. Man might have looked upon these people in a different way. John Wesley was not very popular with his neighbors. Martin Luther was not very popular with his neighbors. Even Jesus was not very popular with His neighbors. His own townspeople tried to kill Him. This was not for anything bad He had done, but because He read the book of Isaiah and said, "This has come to pass now."

His neighbors said, "Kill Him. Kill Him!!"

In spite of people who do not like people of faith, the Bible says that they have obtained a good report. It was not in the city hall, but in the books of heaven. When you obtain something, that means you go out after it and do not stop until you have it. You do not naturally have it. You do not have it beforehand. You go and get it.

These people of faith obtained a good report. They got the good report through faith, believing, trusting and relying on God.

## 2. JESUS HAD NOT YET COME

These people retained their faith without getting the promise. What was the promise? The Messiah. Everyone of them looked for the Messiah. There was a promise that there would be a Savior who would come into the world to deliver mankind from the forces of sin. He would overcome the power of sin and the transgression that Adam and Eve committed in the Garden of Eden. None of these men of faith ever saw the fulfillment of that promise.

Could you retain your faith without arriving at the end result?

### 3. FAITH BUILT ON BETTER THINGS

- A. Hebrews 11:40, *God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.*

You and I are the ones surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. If you cannot have faith today, you never will be able to have it. You have so much evidence stacked up before you about people who have lived and done supernatural things for God. If you cannot believe those things, you will never be able to have faith.

- B. What are the “better things” we have? We have Jesus. He has already come. We have Him in our hearts. He has changed our lives. He took lying, stealing, and adultery away from us. We have the baptism of the Holy Spirit that came on the Day of Pentecost. They knew that Joel said, *In the last days I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh.* We have the history of all the apostles and men of faith.

There is something very beautiful in the latter part of verse 40, *...that they without us should not be made perfect.* Is that not great that Abel needs us? These men are not really perfect without us. We complete the fullness of their experience. We bring in the finality of it. So many wonderful, beautiful and magnificent things are taking place in our world today and you and I enjoy them when these men could only look forward to them.

### 4. A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Hebrews 12:1, *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses...*

A young man of Indonesia told a missionary in Manila that he had seen the dead raised. The missionary interrogated him on it and said, “Was he really dead? How long had he been dead? Was he cold?”

The little fellow answered him very politely and said, “Yes, all dead people are cold. Sir, have you ever prayed for the dead to be raised?”

The missionary said, “Oh, no!”

“Well,” said the Indonesian, “I have news for you! You will never see anybody raised!”

Faith Has a Cloud of Witnesses  
Lesson 18

No one will ever have a demonstration of faith unless he reaches for it. Faith reaches out for that which you do not have.

We have a cloud of witnesses trying to talk to us. They try to tell us that we are not out there struggling for something untried and untested. They are saying, "We are compassed around you."

We can look back and see them there. We can look forward and see them there also. We can look to the east and the west and they are there. We are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. Anywhere we look there are witnesses!

## 5. LAY ASIDE WEIGHTS

Hebrews 12:1, *...Let us lay aside every weight...*

We miss faith when we are weighed down with other things. We may be weighed down with unbelief. We may be weighed down with circumstances. We may be weighed down with the idea that it will not work! The Bible says, *Lay aside every weight*. These include the love of this world, the cares of this life, unbelief, sorrow, and grief. Some of these weights may not actually be sins; they might be concerns that you should not have.

## 6. SIN THAT BESETS

Hebrews 12:1, *...and the sin which doth so easily beset us...*

If you are going to have faith, you will not wade around in sin. If you are going to live a life of God's strength and power, you will need to lay aside the weights of unbelief and sin. Sin will easily get you off the track, throw you to one side, and you will not be in the main line of God's work anymore.

## 7. RUN WITH PATIENCE

Hebrews 12:1, *...and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*

Faith is an act. Faith is not an idea. Faith is not a dream. Faith is not a mental assertion. Faith is a movement. Faith is something going somewhere and reaching for something. Faith is doing something. *Run with patience the race that is set before us.* There are many quitters who think they have faith. Their lack of patience and endurance proves their lack of faith.

Life is a race. The only way to win this race is to run in faith with patience.

