

Finding out what the Lord says about

FAITH

In the Bible

Bible Studies by Malcolm D. Powell © 1992

Preface.

Having written these notes many years ago, I feel that should they be published. You, the reader, may find them useful as a point of reference, similar to a Commentary, but much more focussed, in this case on the specific word, **FAITH**, where ever it appears (*238 times*) in the AV (*Schofield Version*) Scriptures.

To that end, an index is at the front of this book, instead of, as is more usual, at the back.

These notes were handwritten over a long period as a result of trying to listen to the Lord whilst studying the meaning of the word **FAITH**, wherever it appears in the Word of God - the Bible. The writer has used Crudens Concordance and gone through every verse (*in its context!!!!*) where the word **FAITH** has appeared, writing out just the verse concerned, followed by what the writer felt that the Lord God of Isra'el was saying about **FAITH in that context**. The writer has now typed them out in order to share what is felt what the Lord Jesus has revealed to me. May these Commentary type notes be a source of instruction, encouraging, informing, comfort and uplifting to those who read them.

The writer is aware, of course, how that which is written, is influenced by his own thoughts and views! He therefore asks any readers of these studies to forgive him if they feel that is the case in reading any given study and not to "throw out the baby with the bath water," as one might say.

The writer hopes that these studies of God's Word may be an encouragement to others to 'dive' into the Word of God for themselves, rather than get God's Word 'pre-digested' by others, as in many daily Bible Study Notes. Not that they should not be used by baby Christians, as a starter. i.e. learn to feed themselves with the meat of the word, instead of milk, as the Scripture exhorts us in **Hebrews 5:12-14**.

Again, these notes are not intended to be a way of studying the Bible, as in daily Bible study notes, but as a source of reference and as an incentive for others to do **real** Bible study and write down what they feel the Lord is saying to them.

As mentioned, there is an index at the beginning, should you wish to go straight to a given verse, as these studies themselves are in the order, as in Crudens Concordance.

All quotations are taken from Schofield's Authorised Version of the Bible, with the 'thee's' and 'thou's' etc. given their modern English equivalent (*because I don't speak like that!*). Nowadays, there is the "New King James" version..... Currently, I am using the CJB – Complete Jewish Bible.

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Other studies on a word, in Scripture include:

HOPE

LOVE

RIGHTEOUSNESS

UNTIL

And WORD

As mentioned, all these were originally hand written in the days before PCs, and I am in the process of typing them into MS Word. This is taking a very long time! Dates when particular studies were originally written has been inserted for interest.

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1. **Deuteronomy 32 v 20:** "And He said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be; for they are a very perverse generation, children in whom is no **FAITH**."

The people of Isra'el had, at that time, no **FAITH**. The Lord God of Isra'el said this because He saw (*and recorded in the Scriptures*) their apostasy and all the forms it took. So, our first intimation of the **FAITH** of God is a negative form: If **FAITH** is absent, then that absence will result in apostasy. If we lack **FAITH** in God, the Lord God of Isra'el, who even today continues to keep **FAITH** (*very one-sidedly!*) with the nation of Isra'el: then we will find, as we take stock of ourselves, individually and as a Church or nation, that we shall be doing the very same sort of things that the nation of Isra'el were doing as recorded in this passage of Deuteronomy, i.e. materialism, encouraging Abortion and Homosexuality amongst other things! Help us Lord God, to exercise the **FAITH** that you have given to us. Amen.

27th January 1990

2. **Matthew 6 v 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, Oh you of little **FAITH**?"

Our second intimation of the **FAITH** of God is somewhat negative again. Instead of no **FAITH**, this verse is of little **FAITH**. We see that the result of little **FAITH** is to worry about things of a most basic nature - our food, drink and clothing. If we worry about such things, then we have, by definition, taken our mind off the very much more important things of eternal consequence! We are no longer looking to Jesus for the salvation of our souls, we are no longer looking to see what God is trying to change or achieve in us, or wants us to do. We don't only worry about these transient things if we have NO **FAITH**; we learn, today, that we worry about food and clothing if we have little **FAITH**. Hopefully, as we progress through this series of studies, the Lord God of Isra'el will keep **FAITH** with us and show us what we are to do about this if we are worrying. Oh Praise the Lord God of Isra'el, that He always keeps **FAITH** with those who are His, whether that be the Nation of Isra'el or us as Christians, because He never changes - **Malachi 3:6!**

3. **Matthew 8 v 26:** "And He said to them, Why are you so fearful, Oh you of little **FAITH**? Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm."

No wonder the 'men' marvelled when Jesus had just controlled the weather! I would too. Back to **FAITH**, Jesus told them that they were "of little **FAITH**." The disciples were not yet given the full measure of **FAITH** that was to come to them at Pentecost after Jesus had died, been buried and been resurrected. The disciples were learning what they (*and us*) would be able to do after they had received **FAITH** (*amongst many other things*) when they would be "baptised in the Spirit" at that time. Jesus had the **FAITH** of God during His time of ministry on earth as a man, and this passage gives us some idea of what can be done when that **FAITH** is exercised. Lord God of Isra'el, help me to exercise the **FAITH** that you have given me. Amen. Amen.

3rd February 1990

4. **Matthew 14 v 31:** "And immediately Jesus stretched forth His hand, and caught him, and said to him, Oh you of little **FAITH**, why did you doubt?"

So doubt is a killer of **FAITH**, maybe an opposite of **FAITH**. Peter had little **FAITH** at this point but, because he doubted, when he took his eyes off Jesus, he began to sink! If we are to do the Lord's bidding (*commandments, work etc.*) we must have that specific call of Jesus for that occasion - Peter didn't do it unless the Lord Jesus told him to do so (!) and he never tried to walk on the water again - at least, we are not told that he did. Because Jesus told him to walk on the water, and come to where Jesus was, Peter had **FAITH** to do it. How often do we, individually or corporately, start out on some course of action but it simply peters out (*no pun intended*) after a while. This is because we didn't have the **FAITH** of God to either, start in the first place, or we doubted like Peter and so lost our enthusiasm for the project or whatever. So, to do the works we set out to do for God, we must know the call of God for that specific time and project, and we must hold fast to **FAITH** in God in order to complete the project and thus glorify God in our obedience. Oh Praise the living Lord God of Isra'el - Jesus! Help us Lord, in our doubting, to overcome our doubts and to hold fast to the **FAITH** which you have given us - that you may be glorified. As Harry Greenwood (*Elder at South Chard Christian Fellowship*) used to say: 'believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts!' Amen.

5. **Matthew 16 v 8:** "Which, when Jesus perceived, He said to them, Oh you of little **FAITH**, why reason you among yourselves, because you have brought no bread?"

"Oh you of little **FAITH**?" Yes, as we have seen already, this all took place before Shavuot (*Pentecost*) i.e. before the Holy Spirit came down upon the disciples. So Jesus was stating a fact! As a result of their lack of **FAITH**, the disciples were unable to understand what Jesus was saying to them (*about the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees*) until he explained it to them later. In order to understand the Word of God, we need (*MUST have*) the **FAITH** of God which comes in full force and effect when the baptism of the Holy Spirit (*Pentecost*) comes to each individual one of us. We cannot ride on the back of someone else's teaching, for that gives only "head knowledge" not the "heart knowledge" that we need to understand the Word of God for the moment. Hallelujah Father God that you have thought of everything for your sons! Praise God in the highest for His glory! Amen.

18th February 1990

6. Luke 12 v 28: "If, then, God so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast in the oven, how much more will He clothe you, Oh you of little **FAITH**?"

Do we not trust God? We pray about some big things and rejoice in the Lord when He hears our prayers and answers, yet we don't trust God in the small everyday things! The original sin (*in my view*) is simply to do what we want instead of what God wants, going our own way - we say all the right things with our lips yet our actions deny all that we say. Why? Because we don't believe that God knows best for us - we don't have **FAITH** in Him! So we can see in this verse and the context, that Jesus is talking directly to each of us (*not to the fellow in the pew behind!!!*) Now, we shall see later in this series that we have been given the full measure of **FAITH**, so what does this "Oh you of little **FAITH**" mean? As Christians, it can only mean that we exercise little of the **FAITH** that we have been given, or, that we go back into the world where there is very little **FAITH** in God instead of our remaining in God's loving Kingdom. Oh help us Lord Jesus to actively seek after you and your ways in order that we may exercise the **FAITH** that you have already given us in full measure. Amen. All glory to your name - Lord Jesus. Amen.

7. Matthew 8 v 10: "When Jesus heard it, He marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say to you, I have not found so great **FAITH**, no, not in Isra'el."

Here we have Jesus expressing amazement at the level of **FAITH** shown in action by this Gentile! Not only did this Centurion have complete belief in all that he had heard of what Jesus had been doing throughout the land of Isra'el, but he showed great respect to the chosen Holy Nation - Isra'el, by deferring to Judaism in not allowing Jesus to break the Law in coming under a Gentile roof to heal his servant; he simply believed (*exercised* **FAITH**) that Jesus could heal the sick from a distance!!! This Centurion could exercise his **FAITH** because he was unfettered by the chains of religion (*be that the Judaism of that time or the churchianity of today!*), although he obviously knew something of the Jews religiosity. Such then, is the level of **FAITH** in operation to which we should each aspire in our daily lives - "Jesus marvelled." Jesus should have cause to marvel at the **FAITH** of each one of us every day. There is no way, however, that we should think of ourselves as any better than the Jews of Jesus' day **Romans 11:18**. Amen. Amen. Amen.

1st Apri1990

8. Luke 7 v 9: "When Jesus heard these things, He marvelled at him, and turned about, and said to the people that followed Him, I say to you, I have not found so great **FAITH**, no, not in Isra'el."

"I have not found so great **FAITH**" not even in the land of Isra'el! Jesus was talking to God's own chosen people, the Jews, when He said this. Amongst them He expected to find great **FAITH**, after all, they were supposed to be the ones to bring the news of God and the worship of Him alone to all the nations of the world. Yes, this is true, but, Jesus now found an even greater **FAITH** outside the ethnic Jews! So much greater was this **FAITH** than that which He found amongst His own people, that He had to turn around and tell them about it! Obviously Jesus was provoking the Jews that were following Him in accordance with **Deuteronomy 32:21**, where He said that He would provoke the Isra'elites to jealousy by the (**FAITH** of the) Gentiles. See also **Romans 10:19 & 11:14**. Our **FAITH**, each one of us, in action, must be such that we too, as Gentiles, will provoke the Jews to jealousy when they see what their God - the living Lord God of Isra'el - is dealing with us, answering our prayers, accepting our praise and worship etc. etc. etc. We must remember, however, that we are only able to benefit from all this as a result of being "grafted in" to the Jews, **Romans 11:17-23**. Amen. Amen. Hallelujah! Thank you Lord Jesus that you have given me the **FAITH** to allow you to graft me in amongst your own people to praise and worship you, that living, loving Lord God of Isra'el.

9. Matthew 17 v 20: "And Jesus said to them, because of your unbelief; for verily I say to you, if you have **FAITH** as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, move from here to yonder place; and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you."

