

FROM DOUBT TO FAITH

3/19/08

PASTOR DON HINKLE

The bible was written to the unrighteous so they could become righteous. It was written for the blind so they could see.

Don't judge the bible by your experience. The bible is meant to apply to the area where you lack. It's designed to function there.

You can't build your faith on your experience. God issued His word so we would have a way of escape from our problems. Faith never contradicted circumstances it changes them!

The bible isn't a list of goals to attain but God's declaration of what you are.

Any time people hear a promise or word of God you greet it with unbelief. Everyone greets the promise with unbelief. If someone says it can be better in your life, people greet that with the negative.

The only thing people have to lean on is their own natural reasoning. People take the truth and start reasoning based on their natural thinking.

Make sure your beliefs line up with the word! When we hear something new, all we know is what we know. We tend to reach back into our own experience and understanding to judge a new thing. Our natural reaction is to reject it. We need to keep hearing new things to change our foundation so we can judge the truth.

There is a solution for unbelief. You can't believe what you haven't heard. God has made a way for us to get from doubt to faith.

Gen 17:16-22

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.

17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Unbelief is included in Abraham who is known for walking by faith! His natural flesh kicked in just like ours. He thought, "I'm 100 and Sarah 90 years old!" Sarah couldn't have kids when she was 25 years old!

Abraham reasoned Ishmael was the promise of God. God said very patiently but sternly, "Thy wife Sarah shall have a son."

Abraham fell on his face laughing at the thought that he would have a son at his age. Sometimes we feel we have outlived our usefulness in the ministry. Abraham was in total unbelief.

Gen 18:12-16

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

13 And the Lord said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

14 Is any thing too hard for the Lord? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

15 Then Sarah denied, saying, I laughed not; for she was afraid. And he said, Nay; but thou didst laugh.

Sarah laughed. These are our super spiritual faith giants in the bible starting in rank unbelief!

Abraham and Sarah were both in unbelief. He fell over on the ground laughing! Think of their relationship with God. They were laughing in his face in unbelief. He didn't get mad and scold them. He got a little stern but he fully expected them to be human. God just repeated himself and told them what he was going to do. (Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.) Don't get condemned, God is prepared for that. God wants you to have good things and he is willing to work with you and repeat himself. Don't get condemned if you struggle with things in the word. God's not mad. We have a relationship with God. God will talk to you. Don't condemn yourself.

Mark 11:22-23

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

Somewhere Sarah and Abraham got past unbelief and got to a place where they believed God and received Isaac.

How do you get from doubt to faith?

Mark 11:22-23

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

Have faith in God not faith in tithing or your works. People have more faith in their confession and giving than they do in God.

Faith is a persuasion, firm persuasion, a belief, a conviction, simply what you believe.

Mark 11:23-25

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

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

This is the first glimmers of how Sarah and Abraham got from unbelief to faith.

Belief comes before saying. Faith doesn't come by confession. Confession comes by belief.

Verse 23 says, shall not doubt in his heart, not spirit.

Jesus used the word heart = Kardia 2588 in Strong's = the blood pump, inner part of man.

The spirit and soul as a unit; the inner man, your spirit with the soul intact.

Spirit = Pneuma. Soul = Psuche. Jesus use the word Kardia. The word that binds those two together.

The hidden man, the inner man, the spirit of a man with his soul intact. The seat of understanding and knowledge and will and conscience.

Doubt not in your spirit would have meant something different.

1 Thess 5:23-24

23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Spirit of man = Pneuma, the force of life. Soul = Psuche, the individuality of life. Body = soma, the vehicle of life.

Heb 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

These are 3 very separate things. You can only separate them in the word! Jesus said doubt not in your heart, not spirit, soul or body. Doubt not in your Kardia meaning soul and spirit as a unit. Why is that important? The heart = the inner man not just the spirit. There was something Jesus wanted to include that was not in the word spirit. Kardia is a combination of spirit and soul.

Rom 4:16-22

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

17(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

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

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

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

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

How did Abraham get from laughing to strong in faith? He considered not! Consider means, perceive, observe, understand, consider attentively, fix ones eyes or mind upon.

Kardia = the seat of understanding of knowledge of will. This brings out the mental part of a human being.

Your brain is a valuable asset when it comes to studying the word. Don't turn your mind off, crank it up, and educate it so it can be more effective. He wanted you to bring to bear your mental faculties. Abraham fixed his mind on something but it wasn't his body. He was fully persuaded what God promised would come to pass. He didn't consider his natural circumstances or his body or how it felt. At the beginning he did but somewhere Abraham decided to stop fixing his attention on the natural and fix it on the promise God spoke.

Consider = fix your mind on.

Heb 11:11-12

11 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.