## 8. LOOKING UNTO JESUS

Hebrews 12:2, *Looking unto Jesus...*

If we do not look unto Jesus, our faith will fall down flat. If we are going to look at people, we are going to get hurt. We will lose out. We will get discouraged. We have to keep looking to the One who saved us. His name is Jesus! *Looking unto Jesus.*

## 9. THE AUTHOR

Hebrews 12:2, *...the author and finisher of our faith...*

Jesus is the author and beginning of our faith. There is no other party related to it but you and Jesus. He started it. He conceived it.

## 10. THE FINISHER

Jesus finishes everything He starts and completes all He conceives. He is all your faith will ever have. Jesus is the One who will complete your life and faith.

## 11. HE ENDURED THE CROSS FOR JOY

Hebrews 12:2, *...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross...*

Jesus could look beyond the cross and the grave and see the resurrection. He said, "Go ahead and hit my back if you want to. It will be healed on the third day and will never hurt again!"

If we cannot see life that way, our faith will waver and be weakened. The whole Bible supports this attitude of faith. What if Joseph had given up halfway and quit? His family would not have been saved and the nation of Egypt would have starved to death. He did not quit. It did not matter how dark it got. They put him in jail. But, Joseph had a dream, and he lived by that dream. He said, "I dreamed that I was to be great, and I am going to be great. I am going to get out of this jail, and I will be great!"

The day came when he walked out. He went from a jail to the seat of the Prime Minister of the nation.

## 12. DESPISED SHAME

- A. Hebrews 12:2, *...despising the shame...*

Despising the shame! The mockery of the people did not mean a thing to Him! We, too, must not let people shame us or look down on us. We must say, "Darling, you need a sweet little prayer. I'll just give you one right now, if you like."

Faith moves right straight through obstacles.

- B. *...and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

This was the fulfillment of it. Because He had despised the shame, endured the cross and saw the whole picture in its right perspective, then He sat down on the right hand of the throne of God. Jesus Christ never failed. The cross was not a failure. Your life will not be a failure either. Some people might say, "Well, he's not getting along too well." They just do not know what God is doing! He might be just two inches away from great success!

## 13. DON'T FAINT

- A. Hebrews 12:3, *For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*

When you see a person growing weary and faint, you know he is looking at the wrong people. He is associating with the wrong people. He is not listening to faith. He is not reading the Word.

- B. Hebrews 12:4,5, *Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. v. 5, And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children...*

We are the children of God. We are different from this world.

*My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of Him: For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth (vv. 5-6).* If a problem comes, whip it down! Do not faint. God does not want any of us fainting.

He tries us out. He wants to know what we are. If you think it was easy for Noah to have faith, you should have been there! He did not win a single convert in a hundred and twenty years! He saved only his own household.

This is the best of the faith lessons because it gives us both the dark side and light side. It encourages us to say, "Oh, God can do it all over again! Everything He has ever done, He can do now! It is only my unbelief that will keep Him from doing it."

**STUDY GUIDE**  
**INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**FAITH**

*Lesson 19*

**THIRTEEN THINGS JESUS SAID  
ABOUT FAITH**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Christ was the “beginning of faith.” He was its originator. Jesus said more about faith than did any other person in the Bible. The Hebrew word for “faith” is used only two times in the Old Testament.

- A. Deuteronomy 32:20, *And He said: I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end will be, for they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faith (NKJV).*
- B. Habakkuk 2:2, *Behold, His soul which is lifted up is not upright in Him: but the just shall live by His faith.*

**READING:**

Hebrews 12:2, *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**1. HAVE FAITH IN GOD**

- A. Mark 11:22, *And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.*

This is a command! Jesus came across a fig tree near Bethany which had leaves but no fruit. Christ cursed it. The next morning, the tree was dead from the roots. The disciples were amazed and Jesus said, Have faith in God.

Thirteen Things Jesus Said About Faith  
Lesson 19

## 2. LITTLE FAITH

This phrase is used four times in the New Testament.

- A. Matthew 6:30, *Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?*
- B. Matthew 8:26, *And He saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.*
- C. Matthew 14:31, *And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*
- D. Matthew 16:8, *Which when Jesus perceived, He said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?*

## 3. RELATED FAITH

- A. Mark 2:5, *When Jesus saw their faith, He said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.*

The faith of the friends, not the sick man himself, was the key to the man's healing.