Hallelujah - "and nothing shall be impossible to you!" So how come it isn't that way now??? Jesus in this passage, links **FAITH** and belief (*as seen in previous studies*) and says that they couldn't cast out the demon because they didn't believe that they could (*i.e. didn't have the authority*). We, as born again, Holy Spirit filled Christians do have the full authority to do these things, but if we don't believe (*have FAITH*) that we do have that authority, then we cannot do these things. So we see today that belief and **FAITH** are linked together, may be even the same thing when they are 'in Jesus.' What Jesus says in the middle part of this verse, is that we don't have to have huge amounts of **FAITH** (*belief*) in Jesus in order to do impossible things - just the tiniest amount can enable us to do them. Hallelujah! I have the authority of Christ to do all things. Help me to believe that, Lord Jesus, not just assent to it. Amen.

4th April 1990

10. Matthew 21 v 21: Jesus answered and said to them, Verily I say to you, If you have **FAITH** and doubt not, you shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also, if you shall say to this mountain, 'be you removed, and be you cast into the sea,' it shall be done."

Such is the authority which we have been given, as born again, Holy Spirit filled Christians, that we can exercise it to kill off Fig Trees or move mountains, by just speaking to them - as well as very many other lesser and greater things! Why is this not the 'norm' then? The verse itself gives the answer to that, also, the following verse expands the answer: "If you have **FAITH** and doubt not." So we see again that **FAITH** is contrasted with doubt. We seem to be realising again that **FAITH** and belief are very similar if not the same and are opposite to doubt. As mentioned earlier, to quote Harry Greenwood, "Doubt your doubts and believe your beliefs!" Also, Jesus said in this verse "If you have **FAITH**" He didn't say that, in order to kill Fig trees or move mountains, you have to have mountain sized **FAITH**, all that is necessary is to have the standard quantity of **FAITH** as given to each of us, the thing that allows or prevents us from doing these things is whether we doubt or not! Thank you Lord Jesus, for revealing this to me. Amen.

11. Matthew 23 v 23: "Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay the tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the Law, justice, mercy and **FAITH**; these ought you to have done, and not to leave the others undone."

A curse upon you Scribes and Pharisees - Hypocrites! They were keeping all the details of the Law, but ignoring the major and most important parts of the Law, for us today in this study.... **FAITH**. So today we see that **FAITH** is encapsulated in the Law of God. **FAITH** is the whole under girding of our existence with God, for how can we believe in God without having **FAITH** in God - a little "chicken and egg-ish" really. We need to believe that God is, in order to believe in Him! Like most people, when the Law is mentioned, my mind turns to the Ten Commandments, but, in reality, the Law encompasses very much more than this. It starts again in **Exodus 21** and continues through Leviticus and even right on to where Jesus gave us believers a new Law - "Love one another as I have loved you, that the world may know that you are my disciples," **John 13:34-35**. Thank you Lord Jesus, King of kings, for the **FAITH** that you have given us. Hallelujah! Amen. *6th April 1990*

12. Mark 4 v 40: "And He said to them, why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no **FAITH**?"

These men in the boat had little or no concept (*relatively speaking*) of the power of God - much the same as us really - so they were quite unable to accept that Jesus was going over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee and the weather was quite unable to prevent that! They had had plenty of experience, as fishermen, of the power of the weather though - they knew that it could kill them! I am sure that Jesus commanded the weather to abate not in order to accomplish His purpose, but in order to calm the panic in those men, as well as to show them the power that would be theirs (*and ours!*) in the fullness of time. This was done then, this miracle, in order to set their expectations higher, and hence, ours too. After all, at some stage towards the end of His time on Earth, Jesus told them (*and us too!*) that they would do greater things than these. WOW! I'm not at all sure that I can cope with this Lord Jesus. I am really struggling with the reality of this. I know that you mean it in order to build up my **FAITH** Lord Jesus, but I must confess to great difficulties in having the **FAITH** for me to command the weather! I will try though Lord Jesus, so please help me. Amen. Oh Praise you Lord Jesus, Oh my soul praise you Lord Jesus. Amen.

13. Mark 11 v 22: "And Jesus, answering, said to them, have **FAITH** in God."

Another commandment of Jesus: "Have **FAITH** in God." How basic, how elementary can we get? The whole foundation of Christian (*and Judaistic*) belief is having "**FAITH** in God!" Without that **FAITH**, we cannot even start to become a Christian. Lord Jesus, I see today that you are showing me how fundamentally important is it to have **FAITH** in God. There is no other starting point. It is so important that Jesus here re-states it to His own disciples. Without it, we cannot even begin to approach God for salvation or anything else - **Hebrews 11:6**. We cannot even begin to think of the righteousness or the love or the hope of God unless we first believe (*have **FAITH***) that God IS. Abraham believed (had **FAITH**) in God and it was accounted to him as righteousness (**Genesis 15:6**). Oh Praise God that you have made it possible for each one of us to have that foundation of **FAITH** in you as God, Lord Jesus! Amen, and thank you again. Amen. *10th April 1990*

14. Luke 17 v 5: "And the apostles said to the Lord, increase our **FAITH**."

What did the Lord answer to this request? In essence, He told them that they had all the **FAITH** that there was for them, try exercising it! My own experience of asking the Lord for **FAITH** is that He brings about circumstances to test that **FAITH** which I have - not for Him to find out anything about me, He already knows all about me (*see Psalm 139:1-3 & 15-16*) - it is always for me to find out about myself! Obviously we are never going to have as much **FAITH** as God Himself, but, at salvation and filling with the Holy Spirit, we receive all that we need. We must exercise it, that is all. So, what do we see today of **FAITH**? We see in this verse and the following one, that even if we ask for more **FAITH**, we are not going to be given any more. So, we have it all, sufficient and more for all that we need. I don't believe that Jesus wants us to go around commanding Sycamine trees to transplant themselves into the sea though, but, rather to exercise that **FAITH** in our everyday lives, even for things for our own benefit, like help in difficult situations - a car parking space because we have a tight schedule, to lead us to some lost item in the home, etc. etc. So great is your mercy toward us Lord Jesus, that you want us to exercise our **FAITH** and you show us how to do it too! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Thank you Lord Jesus.

15. Luke 17 v 6: "And the Lord said, If you had **FAITH** as a grain of mustard seed, you might say to this Sycamine tree, Be you plucked up by the root, and be you planted in the sea; and it should obey you."

The tiniest amount of **FAITH** is all that is necessary to accomplish any task that the Lord will set us to do! That is the message about **FAITH** in this verse. So we see today, that we don't need much **FAITH** at all, to live the Christian life in the way that the Lord would have us do. If **FAITH** as tiny as a mustard seed can achieve something as spectacular as transplanting a tree without even touching it (*note from the verse, it would do it by itself!*) how much **FAITH** will it take just to go and talk to someone about Jesus, if we feel Jesus impelling us to do so? Or maybe even having the sign of the fish on the back of the car - not even anything pretentious like words. Surely, Jesus is encouraging each of us to be much bolder as Christians, by telling us that we don't need huge quantities of **FAITH** in order to do His Will. Hallelujah, it is going to be so easy now, to live the Christian life, now that I have seen this. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen. *14th April 1990*

16. Luke 18 v 8: "I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Never the less, when the Son of man comes, shall He find **FAITH** on the earth?"

"When the Son of man comes." This means when Jesus comes again in glory, since Jesus spoke the words of a future time, possibly of the Day of Judgement, or when He returns to reign on Earth for the Millennium. "Shall He find **FAITH** on the earth?" Well, will He? This begs the question of each and every one of us, there is no ducking the issue - do I believe the whole Bible, every word, in the original language, without doubting? I personally have no problem there at all, but there are many things in the Word of God that I do not understand, I hast to point out. Not that I am going to confuse anyone else by revealing any of them! The issue that the Lord seems to be bringing out here, is that **FAITH** is belief without doubting, as against belief without questions. I believe that belief and doubt cannot co-exist within a Christian, and that belief and questions can co-exist - as long as those questions don't lead to doubting anything in the Word of God. So, **FAITH** is believing, without any doubts. We may not necessarily understand everything, in fact we certainly don't, but as long as we don't doubt, then Jesus will find **FAITH** in us when He comes again. Praise God! Praise you Lord Jesus! Praise you Holy Spirit! For you alone are worthy to be praised! Amen. Hallelujah! Amen.

17. Acts 3 v 16: "And in His name, through **FAITH** in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know; yes, the **FAITH** which is by Him, has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

This lame man was made completely whole, "perfect soundness," by a command given in the name of Jesus Messiah, of Nazareth (*Christ is the Greek word for Messiah*) in **verse 6**. Now the lame man had undoubtedly heard of Jesus and of all the wondrous things that He had done in Isra'el, probably he had seen Him go past him (*it must be obvious from this verse, that Jesus didn't heal every sick person in Isra'el!*). So what happened? Peter had **FAITH** in the name of Jesus, to do this thing and maybe the lame man had too, "The **FAITH** which is by Him (*i.e. Jesus*) has given him" healing. So, **FAITH** in Jesus or even in the name of Jesus is enough to be able to accomplish miracles. This **FAITH** is by Jesus - or from Jesus - and is given to all who own Jesus as Lord and Saviour and is sufficient for all our needs and miracles. This miracle was done in the name of Jesus, by Peter, in full public view and caused such a furore, that everybody ran to where they were to see what had happened. Oh Praise you Lord Jesus, You don't hide away in a corner in secret, You do all for everyone to see. Hallelujah! Amen. 16th April 1990

18. Acts 6 v 5: "And the saying pleased the whole multitude; and they chose Stephen, a man full of **FAITH** and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorous, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicholas, a proselyte of Antioch,"

Stephen had not "sloped his shoulders" when **FAITH** was given to him upon his salvation, he was a man full of **FAITH** (*and of the Holy Spirit*)." It is only conjecture, but obviously he was well known as one who exercised his **FAITH** continually in small as well as large things. As such, he is a mere man whose example we would do well to emulate, by which I mean that he was not God as was Jesus - whose example we are set to follow, but in Stephen's case, we cannot claim 'Oh, but he is God and it was easy for him,' "Full of **FAITH** (*and the Holy Spirit*)" means then, that he spent his whole life in trusting God for everything - moment by moment! That is how we must spend our lives too, trusting God for everything large or small and seeking His guidance at every point in our lives. This way we shall receive on the Judgement Day that "Well done you good and **Faithful** servant." Hallelujah! Amen. Thank you Lord Jesus for the same amount of **FAITH** that you have given to me as to Stephen! Amen.

19. Acts 6 v 8: "And Stephen, full of **FAITH** and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people."

Interesting that **FAITH** comes before power, and wonders before miracles - the order of words in Scripture is always significant. So, power follows **FAITH**. I am coming to see that **FAITH** is belief in the name of Jesus put into action, and that **FAITH** results in power, great wonders and miracles. Conversely, it is obvious that no power, great wonders or miracles would (*and do even today*) take place without **FAITH**. So **FAITH** is a pre-requisite of miracles etc. I must expect to see these things happen when **FAITH** is exercised, but I must remember that I can 'put my **FAITH** in this or that' yet only belief in the name of Jesus - or **FAITH** in the name of Jesus can produce that "power great wonders and miracles." Oh Praise the name of Jesus for He has done great things and He has said to us "greater things than these shall you do." Hallelujah! Amen. *22nd April 1990*

20. Acts 6 v 7: "And the Word of God increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the **FAITH**."

Up until this study, **FAITH** has been used in the sense of an action - belief - a verb. Today, **FAITH** is used as a noun - "the **FAITH**." "... the priest were obedient to the **FAITH**," makes **FAITH** in this context to be like the 'way' in **Acts 9:2**. These priests and of course very many others, in being "obedient to the **FAITH**" were following in the same way as all who believe in the Tanakh (*what is now known as the Old Testament*) and all that Jesus taught out of it, and, of course (!) that Jesus is the Son of God, was crucified, dead and buried and on the third day was raised from the dead - for the salvation of each of us from our sins. So, in a nutshell, that is what 'the **FAITH**' means. One could expound much more, starting, say, with the Nicene Creed and endlessly on, but I have tried to put it into a few words. It is the same **FAITH** towards which each and every one of us should be obedient in every area of our lives, Christian or non-Christian, the Lord God of Isra'el would have all men to come into the Kingdom of God. We Christians must live lives that make it all so attractive to non-Christians that they may become 'obedient to the **FAITH**' as did those priests and many others. Amen.