Sarah judged him faithful, not I'm a tither so I'm blessed. She didn't put her faith in her confession. We have a better relationship than Abraham, ours is based on the blood of Jesus.

Judge = to lead out before the mind.

Rolling around at the front of your mind. It's where your attention is focused. Your mind is fixed on that thing. Sarah put God's promise out in front of her mind. Kardia includes your mind and your mental faculties.

Leading your mind with God is how you get from unbelief to faith.

Faith is the result of a mental process. It is the result of a reasoning process. Don't doubt in your thinking. Don't doubt in your heart. Doubt = separate yourself from, abandon your beliefs. Don't be divided in your inner man. Don't divide or separate from in your reasoning or thinking.

Sarah judged him faithful in her thinking. She brought God to a place of reckoning. When you go through a reasoning process and start to reckon and come to this conclusion, God has always done what he said he would do for me. I can trust him, not just his word. Sarah trusted God by a mental process of reasoning.

When you reason out a reach a conclusion, that conclusion becomes a conviction. If you don't reach a conclusion its doubt. It becomes confusion.

You stay in doubt because you don't introduce enough information.

Abraham considered the promise of God, he didn't consider his body. You have to reason on the things of God. He focused in front of his mind and brought information into his mental process. God is a keeper of promises.

Be aware of what is in front of your mind. Some people every thought, the first thing in front of their mind, is a bad thing that could happen. Put the result you want foremost in your mind. Tree climbers don't think about falling they concentrate on staying in the tree.

Abraham trained himself not to think naturally. He considered not.

Heb 11:11-12

11 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.

Sarah received strength to conceive because she put her expectation with God out in front of her mind foremost and thought and reasoned and compared her life and how many times God did what he said.

Rom 8:5-6

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

You get to faith by a reasoning process. The carnal mind is synonymous with consider. Carnal mind = death. Spiritual mind = life and peace. There is nothing you need that is not covered in these 2 words, life and peace!

Life will cancel out death in every form! Any form of death can be eradicated from the manifestation of life. Put spiritual things foremost in your reasoning process.

Think life about your body, job, house, etc.

Gal 5:16-17

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

Walk = go, tread about, conduct oneself, to live, a way of conduct. Walk in the spirit is a way of life! You won't fulfill the lust of the flesh, just focus on God's stuff not on trying not to do wrong.

WHAT THING ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH? I WILL SHOW YOU WHAT YOU ARE MOST THINKING ABOUT!

If you talk poverty and think and act poverty that is what is foremost on your mind and it comes out your mouth! How do you change poverty? Take the thought, "God is my prosperity!" Keep it foremost in your mind. Say it and think about it. God is my prosperity. I am made rich in every way. That will transform you into what the word says you are.

Be fully persuaded!

Abraham had every reason to contradict what God said but he chose to put the promise of God in front of him, foremost in his thinking and mind and that transformed him physically!!!
IT CHANGED HIS BODY TO BE ABLE TO REPRODUCE!
IT WILL TRANSFORM YOUR NATURAL WORLD.

Luke 12:27-28

27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Don't get your mind hooked on natural things. Put the kingdom of God foremost in your life. Lilies don't focus on what to eat.

How do we become a person expecting the blessing of life and peace of God? By what we consider! Like lilies, God is my provision!

How do you get the promise of God in your life? By minding the things of God, seeking the kingdom. Put it in your mental processes. God in front of you, God foremost in your thinking.

Instead of thinking, I could never have that car, replace it with thinking God might give me that car! Think on God, have faith in God. Fill your mind with these things and you will develop a conviction like you never had.

EVERY CONSCIOUS THOUGHT DIRECT TO THE PROMISE OF GOD 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK!

Gloria Copeland told Kenneth, it takes no more time to be in faith than in unbelief!

It's just as easy to drive with God foremost on your mind as it is to think about the days problems. It's just as easy to say God never failed.

Don believes everyone he says hi to is transformed because the Holy Ghost is on him. The favor of God is on him. People will just buy him lunch or coffee because of the favor of God. I have favor! Not, Oh God, how can I go to work today...I can't stand that guy.

The blessing of the Lord is upon you! I am an heir according to the promise. The blessing of the Lord comes upon me and overtakes me. Grab your emotions and pull them down and say, "I'm not going to feel inferior!"

Be a lily, just mind the things of God! You can have everything now because you are putting God out there first in your mind. Success in me is greater than failure in the world.

Think about how superior you are in your foremost thinking instead of how inferior you are! I have dominion. I am more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus. My God always causes me to triumph in Christ Jesus. If you think on these things you will develop a robust faith.

When you are facing circumstances ask, What would my God want? How powerful is my God? What thoughts are foremost in my thinking?