- B. Mark 4:40, *And He said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?*

The group as a whole united in not having faith.

## 4. PERSONAL FAITH

Mark 10:52, *And Jesus said unto him, Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.*

## 5. SAVING FAITH

- A. Luke 7:50, *And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*

Jesus was speaking to the woman who anointed His feet at the home of Simon the Pharisee.

Thirteen Things Jesus Said About Faith  
Lesson 19

- B. Luke 18:42, *And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.*

Here, Jesus spoke to the blind man at Jericho who, when the crowd tried to quiet him, cried louder for Jesus.

6. HEALING FAITH

- A. Luke 17:19, *And He said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole.*

Jesus was speaking to the one leper who returned to give thanks. Jesus had healed ten lepers.

- B. Matthew 9:22, *But Jesus turned him about, and when He saw her, He said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.*

This was spoken to the woman with an issue of blood.

7. GREAT FAITH

This term is used twice in the New Testament.

- A. Luke 7:9, *When Jesus heard these things, He marvelled at him, and turned him about, and said unto the people that followed Him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.*

The centurion had demonstrated his faith when he told Jesus not to go to the house, but simply send His word only.

- B. 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.*

This woman of faith was from near Tyre and Sidon in Lebanon. She was a Gentile but received the blessing which was previously reserved for Jews.

8. INCREASE FAITH--FAITH AS A GRAIN OF MUSTARD SEED

- A. Luke 17:5, *And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.*



Thirteen Things Jesus Said About Faith  
Lesson 19

- B. Matthew 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.*

9. CHALLENGE TO FAITH

Luke 18:8, *I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?*

10. BY FAITH CHRISTIANS HAVE POWER OVER DEVILS

Mark 16:16-17, *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*  
v. 17, *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.*

11. FAITH FOR ETERNAL LIFE

John 3:36, *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*

12. JESUS PRAYS FOR YOUR FAITH

Luke 22:32, *But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

13. CHRIST ONLY MARVELLED ABOUT FAITH TWO TIMES

- A. Jesus marveled at the great faith of the centurion.

Matthew 8:10, *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.*

- B. Jesus marveled at the unbelief in Nazareth. One had faith and one did not.

Mark 6:6, *And He marvelled because of their unbelief. And He went round about the villages, teaching.*

**STUDY GUIDE**  
**INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**FAITH**

*Lesson 20*

**TEN THINGS THE APOSTLE PAUL  
SAID ABOUT FAITH**

**INTRODUCTION:**

The great apostle to the Gentiles spoke clearly and positively regarding faith. He was a man dedicated to the truth of revealing all aspects of faith.

**READING:**

The Golden Text of Faith:

Hebrews 11:6, *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.*

**1. THE REDEEMED LIVE BY FAITH**

- A. Galatians 3:11, *But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.*
- B. Galatians 5:6, *For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.*

**2. FAITH IS A SUBSTANCE**

Hebrews 11:1-2, *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*  
v. 2, *For by it the elders obtained a good report.*

Ten Things the Apostle Paul Said About Faith  
Lesson 20

3. ESTABLISHED IN FAITH

Colossians 2:6-7, *As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him:*

v. 7, *Rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.*

4. FAITH AND GRACE--A GIFT

Ephesians 2:8-10, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

v. 9, *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

v. 10, *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

5. EVERY PERSON POSSESSES A MEASURE OF FAITH

Romans 12:1-3, *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

v. 2, *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

v. 3, *For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.*

6. WALK BY FAITH

Corinthians 5:5-10, *Now He that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.*

v. 6, *Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:*

v. 7, *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*

v. 8, *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*

v. 9, *Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of Him.*

v. 10, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

## 7. FAITH PRODUCES RIGHTEOUSNESS

- A. Romans 4:3-12, *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.*  
v. 4, *Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.*  
v. 5, *But to him that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.*  
v. 6, *Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,*  
v. 7, *Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*  
v. 8, *Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.*  
v. 9, *Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.*  
v. 10, *How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.*  
v. 11, *And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:*  
v. 12, *And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.*
- B. Romans 10:6-10, *But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)*  
v. 7, *Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is to bring up Christ again from the dead.)*  
v. 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;*  
v. 9, *That if 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.*  
v. 10, *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

## 8. SPIRIT OF FAITH

Corinthians 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.*

Ten Things the Apostle Paul Said About Faith  
Lesson 20

9. JESUS--THE ALPHA AND OMEGA OF FAITH

Hebrews 12:1-2, *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*

v. 2, *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

10. KEEP THE FAITH

Hebrews 10:35, *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.*

# STUDY GUIDE

## INDIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

# FAITH

### *Lesson 21*

## TEACHING A YOUNG MAN FAITH

### INTRODUCTION:

Paul told Timothy, his beloved child of the faith, the secret power regarding faith.

