

PUTTING YOUR FAITH TO WORK

Ephesians 2:10

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

Hebrews 11:1-2

(1) Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (2) For by it the elders obtained a good report.

The elders “obtained” a good report, because they acted on that which they believed. In other words, they produced a work. There is no way that the elders [Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob] could have obtained a good report without acting on their faith. The ‘obtaining of a good report’ is a manifestation of the Word believed and acted upon producing a Work of Faith. We all have the capacity to operate this way according to Romans 12:3.

FAITH EVIDENCE

James 2:14

(14) What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

- There is no profitability in faith that is void of acting on what you believe.
- Works alone is not faith yet faith is never validated without works. The two must be combined or joined together in the creating a manifestation of the Word.
- This is why faith is considered the “substance” [proof, evidence, title deed] of what you believe. Without evidence the presence of faith is questionable.

EXAMPLE OF BELIEVING WITH NO WORKS

James 2:15-17

(15) If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, (16) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? (17) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

- You can believe that the harvest of corn in the field is ready to eat, but if you don't go and get the harvest, cook, and eat the corn, you will die of starvation.
- It is impossible for you to be in faith when there is no works being demonstrated on your part. Faith must be appropriated.
- If it is impossible to please God without faith and it is impossible to have faith without works, then it is impossible to please God without works.

GOOD WORKS IS THE EVIDENCE OF BELIEVING

James 2:19-21

(19) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. (20) But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? (21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

- You know that believing alone is not enough if that is something that even devils can do. Yes, they believe, and this is why the enemy works so hard to prevent you from living the life of faith.
- Abraham received the reward of his faith through his works. He obtained a good report strictly based upon acting on the Word that God had spoken to him.
- His faith was made "perfect" [complete and mature] through his actions. Abraham's actions validated his believing.

JESUS' ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORKS OF FAITH

Matthew 5:16

(16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- Jesus emphasizes the importance of your works being a demonstration for the world to see.
- Through the demonstration of works the Father is glorified!

Matthew 16:27

(27) For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

- Notice, you and I are not rewarded according to our faith; we are rewarded according to our works.
- However, it takes faith to produce works.

John 10:37-38

(37) If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. (38) But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

- In this passage, Jesus confirms the importance of putting one's faith to work
- He elevates Him doing the works as necessary for us believing or [having faith in] Him as the Son of God.
- Jesus cites the performance of the works as a possible way to help someone to believe that might find it difficult to grasp the message.

John 9:3-5

3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. 4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

- Notice the attitude of urgency that Jesus expressed in the completion of His Work.
- He knew that the Work had to be completed during His tenure [designated time] on the earth.
- Just as Jesus, you and I serve as the Light of the earth as long as we are here. Now is the time that the Work must be done.

END OF SESSION