21. Acts 11 v 24: "For he was a righteous man, full of the Holy Spirit and of **FAITH**; and many people were added to the Lord."

Barnabas was sent to Antioch by the Jewish Church in Jerusalem to sort out this business of preaching Jesus to Gentiles, but, because he was filled with the Holy Spirit and **FAITH** (*in Jesus*), he recognised that what was going on there was indeed the work of the Lord Jesus. As a result of the encouragement and **FAITH** of this man, "many people were added to the Lord." In other words, God was glorified all the more in the salvation of many. Up to this time, Jesus had been preached, with only one or two notable exceptions, exclusively to the Jews, with the result that the whole of the early Church was Jewish. Their **FAITH** was based upon Judaism and its fulfilment in and through Jesus - who was (*and still is*) their Messiah (*Christ is only the Greek word for the English word, Messiah*) for whom they had been waiting for many centuries. The Old Testament pointed to this man and when He came and died and was resurrected, around one third (*I am led to believe*) of the Jewish nation, priests and all, came to believe in Jesus - had **FAITH** in Him as their long awaited Messiah. Oh that many more Jews of today could see that Jesus is their Lord God of Isra'el! Amen.

29th April 1990

22. Acts 13 v 8: "But Elymas, the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the **FAITH**."

The **FAITH** again, back to the noun **FAITH**. The way of belief in Jesus as Lord and saviour. It is an attempt to withstand the **FAITH**, to stop people believing in Jesus, that Ha'Satan has as his prime aim. Paul said that Elymas was a child of the Devil" himself! No mincing words here, straight out with it, direct and honest, leaving no doubt in the minds of those within earshot for I don't suppose Paul whispered the words! As a result of this public denouncement followed by the blinding of Elymas, Sergius Paulus the Deputy, was astounded as the Gospel (*or doctrine*) of the Lord Jesus (*verse 12*) and he believed on the Lord Jesus. In other words, he had **FAITH** in Jesus to save him from eternal damnation, the Lake of Fire. I am beginning to see, Lord Jesus, that 'the **FAITH**' is to have **FAITH** in you. The noun **FAITH** and the verb **FAITH** are bound up together and cannot be separated as long as the object of the verb **FAITH** is in Jesus. Hallelujah! All praise and glory to the living Lord God of Isra'el! Amen.

23. Acts 14 v 9: "The same heard Paul speak; who, steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had **FAITH** to be healed,"

I wonder if this man really thought, as Paul approached where he was, 'this man is going to heal me.' I rather doubt it, but Paul looked into this man with the eyes of God, or maybe a 'word of knowledge' was given to Paul that this crippled man "had **FAITH** to be healed." Coming back to the *actual verse* before us today, we see that **FAITH** may be perceived - by whatever means. In other words, if we have **FAITH**, other Christians will see it in us and that will inspire them to doing great things and miracles. Remember, this cripple wasn't a believer, but I am sure he very rapidly became one when he was healed. So, the **FAITH** that this cripple had couldn't have been in Jesus because Paul was a missionary there and I don't suppose for a moment that the man had ever heard of Jesus. He simply believed that it was possible for him to be healed when he saw Paul. Oh Praise the living Lord God of Isra'el that **FAITH**, even in an unbeliever, can be perceived and gives rise to God glorifying miracles. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! *7th May 1990*

24. Acts 14 v 22: "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the **FAITH**, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God."

Those disciples, no less than us today, needed to be exhorted "to continue in the **FAITH**." The reason for this is given in **the verse** before us - "we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God." No rose tinted glasses here – 'loads of problems!' It isn't going to be easy to walk the Christian life, we must expect opposition from 'the world' at every step, this is why we need to "continue in the **FAITH**." Praise God for, "lo, I am with you always" in **Matthew 28:20**, and "greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" in **I John 4:4**. "Continue in the **FAITH**?" We have the word **FAITH** as a noun again in this verse, so what do we learn of **FAITH** here? We see that **FAITH** is ongoing, in fact, we'll see when we come to **I Corinthians 13** that **FAITH** along with hope and love (*charity*) are the three eternal things, but, for the moment, **FAITH** is ongoing and must last for at least our lifetime; otherwise this verse would have had to qualify the length of time for which we are "to continue in the **FAITH**." Hallelujah Lord God! Your Word says it all. It doesn't leave anything to chance - Amen. Thank you, Father, for your Word.

25. Acts 14 v 27: "And when they were come, and had gathered the Church together, they reviewed all that God had done with them, and how He had opened the door of **FAITH** to the Gentiles."

"The door of **FAITH**?" A noun again, a door of **FAITH** means that **FAITH** is a means of passing from one place or situation to another. Now as believers, we understand this as meaning passing from unbelief to belief, or from Ha'Satan's (*the Hebrew word for 'the adversary in English*) kingdom into the Kingdom of God, so what this is saying today is that **FAITH** is the means of passing into the Kingdom of God. Now the thing that was amazing to those Jews, including Paul, is what had been done by God for mere Gentiles! After all, they (*Jews*) are God's chosen people and these things shouldn't happen to non-Jews! Oh Praise God in the highest, praise the living Lord God of Isra'el that He has indeed opened the door of **FAITH** to us Gentiles, to allow us to believe on the Messiah of the Jews and so be grafted in amongst God's chosen people **Romans 11:19**. (*Please don't make the mistake of thinking that any Jew is going to Heaven simply because he is a Jew!*) Hallelujah that through the grace of God, I am in the Kingdom of God. Amen. Amen.

12th May 1990

26. Acts 16 v 5: "And so were the Churches established in the **FAITH**, and increased in number daily."

Now, are we seeing a linking of rapid increase in the number of believers and the Church being "established in the **FAITH**?" If this be so, then it is a massive rebuke to the Church! My Bible margin notes "established" in this verse with 'strengthened,' so by what means was the **FAITH** of the Churches strengthened? **Verse 4** tells us that Paul and Timothy delivered to them "the decrees to keep" that had been given to the Apostles and Elders at Jerusalem. So **FAITH** was strengthened (*and established*) by the delivery and keeping of these decrees. What were these decrees then, because, obviously, I and we need to take them on board, in the modern idiom, and start keeping them? The only way we can know them is to study the Scriptures - both Old and New Testaments. These were Gentile lands through which Paul and Timothy were travelling; so the Gentiles, by and large, would know little of the Old Testament and the New Testament even wasn't written then but must contain these decrees from Jerusalem. We, I, need to get into these Scriptures then, in order to grow and be strengthened in **FAITH**, individually and corporately. Help us Oh Lord God of Isra'el, to receive and keep your Word in every area of my life. Amen.

27. Acts 20 v 21: "Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and **FAITH** toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

So, today we see that repentance and **FAITH** are totally different things, we knew it already, but here it is in the Scripture: repentance toward God and **FAITH** toward Jesus. Paul is saying that this is what he has been saying to both Jews and Gentiles (*Greeks*). Having repented toward God - of wanting to do our own thing instead of what He wants of us, we must then have **FAITH** in Jesus, who is the Lord and Messiah of the Jews. Repentance alone is not enough, we must then have **FAITH** in (*toward*) the Lord Jesus Christ (*Messiah*). So, repentance and **FAITH** go together (*like "love and marriage" as the old secular song says*) but they are not the same or even similar, but they are complimentary. Neither of them will bring us into the Kingdom of God, but together they can and do. Praise God that through His grace, He has made it possible for us to approach Him in His Kingdom. Hallelujah!

26th May 1990

28. Acts 24 v 24: "And after certain days, when Felix came with his wife, Drusilla, who was a Jewess, he sent for Paul, and heard him concerning the **FAITH** in Christ."

Even in the most adverse of circumstances, we are to be witnesses for Jesus, to exercise our **FAITH** at that point is obviously harder to do, but it can be all the more effective for that. "The **FAITH** in Christ" is what Felix heard all about and he desired to know more of it from Paul, he was (*as we see in the preceding verses*) predisposed toward Paul and had, in fact, heard of this **FAITH** before Paul came up before him. He wanted to set Paul free, but, like Pilate, was afraid of the Jewish authority's (*the Priesthood's*) reaction. He wanted to know more of the **FAITH**, but, it seems that he wasn't prepared to pay the price of going all the way. He communed after with Paul and must have heard much of the **FAITH** in Jesus, but we do not read of him believing or having **FAITH** in Jesus. I can only conclude of **FAITH** from this verse today, that **FAITH** has a price and that the more one has in this world, the greater is the cost of believing. It is not a financial cost (*although that is not to say that there isn't one directly or indirectly*) but one of pride, and standing before our peers. Suddenly, it seems, that one drops many rungs on the social ladder if one becomes a committed Christian - have **FAITH** in the Jewish Messiah - Yeshua. Hallelujah Lord that you have so much grace and mercy towards each one of us to save us from worrying about that! Amen.

29. Romans 1 v 5: "By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the **FAITH** among all nations, for His name;"

"For obedience to the **FAITH**" So, **FAITH** is to be obeyed. If we believe some, in a secular sense, we don't do anything to contradict that belief, we do things in accordance (*or obedience*) with that belief; Since we believe that everybody in this country drives on the left, we would be exceedingly foolish to drive on the right hand side of the road! We should be "done" for dangerous driving! So, in that context we are obedient to the **FAITH** (*belief or trust*) in everyone else doing the same and we shall be safe. In the same way, we must be obedient "to the **FAITH**" where ever we are, in whatever people or situation we find ourselves ("*among all nations*") "for His name," if Jesus is to be glorified in each of us and through our lives. This is, of course, our chief aim in our Christian walk - to give Jesus all the glory. So, for His name's sake, we must be obedient to the **FAITH** no matter what happens, that is the only way in which Jesus will be glorified in our lives and hence that we can be witnesses to Him. Help us Lord Jesus to recognise this and to be obedient to the **FAITH**. Amen.

30. Romans 1 v 17: "For it is in the righteousness of God revealed from **FAITH** to **FAITH**; as it is written, The just shall live by **FAITH**."