### READING:

I Timothy 2:1-7, *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;*

*v. 2, For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

*v. 3, For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;*

*v. 4, Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*

*v. 5, For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; v. 6, Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*

*v. 7, Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.*

### 1. THE FAITH TEACHER

*II Timothy 1:2, Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Paul had made some great statements. These are his greatest.

### 2. A SOURCE OF FAITH

Timothy's faith came from his mother and grandmother.

*II Timothy 1:5, When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that is in thee also.*

3. ENDLESS GENEALOGIES VS. FAITH

I Timothy 1:4, *Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.*

4. UNFEIGNED FAITH

I Timothy 1:5, *Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned.*

Paul called Timothy to a sincere, unhypocritical faith.

5. FAITH THAT SWERVED

I Timothy 1:6, *From which some having swerved...*

Other people had missed the main line of truth, but Paul warned Timothy to stay on track.

6. VAIN JANGLING

I Timothy 1:6, *...have turned aside unto vain jangling.*

Empty talk is the result of a faithless life.

7. HOLDING FAITH

I Timothy 1:19a, *Holding faith, and a good conscience...*

8. SHIPWRECKED FAITH

I Timothy 1:19, *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck.*

9. THE MYSTERY OF FAITH

I Timothy 3:9a, *Holding the mystery of faith...*

10. FAITH WITH A PURE CONSCIENCE

I Timothy 3:9b, *...in a pure conscience.*

### 11. CASTING OFF FIRST FAITH

I Timothy 5:12, *Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.*

### 12. ERRED FROM THE FAITH

I Timothy 6:10, *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

### 13. PIERCED WITH “MONEY” SORROWS

I Timothy 6:10, *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

### 14. FIGHT THE FIGHT OF FAITH

I Timothy 6:12...

- A. *Fight the good fight of faith...*
- B. *...lay hold on eternal life...*
- C. *...whereunto thou art also called...*
- D. *...and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.*





# FAITH

## Can Change Your World

The natural man can explode an atomic bomb with many megatons of destructive energy—he calls it the ultimate POWER.

Faith, as the prophet Elijah had, sealed the heavens and it did not rain for three years! A prayer prayed in seven bursts of strength brought instant and abundant rain to a famine-stricken land.

Man can push a button and cause mighty machinery to move; but faith as Moses had, with the lifting of his hand and the speaking of a word, caused the Red Sea to split open and created a path through which two million people walked to safety. Faith remains the greatest source of energy available to man.

Faith is built into the tripartite structure of the spirit, soul, and body of every human person on the earth.

Faith is normal, natural, and instinctive to every mortal. God said that every person has a measure of faith.

This dynamic force of faith has the **POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD!**



9 780937 580653

**Dr. Lester Sumrall**  
1913 ~ 1996

The voice of Dr. Lester Sumrall remains prominent in the Christian world today. More than 65 years of ministry in over 100 nations made Dr. Sumrall a respected source of wisdom and understanding. He was an author, teacher, missionary, evangelist, and the pastor and founder of Christian Center Church in South Bend, Indiana. Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Sumrall worked tirelessly to fulfill the Great Commission by carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth. In 1957 he founded LeSEA, a multi-faceted global outreach. Today LeSEA's outreaches blanket the world through television, satellite, FM and shortwave radio, and LeSEA Global Feed The Hungry®.

Would you like to be a part in feeding the spirit, soul, and body of the hungry?  
Call today! 1-888-TEAM-FTH / 1-800-8326-384



**SUMRALL**  
**PUBLISHING**

P.O. Box 12, South Bend, IN 46624  
1-800-621-8885  
[www.sumrallpublishing.com](http://www.sumrallpublishing.com)