



## God's Resources for Life and Healing

### Part 6C: Faith

Faith is one of the divine resources that we as believers originally receive from God (Rom. 12:32; 2 Peter 1:1) and can personally choose to develop to a level that can significantly enhance the quality of our lives (Luke 17:5; 2 Tim. 2:22; Philemon 6). In this issue I would like to focus on the use of faith in spiritual warfare. Ephesians 6:16 tells us that in any kind of spiritual battle faith is what quenches the destructive power of Satan's attacks. While he will always maintain his ability to hurl his arrows at us, our faith will determine the extent to which they will be able to "land" on us and cause damage (1 Thes. 3:2-3; 1 Peter 4:12; 5:8-9).

These arrows may come in the form of undeserved criticism, false accusations, temptations, or repeated inconveniences and losses in our lives. Satan's intent is to use them to knock us off our feet emotionally and spiritually, if not physically as well. We can only prevent this from happening if our faith is able to keep us firmly anchored to the solid Rock of our position in Christ (Mat. 7:24-25; Eph. 2:4-6). If we are fully convinced of our secure connection to our loving and all-powerful God, for whom nothing is impossible (Jer. 32:27; Mat. 19:26; Rom. 5:5; Heb. 13:5-6; 1 John 3:1), we will be able to maintain our equilibrium and not be thrown into inner turmoil or fleshly responses when Satan's darts come against us.

As a child, I learned the song that says, "With Christ in the vessel I can smile at the storm." This is truly possible but only through faith and the developed habit of keeping our minds set on Him and all the spiritual resources that He makes available to us (Col. 3:1-2). This focus will keep us walking in the spirit rather than in the flesh. When we walk in the flesh, we will slip and fall and easily succumb to the evil one, but when we walk in the spirit, we are intimately connected with the inner strength of the Holy Spirit, who is able to help us to stand firm against the ploys of the enemy (1 Cor. 6: 17; 16:13; 2 Cor. 1:24; Eph. 3:16: 6:10; Jude 24).

Faith is crucial not only to withstand Satan's assaults against us but also in the process of doing deliverance. The only power that is able to set people free from spiritual bondage is that of the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the efficacy of which was demonstrated by His resurrection from the dead and ascension to the right hand of the Father, where He was seated far above all of Satan's domain. In this position of authority, with all things put in subjection to Him, He was immediately established as Head of the Church (Eph. 1:19-23), enabling us to use the authority of His accomplishments to obtain victory in spiritual warfare for ourselves and for others. When our faith in His absolute supremacy over darkness is strong, we can conduct this warfare without fear or anxiety, *knowing* that it will be effective. If we believe that deliverance depends on anything in us, we are not trusting to the extent that we need to in the authority of the shed blood of Jesus. When we fully recognize that the battle is His (Deut. 20:1-4; 1 Sam. 17:47), we do not have to become anxious or use heightened emotions in the deliverance process. We can operate in the calm, resolute authority of the Lord Jesus Himself.

While our faith in His unfailing power in spiritual warfare is crucial, so is our obedience to whatever He directs us to do. The Old Testament is full of examples of how the combination of faith and obedience brought amazing victories in defeating Israel's enemies. Moses, when cornered between the Egyptian army and the Red Sea, had to believe and to obey the instructions of the Lord to stretch his staff over the sea in order to experience God's miraculous deliverance of the Israelites (Ex. 14). Later, the Israelite army obediently circled the walled city of Jericho for seven days carrying the Ark of the Lord and at the Lord's command gave a mighty shout, and the walls of this fortified city crumbled—because they believed and obeyed (Josh. 6:1-21). This combination will enable us to be victorious in our spiritual battles as well.