"Revealed from **FAITH** to **FAITH**," from His **FAITH** to our **FAITH** (*which He has given us anyway*). What a gracious God, He reveals things from His **FAITH** into what little **FAITH** we have in the beginning in order to build up that little **FAITH** that we have, in order that we may fulfil His word "The just shall live by His **FAITH**," **Habakkuk 2:4**. It is interesting that the Scripture that Paul (*mis*)quotes, says that we (*the just*) shall live by the **FAITH** of God, yet Paul is telling us that the Lord God of Isra'el will build up the **FAITH** within each one of us, in order that we can be (*to a degree*) able to live according to the **FAITH** that God has built within each of us and yet that **FAITH** can reach out to God all the time for the **FAITH** within us to be built up more and more as we go through life multiplying our experience of God working in and through our lives. Jesus made all this possible for me (*as a Gentile*) to be built up in **FAITH**, "the righteousness of God revealed from **FAITH** to **FAITH**," even to me, a sinner! Oh Hallelujah! What a God we have in Jesus! He is the King of kings! He is the Lord of lords! All praise, glory and honour, to Jesus our Lord and saviour. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen

31. Romans 3 v 3: "for what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the **FAITH** of God without effect?"

"The **FAITH** of God" is the absolute standard. It is the value or strength by which our **FAITH** is enlarged and strengthened as well as that by which it is judged. Paul is saying in this passage, 'so what if the Jews don't believe, that doesn't affect the eternal purposes of the Lord God of Isra'el does it?' The **FAITH** of God is not affected by what we do, God is always **FAITH**ful to His purposes and to us. His **FAITH**fulness affects us, but our **FAITH**fulness or un**FAITH**fulness does not change God in any way! "... I am the Lord, I change not; therefore you sons of Jacob (*the Jews*) are not consumed" **Malachi 3:6**. Oh Praise the Lord God of Isra'el - Jesus - that He loves us so much that He seeks to change us, but He Himself never ever changes! Hallelujah! What a God we have in Jesus. Praise His holy name! Amen.

4th June 1990

32. Romans 3 v 27: "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay, but by the law of **FAITH**."

"The law of **FAITH**?" What is this then? This law of **FAITH** cannot be the same as "the Law" because the next verse separates the two. We all have the same idea about "the Law," starting with the Ten Commandments, but the law of **FAITH**? Surely this is "believe (*have **FAITH** in*) the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved," **Acts 2:21** paraphrased. Boasting is to be excluded by the law of **FAITH**. Boasting of what? This can only be boasting of one's own works and deeds and attitudes - for they cannot save anyone, "... All our (*own*) righteousnesses are as filthy rags" Only **FAITH** (*belief in or calling upon*) Jesus, the living Lord God of Isra'el can save us from the consequences of our sin (*doing our own thing instead of that which Jesus has planned for each of us*) which is eternal separation from God and eventual destruction in the lake of fire. So **FAITH** (*in Jesus*) is a law! To follow "the Law" serves only to show that, of ourselves, we are totally incapable of doing so; But, by the grace of God, He has made, for us, a way to be reconciled to Himself - through **FAITH** in the man Jesus. Oh Praise you Father God for what you have done for me through your only Son, Jesus! Hallelujah! Amen.

33. Romans 4 v 5: "But to him that works not, but believes on Him that justifies the ungodly, his **FAITH** is counted for righteousness."

This is telling us (*born again Christians*) that the promise to Abraham - that his belief in God has been counted as righteousness in God's eyes (*verse 3*) - that same promise is given to each of us. "To him that works not," i.e. to him that isn't trying to buy his way into the Kingdom of Heaven; "but believes on Him that justifies the ungodly, "i.e. Jesus who justifies us; "his **FAITH** is counted for righteousness." We have then, in this verse, a most wonderful promise and a linking of 'belief in Jesus' and '**FAITH**,' they are here shown to be the same thing. What a fantastic thing, that we are all bound to Hell, yet Jesus will change us to righteousness in God's eyes if we will simply "believe on Him." This belief is not simply a passive belief of course, but a lifestyle changing belief. One that causes us to change our very thought patterns, which in turn causes our attitudes and reactions to change, this **FAITH** is counted for righteousness! Wow! Incredible! Thank you Lord Jesus, that you have made this possible. Amen. *6th June 1990*

34. Romans 4 v 9: "Comes this blessedness, then, upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? For we say that **FAITH** was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness."

What a marvellous passage this is **verses 1-12**. Here, under the hand of Jesus, Paul gives us the logical explanation of why and how it is that Jesus came not only for the Jews (*the circumcision*) but also for the Gentiles (*the uncircumcision*) and that Abraham, because he had **FAITH** in God and that being counted as righteousness before he was circumcised; this means that he is not only the father of Isra'el (*the circumcision*) but he is also the father of all who believe in God (*trust Him completely*) whether they are circumcised or uncircumcised! From this we can see a little clearer, that if we, like Abraham, trust God completely in everything, i.e. have **FAITH** in God, then this is counted by God to be righteousness in His eyes! Hallelujah! You, Father God, made it so much easier for us to believe, because you sent your only Son, Jesus, into the world in order that we can put our trust in (*have **FAITH** in, believe in*) a man, Jesus, who is also God Himself. Abraham had nothing as tangible as this, yet he still believed in God. Oh Praise the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (*Isra'el today*) for His grace and mercy toward each and every one of us. Oh thank you Father God. Amen.

35. Romans 4 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 to them also;"

Abraham had **FAITH** in the Lord God before he was circumcised, and he was then circumcised to seal (*or show*) that his **FAITH** had made him righteous in God's eyes. His being circumcised did not, as so many Jews think, make him (*or them!*) to be righteous! Only trust (*complete trust*) or **FAITH** in God (*Jesus*) is for Jews and Gentiles, the only way to be righteous in God's eyes. This in no way says or even implies that having **FAITH** in God means that we must then be circumcised! It does say that if we do have **FAITH** in God, then we have Abraham as our father (!) because he became "the father of all them that believe," even those that are not circumcised, i.e. are not Jews. Isaiah said in **Isaiah 12:2** "Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid ... the Lord ... also is become my salvation." How wonderful that we can say the same even though we are not circumcised, if we have that same **FAITH** in Jesus, the Lord God of Isra'el. Hallelujah! Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen.

8th June 1990

36. Romans 4 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."

In **Romans 11:17**, Paul explains how believing Gentiles are grafted into the natural Jewish family as children of Abraham. In this verse (**4:12**) we have further clarification of how this will be: Those who walk in the steps of that **FAITH** of our father, Abraham," even the Gentiles (*that is us*) but not forgetting that it does not exclude the Jewish walkers in those steps of **FAITH** (*and there are many!*) see **Romans 11:18-21**. We must take care to "walk in the steps" of **FAITH**, there is no other way to be "grafted in" to the family of God. So **FAITH** can be stepped in, what does this mean? It means that our whole lifestyle must be after the pattern of Jesus here on earth - as did Abraham before He came. A life of complete trust in God for every need in our life, and maybe some of our wants too, see **Luke 12:22-31**. We don't have to be ascetic and denying ourselves but must live in **FAITH** in God, doing what He wants us to do, not what we want. This is walking "in the steps of our father Abraham." Amen.

37. Romans 4 v 13: "For the promise that he should be the heir of the world was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the Law, but through the righteousness of **FAITH**."

There is no way then, that we inherit the promise of God for anyone, Jew or Gentile, except for the righteousness of **FAITH**. Abraham was given the promise that he shall be the father of many nations because he had that **FAITH** towards God, i.e. trust in God that He would do what He said He would, even though in the eyes of the world it was impossible. For that **FAITH**, righteousness was imputed to him by God. In this verse today, we see that **FAITH** has righteousness - "the righteousness of **FAITH**." This is obviously **FAITH**, or trust, or belief in God. So righteousness is produced (*or imputed*) in (*or to*) each of us as we have **FAITH** in God - firstly in His ability to save us from eternal damnation, then to work in us the changes He desires in order to make each of us like His Son, Jesus (*as we allow Him to do so*) by the time we reach the Day of Judgement. Amen. *10th June 1990*

38. Romans 4 v 14: "For if they who are of the Law be heirs, **FAITH** is made void, and the promise made of no effect,"

If it were simply true that by keeping every aspect of the Law we could get into Heaven, then the promise to Abraham would be of no effect and **FAITH** would be entirely unnecessary! This, Paul is saying, is patently untrue. The 'reward' of **FAITH** in God, is to be an heir of the world (*and to be counted righteous and so enter the kingdom of Heaven*) as promised to Abraham and his seed. Now "they who are of the Law" are the Jews, for the Jews (*Isra'elis to really be more technically accurate today*) are the people of the Law, i.e. to whom the Law was given. The Jews believed that if they kept the Law in every aspect, that they can earn their way into the Kingdom of God and be heirs of the world, unfortunately, they got that completely wrong. Now, the Lord God of Isra'el always keeps to Himself a remnant of believing Jews and these are the true "children of Abraham" ethnically speaking, and that same Lord God of Isra'el knows every one of them and of their trust in Him (**FAITH**) and He will honour that **FAITH** in Him, because that **FAITH** cannot be made void. We Gentile believers in God (*having FAITH in Him*) are privileged to be grafted in to the natural Olive Tree of true "children of Abraham." Thank you Lord Jesus for your grace and mercy to your own people and to us Gentiles too. Amen.

39. Romans 4 v 16: "Therefore, it is of **FAITH**, that it might be by grace, to the end that 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."

The **FAITH** of Abraham is a cornerstone of our belief in Jesus, of our very Christianity! That **FAITH** exhibited and lived in by Abraham is a lighthouse or a beacon to show us the way of walking in **FAITH**, the way in which Abraham lived out his trust in God is held up in Scriptures as the example for us to follow. We cannot use the excuse that the pace of life was much different then or anything else. There are no valid excuses, we must live trusting in God (*Jesus*) to supply all our needs, to guide us at each decision point (*large and small*) in our lives. We must expect God to move in our lives, to change things when we don't expect them to be different - especially when we are comfortable in our "rut." If changes in our lifestyle are forced upon us, we must look for the hand of God in them - God never stands still, He is always seeking to make us more like His Son, Jesus - this means changes to us, within ourselves. Praise God that He Himself never changes, **Malachi 3:6**. Jesus, help us to make the changes in our lives that you desire, build our **FAITH** as we see you working in our lives. Amen. *13th June 1990*

40. Romans 9 v 30: "What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, who followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of **FAITH**."

This letter of Paul's was written to the Gentile believers in Rome, bot Jew and Gentile, and I must remember that the Jews thought themselves superior to Gentiles. Paul was writing to correct this error at this point and remind those Jewish believers that most of their peers (*non-believers*) and their fore-fathers had sought to follow after the Law of righteousness, to earn righteousness, yet the only way to attain righteousness in God's eyes, is through **FAITH** in Jesus. The Gentile believers had come to believe that they had attained righteousness in God's eyes for the very same reason that the Jewish believers had- they believed that Jesus was the Son of God and had the power to save them from eternal destruction, not only the power but the desire too! Praise you Lord Jesus, the Holy one of Isra'el, that only by putting our **FAITH** in you and in you alone, you are able and willing to save all who have that **FAITH** in Jesus as Lord. Hallelujah! Amen.

41. Romans 10 v 6: "But the righteousness which is of **FAITH** speaks on this wise, say not in your heart, who shall ascend into Heaven? (that is to bring Christ down from above.)

The righteousness of **FAITH** speaks! In this verse, it speaks a negative: don't say in your heart things, like, who will go up to Heaven to bring the Messiah down, because it is a valueless question, since God the Father has already done these things! I would be wasting my time and effort, and God's, by dwelling in such questions and there is no way in which Jesus could be glorified as a result of such things. Therefore we, today, see in **FAITH**, that through the righteousness of **FAITH**, we are guided in the conduct of our life and hence, lifestyle. Before Jesus came, there was the righteousness of the Law, which guided the lives of (*Jewish*) men and women and children, but we have seen already, and I'm sure we shall see again, that this alone cannot bring us into the Kingdom of God! So, **FAITH** guides through our lives, helps us to live as Jesus would have us to live, if we follow the guidance so given. Help me Lord Jesus, so often I want to go my own way, not Yours. Thank You for grace and mercy to me. Amen.

24th June 1990

42. Romans 10 v 8: “But what says it? The word is near you, even in your mouth, and in your heart; the word of **FAITH**, which we preach:”

In the previous study, we say that the righteousness of **FAITH** spoke a negative. In this study we see it speaking a positive. “The word is near you..... that is, the word of **FAITH**.” In the same way as Jesus said to several, “You are near the Kingdom...,” so are we are near to the word of **FAITH**. Praise You Lord Jesus that this is to all, saved and not saved! We each have to have **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus, as a mustard seed, a tiny, tiny bit, and confess that Jesus is Lord, to be saved. What could be simpler? Yet for many, it is too simple. **Verse 9** of this chapter sums it all up in a nutshell, “If you shall confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe (*have **FAITH***) in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.” Oh what a wonderful God, so full of grace and mercy toward each of us, that He has made it so simple to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, all we need is that tiny amount of **FAITH**, and the righteousness of **FAITH** will guide us throughout our whole life. Hallelujah! Amen.

43. Romans 10 v 17: “So then **FAITH** comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

How important is the word of God to our **FAITH**? We see in this passage today how **FAITH** comes to us, it comes to us by being told of the Gospel, the Good News. In the Bible, “hearing” generally implies the acceptance of what was being told to the listener. In other words, **FAITH** comes to each one of us as we not only hear the Gospel of Jesus, but as we accept (*or believe*) the truth of the Gospel that Jesus is able and willing to save each of us from the results of our not accepting the Gospel - the Lake of Fire and eternal death. “Hearing by the word of God” means that we hear (*accept, believe*) the word of God which is the Gospel. When we believe something, we align our lives or lifestyle to that belief, so when we believe the Gospel of God, we receive **FAITH** (*in Jesus, God*) which enables us to maintain the lifestyle which our belief causes us to adopt. Oh praise Yeshua Ha’Mashiach, Jesus the Messiah, the living Lord God of Isra’el, that He gives to each of us the ability to live as He wants us to live! Hallelujah! Amen! Thank You Lord Jesus, King of kings. All glory, laud and honour to You, for You alone are worthy! *14th July 1990*

44. Romans 12 v 3: “For I say, through the grace given to 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 has dealt to every man the measure of **FAITH**.”

It is only by the grace of God that I can sit here doing studies (*now typing them up*) on the Word of God, it is only by that same grace that I am able to read aloud the Word of God in public. There is a great danger to me and to everyone, of getting to the stage of thinking more of oneself than one ought, ‘I can read the Bible without God’s help’ is such an easy trap into which to fall! I must keep on keeping God as the largest person in my life, in my whole world. I am but a worm in God’s sight, but I am comforted to know that worm as I am, God so loves me “that He gave His only begotten Son” that if I believe in Him, then I shall have everlasting life to live with God in Heaven! Oh living Lord God of Isra’el who is so **FAITH**ful to His promises, save me from myself and from pride in myself, of over estimating myself. “To think soberly, according ... to ... the measure of **FAITH**” that You have given me. Amen. So, **FAITH** will help protect me from a ‘big head!’ Oh Hallelujah! Praise You living Lord Jesus, for You alone are worthy to be praised. Hallelujah. Amen.

45. Romans 12 v 6: “Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophecy according to the proportion of our **FAITH**,”

Jesus has given to each one of us, that are born again, a measure of **FAITH** (*verse 3*) but it is not to be passive, a “well that is that done” type of **FAITH**, it is to be an active **FAITH**, working in the Will of God. When we are born again and baptised in water and in the Holy Spirit, we each receive gifts from God, we may or may not have each one of the gifts, we have each of the gifts in differing proportions, majoring in some area(s). We have been given these gifts according to the proportion of **FAITH** for each one. The point about **FAITH** in this passage is that the **FAITH** we have been given is to be exercised! We must use our **FAITH** (*which is God’s FAITH*) in the application of the gifts we have each been given. To not utilise the gifts is to not only throw them back in God’s face, but it is also to rob the body (*of Messiah*) which needs the exercising of those gifts (*in love, of course*) to build up the body itself and so give glory to God. How important is **FAITH** to that! All glory and power and honour to you Lord Jesus. Amen. *21st July 1990*

46. Romans 14 v 22: “Have you **FAITH**? Have it to yourself before God. Happy is he that condemns not himself in that thing which he allows.”

A question: “Have you **FAITH**?” Well, do you have **FAITH**? We are instructed here, by Paul, to have **FAITH** before God. To continue before God as believers in the salvation through the cross of Jesus, means that we have **FAITH**, all the **FAITH** we need. We saw this in the last study but one, we have been given “the measure of **FAITH**,” which is all we need. So, as believers, we can answer the question in the verse before us with an unequivocal YES! In this **FAITH** which we have in God, we can do and have all things which God has made, we do not need to condemn ourselves because someone says to us, ‘you shouldn’t this,’ or ‘you can’t do that.’ If God says OK, then who are we to argue with Him? However, we must be very careful that we do not enter into licence, we must bear in mind that we are witnesses to God (*Isaiah 43:12b*) and that everything we say or do or even think, should be to the glory of God and not just for our pleasure. Thank You Father God that You are not a God of restrictions, that You are not a ‘killjoy’ to us. All praise and glory and honour and power to Your name. Amen.

47. Romans 14 v 23: “And he that doubts is condemned if he eat, because he eats not of **FAITH**; for whatever is not of **FAITH** is sin.”

Whatever we eat (*or do or speak or even think*) we must do in the full knowledge and belief, that it is right in God’s eyes. So to eat (*do, say or think*) without any doubt in our heart, because to do so (*eat, say or think*) without being fully convinced that it is God’s Will for that moment; i.e. do it with **FAITH** that it is right and the Will of God, we see here that this would be a sin. So here is a clear guidance for our moment by moment living: if we are not totally convinced that what we are about to do (*eat, speak or think*) it is a sin in God’s eyes! Am I absolutely certain that what I am about to say to a brother or sister in Jesus, is what God would have me say, and of the way it should be said? If not so convinced, then it is better to not say anything at all. The same with eating and doing and even thinking. Thank You Lord Jesus, living Lord God of Isra’el, the holy One, for showing me the necessity of **FAITH** in my daily life, and the consequence of the lack of **FAITH** - sin! Hallelujah! Amen.

29th July 1990

48. Romans 16 v 26: “But now is made manifest, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of **FAITH**.”

“Made known to all nations for the obedience of **FAITH**.” What does this mean, Lord? “The obedience of **FAITH**?” If one has **FAITH** in Jesus, as Lord and saviour of one’s soul, then out of the **FAITH** in Jesus will flow obedience to Him in all the things that He commands or even wishes. What, in human terms do we do if we believe in someone who is a leader? We do what they say, even if it sometimes ‘goes against the grain,’ as a soldier obeys the general, because he believes that the general has the plans right. So loyal were the soldiers to Monty in WW II, for instance. So must we expect to be loyal, and obedient, to Jesus our saviour, supernaturally, from our **FAITH** and belief in Him. In **FAITH**, we know that Jesus is infallible, all that He has said will come to pass, if it has not already done so. We believe this, not because of our natural senses, seeing history etc. but because we have spiritual **FAITH** in Jesus that He will always be with us, even when we so often fail Him, because the **FAITH** which He put within each of us at salvation, causes us to know these things and hence be loyal and obedient to Him. “To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.”

49. I Corinthians 12 v 9: “To another, **FAITH** by the same Spirit; to another, the gift of healing by the same Spirit;”

So **FAITH** is a gift of the Holy Spirit is what we see today in this verse. The **FAITH** in this context is grouped with the other “gifts of the Spirit” and so this must be different to the “measure of **FAITH**” given to all believers. We see in **verse 11** that these gifts are given “to every man severally as He Wills,” so, while we digress for a moment, we don’t necessarily only get one of those gifts, and equally, we don’t necessarily get any particular one of them: Praise God. This **FAITH** is a special **FAITH**, the Lord Jesus is telling me of that special occasion when Peter walked on the water. It is not recorded that he ever tried it again. It was a **FAITH** that was unique to that occasion, it was a **FAITH** to do the impossible, a miracle in fact. This **FAITH** in passage today is an extra special **FAITH** for the time and place, over and above the normal **FAITH** we can have in Jesus for our everyday provision and life. So, we have 2 forms of **FAITH** in Jesus now set before us. Thank You Lord Jesus, thank You Lord Jesus that You not only give every one of us **FAITH** in order to live our lives, but at the time of special need, You give us even more! Hallelujah! Amen!

25-August 1990.

50. I Corinthians 13 v 2: “And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understanding all mysteries, and all knowledge; though I have all **FAITH**, so that I could move mountains, and have not love, I am nothing.”

If I have all **FAITH**, it is as if I have nothing if I do not have love. We see in this verse then, that whatever else **FAITH** may be and with whatever else **FAITH** may be coupled, if it isn't exercised in love, then forget it! **FAITH** is very important as we have previously seen, but here in this passage we see that it mustn't be exercised in isolation from love. **FAITH** must not be exercised as a gift, or even as part of a lifestyle on its own. It must always be exercised in conjunction with love! Paul, in this letter, is building up through prophecy, through understanding, through knowledge And even if one has ALL **FAITH** but not love, then all my **FAITH** (*in God and to do miracles*) is a waste of time (*so also prophecy, understanding, knowledge etc. etc.*) if it is not done in love. It will not glorify God, if we exercise **FAITH** without love, nor will it bring any way benefit me! All glory to You Lord Jesus, fill me anew with Your love, that I may be **FAITH**ful to You. Amen.

51. I Corinthians 13 v 13: “Now abides **FAITH**, hope love, these three; but the greatest of these is love,”

Three things will continue into Eternity, we see in this passage today: **FAITH**, hope and love. We see too that the greatest of them is love, the most important of the three. In effect, we see that these three must co-exist in our lives. We need **FAITH** in order to have our “hope” of Eternity with Jesus, but we need love the more because **FAITH** (*and “hope”*) is of no effect without the love of Jesus. **FAITH** can exist without love (*moving mountains in verse 2*) but what we are seeing, is that the effect of **FAITH** without love is null and void in terms of Eternity. **FAITH** must only be exercised in love (*so too with “hope”*) and **FAITH** will continue into Eternity. Lord Jesus, fill me anew with Your love and **FAITH** and hope, that I may exercise all three together, that You might be glorified, both here on earth and in Heaven above. Amen.

2nd September 1990

52. II Corinthians 4 v 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.”

A “Spirit of **FAITH**?” We normally associate a “spirit” as being an evil spirit! Yet there is no way in which this passage could be referring to any form of evil spirit. So this Spirit (*of **FAITH***) must be from God Himself. So what does this mean in terms of this study of **FAITH**? A Spirit, in my experience, doesn’t always manifest Himself, but on occasions. So, it must be with “the ... Spirit of **FAITH**.” Moses displayed an out of the ordinary **FAITH** when he lifted up his rod and stretched out his hand over the Red Sea to divide it. It wasn’t something he did every day! So, a Spirit of **FAITH**” must be upon us for something extra-ordinary, over and above our normal daily living. What is made clear in this passage is that we all have this “same Spirit of **FAITH**” within us, that is why we believe in the first place. It is therefore, by reason of the presence of this “Spirit of **FAITH**,” that we are believers in the salvation of Jesus. This “Spirit of **FAITH**” doesn’t manifest Himself in our lives continuously in great works, but we must realise that He is in every true born again Christian, ready for that time when He is needed in order for God to be glorified. ALL praise, glory and honour to You Lord Jesus, for You alone are worthy, the spotless Lamb of God. Hallelujah! Amen.

53. Galatians 1 v 23: “But they had heard only, he who persecuted us in times past now preaches the **FAITH** which once he destroyed.”

“And they glorified God in me” the *next verse* says. Oh that the **FAITH** which shows in each of our lives should cause others to glorify God in us! In the verse before us today, we see that **FAITH** is something to be shared with others, in this particular case it is to share the things in which we believe, Jesus Christ (*or Yeshua Ha’Mashiach – Jesus the Messiah*) and Him crucified and raised from the dead by God the Father. Once we were dead in our sins, but through **FAITH** in Jesus, we are raised to spiritual life in Jesus. This differs from Paul (*as shown in the verse before us*) only in degree. We too are called to share the **FAITH** which once we persecuted in other ways (*by mickey taking perhaps*). That sharing, or preaching the **FAITH** isn’t necessarily by words, or words alone, but by lifestyle and maybe words too. Does my lifestyle destroy my words before I utter them? Lord Jesus, have mercy on my and show me how to live as You would have me live, in order that You are glorified in me before I open my mouth. Amen. *6th October 1990*

54. Galatians 3 v 2: “This only would I learn of you, received you the Spirit by works of the Law, or by the hearing of **FAITH**.”

What we see today is how imperative it is to have (*or strictly, hear of*) **FAITH**. If we don't have **FAITH**, we cannot receive the Holy Spirit! It is as simple as that, Paul makes this very clear here in this letter to the believers in Galatia. Paul calls the Galatians fools! They had started off in **FAITH** in the Spirit, but then they had gone off into religion, thinking that they could do things on their own strength by following the law, or in today's terms, ritual. How many people have never had **FAITH**, or having had it, have left it to follow the rituals of Church Services (*doing things by law*) and believing that is the way into the Kingdom of Heaven? I know, I have been there! Going to Church twice on Sunday make you a better Christian? Paul (*God's words, not his own*) makes it very clear that **FAITH** and doing things in **FAITH** is the only way into the Kingdom of Heaven (*into the things of the Spirit*). “No man comes to the Father, but by Me,” said Jesus. Amen.

55. Galatians 3 v 5: “He, therefore, that ministers to you in the Spirit, and works miracles among you, does he do it by works of the Law, or by the hearing of **FAITH**?”

This is the same question again as the last study. Are miracles or service done under the Law? Or are they not rather done in **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus Messiah? If we think back to the miracles in the Old Testament (*Tanakh*) the cleansing of Na'aman, the parting of the Red Sea or the cruse of oil that didn't run out etc. etc. etc. not one of them was done under the Law, and not one of the miracles of Jesus or the Apostles was done under any Law or formula, so why should the foolish Galatians (*i.e. You and me*) think that following any form of ritual, formula or procedure (*in Church or out of it*) is going to accomplish anything!!! To be of any real service to God, or even to each other (*in or out of Church*) we must only operate in the Spirit of **FAITH** according as Jesus has blessed us with **FAITH** – which all have in measure beyond measure. We must follow Jesus and NOT traditions or rituals of the Church! Amen. Thank you Lord Jesus, that You have shown us so clearly in Your Word, that we are to do all that we do in **FAITH** in Yourself. Hallelujah. Amen. 14th October 1990

56. Galatians 3 v 7: “Know you therefore, that they who are of **FAITH**, the same are the sons of Abraham.”

How wonderful to see in Scripture, that we “who are **FAITH**..... are the sons of Abraham.” What blessed assurance this is! We shall receive the blessings of Abraham if we remain in **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus Messiah (*Christ is the Greek word for Messiah*). So what do we learn of **FAITH** in the passage before us today? **Verse 6** tells us that Abraham's belief (**FAITH**) in God was counted to him to be righteousness and that to have the same belief (**FAITH**) in God, as did Abraham would bring us into the family of Abraham (**verse 7**) i.e. to be his sons – Isra'elis, and so to be accounted to us righteousness in the sight of God. This is only so to those who are of **FAITH** (*in God – the Holy Trinity*). So, by **FAITH**, we become sons of Abraham and receive righteousness, which is our salvation! Oh Hallelujah! Thank you Father God. Amen.

57. Galatians 3 v 9: “So then, they who are of **FAITH** are blessed with **FAITHful** Abraham.”

Abraham was **FAITHful** to the Lord God and as a result of that **FAITH**, he was blessed. We know from Scripture that he was greatly blessed. He was also blessed in material things too. We too, if we are of **FAITH** in the Lord God of Abraham, to the same degree as Abraham exercised his **FAITH**, will be blessed. So, blessings are a sort of reward for **FAITH** in God (*through Jesus for us today*) but we mustn't make the same mistake as did the Jews, that the blessings are of a material form! Heresies today are founded upon the mistake of thinking that the Lord God of Isra'el will bless us materially if we are **FAITHful** to Jesus! The Lord will bless us in spiritual ways most definitely as He did to Abraham – He appeared with Moses, Elijah and Jesus at the Transfiguration – what more spiritual blessing could one imagine than to be with Jesus in Heaven! Hallelujah! Help me, Lord Jesus, to remain **FAITHful** to You always. Amen.

21st October 1990

58. Galatians 3 v 12: “And the Law is not of **FAITH**, but, the man who does them shall live in them.”

If we follow the Law as such, then we are of **FAITH**, is what this passage is telling us today! It also says, the Law does not come out of **FAITH**. So what does this mean? If I am of **FAITH**, does it mean that I can forget the Law? **Psalm 1:1&2** show us that it is a good thing to meditate upon “the Law of the Lord.” So what do we learn of **FAITH** in this passage today? “The man that does them shall live in them,” it says. This means then, that if I follow the Law (*that does them*) then I am not operating in **FAITH**! Does this mean then that I must obey the Law? No, this means that although I do not set out to keep the Law as such, yet because I am operating in **FAITH**, I will find that I do not break the Laws of the Lord and hence, indirectly keep the Law. If I should move out of **FAITH** and so break the Law of the Lord, then in His grace and mercy, if I confess it to Him and repent of it, then I am forgiven! I am under grace not Law if I live in **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus Messiah! Hallelujah! All praise and glory and honour and power to the Lord God of Isra'el! O I praise you Jesus for Your grace and mercy! Amen.

59. Galatians 3 v 23: “But before **FAITH** came, we were kept under the Law, shut up to the **FAITH** which should afterwards be revealed.”

If we are not of **FAITH** (*in Yeshua Ha'Mashiach*) then we are, like it or not, under the Law and this passage tells us that if it had been possible (*but it isn't!*) then we would have kept every little facet of the Law (*which we can't!*) and that we would have made us righteous in God's eyes (*which it can't!*). Before **FAITH** came upon the scene and was made available to everyone, we are under the Law, not able to comprehend what **FAITH** (*in Jesus, Messiah*) was able to do for us, which has now been revealed to mankind in Jesus. We must individually believe that Jesus is the Son of God, believe (*have FAITH*) that He is able (*and so, willing*) to save us from the wrath of God (*the result of our sin*) repent of our former life and lifestyle, and follow Jesus (*in FAITH*) handing over to Him, not just our hearts, but our whole lives. It is only that **FAITH** that can make any of us righteous in the eyes of God and thus able to enter His presence, to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Thank God for Jesus! Amen. All praise and glory and honour to You Lord Jesus! Amen.

11th November 1990

60. Galatians 3 v 24: “Wherefore, the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by **FAITH**.”

The only justification that we have before God's is our **FAITH** in Jesus, our **FAITH** in His ability and desire to save us from ourselves and the result of our sin, hence to save us from ourselves and the result of our sin, hence to bring us before His Father and on into the Kingdom of Heaven. This one verse is the pivot point of the relationship of the Law of God and our **FAITH** in Jesus. The Law is designed to bring us to **FAITH** in Jesus! It does this very simply by bringing us to the realisation that we cannot perfectly keep the Law and hence we cannot be justified by the Law in the eyes of God. If the Law brings us, in trying to keep every aspect of it, to the foot of the Cross of Jesus, to ask for His forgiveness and to repent of trying to keep it in our own strength, and to believe that Jesus can and will save us from ourselves and our sin, then the Law has done its job! Oh praise You Lord Jesus, Mashiach (*Hebrew for Anointed one*) of Isra'el, that it is only by **FAITH** in You that I can be welcomed into the Kingdom of God. Amen. Help me Lord Jesus to bring others into this realisation and into justification by **FAITH** in You. Amen.

61. Galatians 3 v 25: “But after **FAITH** is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.”

Praise God! Here it is as clear as crystal – when we move into **FAITH** (*belief in Jesus*) we are no longer under a schoolmaster (*the Law*). Our **FAITH** in Jesus justifies each of us in His eyes. One thing we see about **FAITH** today is that it was not always within us – “...after **FAITH** is come...” says that there must have been a time in our lives when there must have been a change in our lives. We must change from being under the Law to being in **FAITH**. This also confirms that we cannot be born a Christian, each of us must come to that point of change individually, to make the decision to believe in Jesus as our Lord and saviour, a common term for this is, as Jesus Himself said in **John 3:7**, “Born again.” There seem to be no fixed minimum age at which to reach this decision and there certainly is no maximum, but each of us must have that **FAITH** before we can enter the Kingdom of God! Jesus said in **John 3:5**, “...except a man (*or a woman*) be born of water (*physical birth*) and of the Spirit (*born again, or come to FAITH in Jesus*) he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.” Amen. Amen. Amen.

18th November 1990

62. Galatians 5 v 6: “For in Jesus Christ, neither circumcision avails anything, nor uncircumcision, but **FAITH** which works by love.”

It doesn't matter what we do, follow the Law or not follow the Law, it does not affect whether we shall enter the Kingdom of Heaven! One thing and only one thing will allow our entry into the Kingdom of Heaven – **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus, the Mashiah - Hebrew for Messiah in English (*or Christ in Greek/Latin*) of the Jews. He loves us all (*saved and unsaved*) so much that He made it possible by coming to live as a man and dying as a common criminal on a cross, the result of which was that He was cursed by the Father (*because He hung on a tree, Deuteronomy 21:23b*) and separated from Him for the only time in all Eternity, simply so that in that heavenly love, He could draw us into **FAITH** in Himself and so be saved. So we have the situation where we are now, the only way to be saved from the result of our sins is to believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He is both willing and able to do these things. Oh praise You Lord Jesus, that Your love is so great that You made a way for us to be reconciled to You by **FAITH** in You. Thank You Lord Jesus, from the bottom of my heart. Amen.

63. Galatians 5 v 22: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentle ness, goodness, **FAITH**,”

Today we see that **FAITH** is one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit (*some have it that “fruit” is plural*) but what we see is that, one fruit or several, **FAITH** and the other eight are all born out of or grow out of the Holy Spirit. From the context of this verse, it is the Holy Spirit indwelling each of us and our walking in the Spirit that will produce, amongst other things, **FAITH**. Now this is obviously more **FAITH** than we had when we were first born again, as we had to have **FAITH** in Jesus (*as a grain of Mustard?*) in order to be born again. So now we see that as we walk in the Spirit, our **FAITH** will be increased to enable each of us to continue walking in the Spirit, a kind of “chicken and egg” situation, but we must take that initial step. “Lord, I believe (*have FAITH in You*); help You my unbelief (*lack of FAITH*).” **Mark 9:24**, that is my prayer to You Lord Jesus. Amen.

5th November 1990

64. Galatians 6 v 10: “As we have, therefore, opportunity, let us do good to all men, especially those who are of the household of **FAITH**.”

So we are to accord a special place in our good works for those who have **FAITH** in Jesus as Messiah. So what does it mean “do good to all men?” or as I put it “good works?” **Hebrew 6:1** tells us that there are “dead works” of which we must repent. We have, therefore, dead works and good works and very obviously bad or evil works too. The meaning of this last is very straight forward. So, what is the difference between first two? I believe that good works are those which those who are of the household of **FAITH** do under the direct instruction of the Lord; whilst dead works are those works which both those who are of the household of **FAITH** and those who are pagan do, which are ostensibly very good and kind things to do for others, but are not the direct and personal command of the Lord to that person or group. We of the household of **FAITH** are to repent of doing these dead works and concentrate on the living Lord God of Isra’el, to hear from Him, Jesus, what He wants us to do. These are the good works which we must do to all men, especially to them who are of the household of **FAITH**! Lord Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, living God of Isra’el, help me to define my priorities to seek You and hear from You what You would have me to do. Amen.

65. Ephesians 4 v 5: “One Lord, one **FAITH**, one baptism,”

This verse is very short and to the point and must be taken in its context (*not that one should take verses out of their context!*) which outlines starkly the one way to God. There is only one **FAITH** that will take us into the presence of God the Father in Heaven. Jesus said, “no one comes to the Father but by Me” in **John 14:6**, it is **FAITH** or belief in one person only that will bring us to the Father – one **FAITH** – and only one **FAITH** is able to do that. There is no other way at all, **FAITH** in anything or anyone else will not allow us to come to God, the living Lord God of Isra’el. All other **FAITHs** lead only to little gods and eventually to the “Lake of Fire!” There is only “one **FAITH**!” Thank you Lord Jesus that I have that one **FAITH** in You, for You alone can save! Help me Lord Jesus to share that **FAITH** with others, that they too may join me in worshipping You and the Father in Heaven. Amen. Hallelujah! Amen!

66. Ephesians 4 v 13: “Till we all come in the unity of the **FAITH**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the Measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;”

We are unified in the belief that Jesus is the Son of God, that He was born of a virgin, lived on this earth, was crucified, died and rose again, ascended into Heaven and will come again to take His bride, the Church, into Heaven and then will come again to judge the earth. WOW! Christianity in a nutshell! Now don't get too excited now, spread it over the whole of your life, be excited always about Jesus and His salvation offered to each of us so freely! That is the “unity of the **FAITH**” into which we must all come. Oh hallelujah! What a wonderful God! We must not become depressed at those who are not at all excited about all this and Jesus' love for each one of us, nor about all those who fill the Church buildings every week because it is the thing to do, nor about those who are much more into Churchianity rather than Christianity. After all, we must remember the parable of the tares, or of the sheep and the goats: The Lord says that they will grow together or graze together until the end of the age, when the time of harvest comes, then He will separate them out and on those in **FAITH**, “the unity of the **FAITH**” will go into Heaven. At that stage, we of the “unity of the **FAITH**” will only have eyes for Jesus, so we shall not see what happens to the tares and the goats! But for now we must try to bring them to the Lord Jesus for Him to change them into sheep. Amen!

67. Ephesians 6 v 16: “Above all, taking the shield of **FAITH** with which you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

FAITH is a shield! It is a shield behind which we can take refuge – **FAITH** in Jesus. We cannot just put it on the floor and hide under it though, we must learn to use to use it in the proper way, using it to deflect the fiery darts of Ha'Satan (*Hebrew for The Adversary, who uses the wicked for his purposes*) from hitting us. The shield of **FAITH** is not an umbrella under which we can avoid those darts as if they only come from one direction like rain, no, we must see from whence those fiery darts are coming and have the shield in position ready. Those fiery darts are going to come from all sorts of directions. Hence we cannot be passive, our **FAITH**, the shield, must be active – very – and we must keep using it all the time, not only to protect ourselves, but to protect those young in the **FAITH** who need to be taught, by older (*in the **FAITH***) Christians: a) to recognise the fiery darts in the first place and b) to be able to use that shield of **FAITH** to deflect them. Lord Jesus, help me (*as an older Christian*) to not only use my **FAITH** in You to protect myself, but to teach others how to use their **FAITH** in You, too. Amen. *9th December 1990*

68. Ephesians 6 v 23: “Peace be to the brothers, and love with **FAITH**, from God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

So love can be without **FAITH**, peace can be without **FAITH**. “Peace and love with **FAITH** from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ to the brothers” is what this verse says. So peace and love, when they come from Jesus, comes with **FAITH**, and we know from previous studies that **FAITH** in this context is the **FAITH** of or in Jesus the Messiah, not the puny **FAITH** of or in some individual. So it is a strong, powerful **FAITH** that can impart these things (*peace and love*) to those to whom they are addressed. Praise God in the highest, that although this letter was initially addressed to the brothers (*in Christ*) in Ephesus, it is also addressed to all believers down the ages and to us today (*II Timothy 3:16*). Praise God, praise You Lord Jesus, King of the Jews, that Your peace and love with Your **FAITH** is to us from Yourself. All glory, praise and honour to Jesus, who is able to save us from the consequences of our sins. Thank You Lord Jesus for that peace and love from You with Your **FAITH**, to us. Amen.

69. Philippians 1 v 25: “And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of **FAITH**.”

The “joy of **FAITH**,” sounds great, and it is great! Paul, in this passage is stating, that the rejoicing (*joy*) may be more abundant in Jesus in the believers of Philippi and so in us as long as they (*and we*) “stand fast in one Spirit – the **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus Messiah. So **FAITH** in Jesus Our saviour produces joy. This is not necessarily a leaping up and down joy, but it certainly should be expected to show in our faces! We, who have **FAITH** in Jesus as Lord and saviour in our lives, cannot contain it, the joy of our salvation and now the” joy of **FAITH**.” How can anyone who is filled with such joy not show it, at least most of the time. We have seen that this **FAITH** produces unity and peace, now we add joy to that list. Oh that the world could recognise us because of these things and be goaded into asking why are we joyful? What an opening those questions would present to share Jesus and His Gospel. Lord Jesus, maker of the heavens and the earth, help me to let your joy shine through my face and demeanour that it may help to spread your gospel. Amen.

70. Philippians 1 v 27: “Only let your conduct be as it becomes the Gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the **FAITH** of the Gospel.”

The **FAITH** of the Gospel or ‘good news.’ Do we believe that Jesus came and died for us that we can be saved from our sins and their consequences? If we do, then we have “the **FAITH** of the Gospel.” The Lord, through the writing of Paul, is here exhorting us to let our conduct be as becomes the Gospel of Christ (*Jesus*) if we are born again, then it should show in our lives – in our whole lifestyle, not just in our mouths. Our words are worse than useless to Jesus if our lifestyle betrays them. Non-Christians (*friends and neighbours*) look first at our lives before they listen to our words and if they don’t match up, then their opinion of Christianity goes down the drain and their possibility of salvation recedes. What sort of friendship or neighbourliness is that where we actually harm others in this way? Much less Christianity that puts off people – holier than thou!!! We are also exhorted by Jesus to “stand fast in one spirit,” with one mind striving together for the **FAITH** of the Gospel: strive to present a united Gospel to the world, not compromising in any way the Word of God. Amen. Amen. Amen.

71. I Thessalonians 1 v 3: “Remembering without ceasing your work of **FAITH**, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father,”

Work of **FAITH**? What is this work of **FAITH**? It was obvious to all who observed, and Paul had seen it too, that these saints of Thessalonica moved and operated in **FAITH**. That all they did was motivated by their **FAITH** in Jesus as the Son of God and of His salvation. So too, that we move in **FAITH**, should be apparent to all who come to observe each of us. This is not ostentation in **FAITH**, but only upon observation, so let our light shine before men, not what we do to be on show, but the reasons, the motivation for doing things in the way that we do them – so that Jesus will be glorified, not us. Hallelujah! All praise and glory to Jesus! Amen.

25th December 1990

72. I Thessalonians 5 v 8: “But let us who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of **FAITH** and love, and, for a helmet, the hope of salvation.”

FAITH and love are here coupled together, if we are full of the **FAITH** of God (*Habakkuk 2:4*) then we are also full of the love of God, for we cannot separate God into constituent parts! In the same way, it is no contradiction with **Ephesians 6:14** where the Breastplate is righteousness, it is also **FAITH** & love! (*Interesting that the Helmet is Salvation in both cases.*) We must be ready for Jesus to come at any time, we are not of the darkness, but of the light – **FAITH** – and hence we can read the Word of God and see what is coming, to be ready for it. We shouldn't need preachers to explain “the Word” to us, feeding us milk; we should be growing up in **FAITH** and love to be able to feed ourselves from the Word of God, for we have the Holy Spirit to enlighten us, to show us what the Scriptures mean. We should be building up each other in love (*and FAITH*) **Ephesians 4:16** and in joy and excitement, sharing with one another the things that we have been shown in the Scriptures in humility! This is the fellowship in God which He desires for us. This is the moving in **FAITH** that He desires for each of us. Oh Lord Jesus, let it be, lead us all into these things as we move in Your **FAITH** more and more. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.

73. II Thessalonians 1 v 4: “So that we ourselves glory in you in the Churches of God, for your patience and your **FAITH** in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure.”

If we have **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus as our saviour and Lord, then we shall have the patience for the Lord Jesus to do what He says when His time is right. So **FAITH** is coupled here with patience. As we walk on in **FAITH**, so we shall develop the patience to have **FAITH** in Jesus! Sort of chicken and egg, but we must have that **FAITH** first, in order to start to walk in it. Jesus will do what He says, all that is prophesied in Scripture will come to pass – when the time is right in God's timing. God is not going to change His mind when once He has expressed it (*Malachi 3:6*). If we believe Jesus in anything, then we must believe that what He said in His word, will come about – that is the **FAITH** that we must have and we must exercise the patience that this calls for – supernaturally! Amen.

74. II Thessalonians 1 v 11: “Wherefore, also, we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of **FAITH** with power,”

“The work of **FAITH**?” What is this “work of **FAITH**?” There is nothing that we can do for God, that He couldn't quite easily do Himself, except that we love Him, worship Him, praise Him and obey Him, these things will He not force us to do against our will, for He has given us free will. The result of this “work of **FAITH** with power” is given in the next verse (*verse 12*) “that the name of Lord Jesus Messiah (*Christ in Latin*) may be glorified in you” (*us*). It is as we do love, worship, praise and obey Him that this result will ensue. Jesus will be glorified in us. So, we see that the “work of **FAITH** with power” is to do those things which God will not go against our will to make us do, as we have just seen, and to do them in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. In these things will the name of Jesus be glorified. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen. Amen. Amen.

75. II Thessalonians 3 v 2: “And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all men have **FAITH**.”

“Not all men have **FAITH**” is very true of course, but one must assume that the **FAITH** they do have, is not **FAITH** in Jesus, for everyone believes (*has FAITH*) in something, even if it is only in themselves and their own abilities, the “self-made man” sort of thing. So what is the message for me about **FAITH** in this context? Well, this verse alone tells me that men without **FAITH** (*in Jesus*) are unreasonable and wicked! So, from this, having **FAITH** in Jesus will save each of us (*if we are subsequently committed to Jesus and walk in His ways*) from being unreasonable and wicked in the eyes of God. The world will think that we have become wicked and unreasonable to them, but they are only trying to “protect” themselves from the salvation offered by Jesus! It is only when we change from the world to Jesus, that we can see the difference. Oh thank you Lord Jesus for the change in me since I had **FAITH** in You, thank You that now I can see both sides of salvation. Praise Your wonderful name. Jesus, King of kings and Lord of lords, God above all gods, the only God! Amen.

6th January 1991.

76. I Timothy 1 v 5: “Now the end of the commandment is love out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of **FAITH** unfeigned,”

FAITH unfeigned is **FAITH** that is true, not in any way false or pretended **FAITH**. This tells us that **FAITH** can be feigned or pretended. We mustn't at any stage pretend to be in **FAITH** just for “show,” or because it is “doing the right thing,” no matter how pure the heart or good the conscience, because our love will be seen, especially by non-Christians, to be hollow and lacking depth at best, and false and lip service to love at the worst. Hence, **FAITH** that is pretended for whatever the reason, will not give glory to God and will not encourage others to take any step of **FAITH** that they may have been contemplating, especially into salvation, into the Kingdom of Heaven – rather the opposite. So, we see today the importance of true **FAITH**, sincere **FAITH**. We are commanded to love in **FAITH** unfeigned, so what if we don't feel like it? That is an opportunity to exercise what little **FAITH** we may feel we have remaining and to get before the Lord Jesus and ask Him to restore us, maybe even a chance to “bare our soul” with other Christians and enable them to pray specifically for the Lord Jesus to uplift us back into **FAITH**. Hallelujah! Either way Jesus gets the glory. Amen.

77. I Timothy 1 v 14: “And the grace of our Lord Jesus was exceedingly abundant with **FAITH** and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

Today, we see a coupling together of grace and **FAITH** and love and we also see that they are in our Lord Jesus Messiah. They are not the same, but where we find one of them, we should find the other two, for they are in Christ Jesus, and so should be found together (*and not only these, of course*) in those within whom Jesus dwells as Lord and as saviour, the Messiah of the Jews. So, if “**FAITH**” is found to be without love and without grace and without , the question is raised, does the Lord Jesus reside within? Now this is very hard, but our God is a God of “black and white,” there are no “grey areas” with Him. He is grace and **FAITH** and love and , this verse tells us this. So, God is **FAITH**. Oh praise You Lord Jesus, for this revelation. Amen.

13th January 1991.

78. I Timothy 1 v 19: “Holding **FAITH**, and a good conscience, which some, having put away concerning **FAITH**, have made shipwreck;”

At all times we must exercise **FAITH** and never ever must we override our conscience! To do so will make us shipwreck our lives, as did Hymenaeus and Alexander in this passage. Our consciences are God given, but we can overrule it so often, that it can be seared (*I Timothy 4:2*) with a result that we can do the most evil things and our conscience no longer pricks us at all; It doesn't start off with terrible things, little “white lies,” a mild misinterpretation or misrepresentation of the Scripture, but do it often enough and it seems OK – then we can go on to slightly worse things – and worse – and worse – and even worse. So, we need a good conscience in order to exercise the **FAITH** that we have been given, in order to glorify God. In all things, our **FAITH** must operate such that only Jesus receives the glory as a result. If we ourselves receive any kudos from that exercise of **FAITH**, then we must search our consciences and see that it is clear and not seared, to make us think that it is clear before the Lord Jesus. Thank You Lord Jesus for showing me just how important it is, to have a good (*clear*) conscience before You. Thank You Lord Jesus. Amen.

79. I Timothy 3 v 9: “Holding the mystery of the **FAITH** in a pure conscience.”

“The mystery of the **FAITH**?” This is a new aspect of **FAITH**, that **FAITH** should be mysterious. So why is **FAITH** mysterious then, in fact, in what way? To Christians, **FAITH** is not something tangible, it cannot be touched with the fingers, it doesn't have a shape or a weight; yet **FAITH** is a solid foundation upon which is built our attitudes, our way of doing things, our ‘raison d’etre,’ it is spiritual, it is strong and strength to us. To the heathen who have heard the Gospel and rejected it, **FAITH** is weakness, it certainly isn't real to them because it is not tangible, so it doesn't exist, it is a nonsense. All this presupposes that we are writing of our **FAITH** in Jesus. We, as born again Christians, must hold on to this **FAITH** in Jesus, and in that holding on to **FAITH** in Jesus, we must have a pure conscience about all things in the conduct of our lives, having at all times confessed to Jesus those things in our lives that are not glorifying to Him, and repenting of them. Oh thank You Lord Jesus, that we can do these things. Help us in them Lord. Amen.

26th January 1991.

80. I Timothy 4 v 1: “Now the Spirit speaks expressly that, in the latter times, some shall depart from the **FAITH**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons,”

This does not say “some might depart from the **FAITH**,” but that “some SHALL depart from the **FAITH**.” We must not be surprised then, that some do leave the fellowship of Christians, to fall away. This passage is not about them though, it is about those who remain within the Church, but go off on a spiritual tangent, “giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.” The first group we could pursue in the name of Jesus to woo them back with the love of Jesus, but the second group, of which Paul speaks here to Timothy, are to be avoided if they will not be told that they are wrong, for they will attempt to lead weaker Christians from their **FAITH** in Jesus, into false doctrines: such as asceticism, salvation by works, that God is finished with Isra’el the nation, as well as these things mentioned by Paul in **verse 3**. Little by little, Ha’Satan (*Hebrew for ‘the Adversary’*) and his demons will lure weaker Christians first, then the stronger ones away from the pure **FAITH** in Jesus for their salvation and their lives. Lord Jesus, help us to have and to exercise that gift of discernment which You give to each one of us, that we see Ha’Satan’s hand in these things and have the courage to speak out against them. Amen!

81. I Timothy 4 v 6: “If you put the brethren in remembrance of these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of **FAITH** and of good doctrine, to which you have attained.”

In remembrance of what things? We must look at the context of the verse to find out that. **Verse 1** says that some will leave the **FAITH**, **verse 2** expands upon the result of that, **verse 3** shows how they then give false teaching (*how the Roman Catholic priesthood copes with this verse, I don’t know!*) **verses 4 & 5** show the truth of the situation. So these are the things of which one shall put our fellow Christians (*our brethren*) in remembrance. To nourish up both ourselves and our fellow Christians in the words of the true **FAITH** and of good doctrine, is the result of doing this reminding of our fellow Christians. We shall then “be a good minister of Jesus Christ,” and we shall be “nourished up in the words of **FAITH** and good doctrine.” Oh praise You Lord Jesus, Lord of lords and King of kings and God above all gods, that You provide the means of keeping us on the “straight and narrow” paths of **FAITH** in You. Thank You and praise You Jesus! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen.

9th February 1991

82. I Timothy 5 v 8: “But if any provide not for his own, and especially those of their own house, he has denied the **FAITH**, and is worse than an infidel.”

This chapter is all about our conduct as Christians, i.e. about our lifestyle, which is on public view, our witness to Jesus. It is about how we should treat others, widows figure largely, but this particular area containing **verse 8**, is about he (*the Bible doesn't seem to expect women to be the household providers, although there are many instances of women working*) who fails go out to work and so provide for his family, both wife and children and widowed mother or aunts too. He who fails to work and provide, and this is surely much more than just food, clothing and housing, the love to hold together a home, is worse than an infidel (*a non-believer*)! The point is that the visible will actually be a negative witness for Jesus, hence, one who denies the **FAITH** in Jesus. So, if we do truly have **FAITH** in Jesus, it must show in our lifestyle to the world! It cannot possibly be otherwise, 'cos God has said it here in His word. If we see a fellow who claims to be a Christian, but his lifestyle denies it (*the FAITH in Jesus*) then the Church is duty bound to take it up with the man in accordance with Scripture, in order that Jesus may be glorified in the situation. Amen.

83. I Timothy 5 v 12: “Having condemnation, because they have cast off their first **FAITH**.”

It is easy to take a verse such as this out of its context, so I must remember that it is specifically about young widows. They have begun to seek their own way, they have tasted sex and they want more, unlike today it seems, they knew that this is only within marriage, therefore they are forsaking Jesus in order to find another husband, who may or not be a believer. Their **FAITH** in Jesus becomes no longer their first (*or highest*) priority, this is pushed aside in their desire for another husband. The result is given in this verse, “Having condemnation, because they have cast off their first **FAITH**.” I'm not saying that this is the case with all young widows, not at all, but it was obviously the case for some and the Church is not to be charged with the responsibility of maintaining these young widows. It is interesting to note **verse 9** where, effectively, young widows are defined as those up to the age of 60! A sobering thought is that! So, by leaving (*casting off*) their first **FAITH**, they are come into condemnation – a warning to us all surely. Thank You Lord Jesus, that You do warn us of these things clearly. Amen. *13th March 1991*

84. I Timothy 6 v10: “For the love of money is the root of all evil, which, while some covet after, they have erred from the **FAITH**, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

This is a solemn warning to us as Christians – keep my eyes upon Jesus – seek continually after Him. We (*I*) must love only Him. This verse shows clearly that if we seek after money, i.e. to love money or seek after it, then we are seeking and will find the root of all evil. Do not make the mistake of thinking, as do so many, that money is evil or that it is wrong to have any – it is the love of money which is the root of all evil, because if we do love (*or want more*) money, then that means that we have taken our eyes off Jesus. I wish.... I wish.... I wish.... This is often coveting money or material things or happenings and, as this verse says, causes us to err “from the **FAITH**,” and will cause us many sorrows – especially on the Day of Judgement when we would finally discover what has happened to us if we didn’t realise it before and do something about it! We (*I*) must firmly keep our eyes upon Jesus, Yeshua Ha’Mashiach, living in **FAITH** in Him for our provision and having **FAITH** that He will not deny us any good thing without Him having a very good reason (*known only to Himself*). **Verse 6** tells us to be content (*i.e. trust in Jesus*) always. So, continue in the **FAITH**. Amen. Amen.

85. I Timothy 6 v 21: “Which some, professing, have erred concerning the **FAITH**. Grace be with you. Amen”

Knowledge is no substitute for **FAITH**, is what Paul is saying here, amongst other things, of course. He, and Jesus who gave him the words to write, is saying that knowledge can (*and has in some cases*) cause us to err from the **FAITH** or belief in Jesus our Messiah for our salvation. Having knowledge then, is not wrong in itself, any more than money or the having it, but it must be handled with great care to ensure that we rule it and not let it have the rule over us. Whenever there is a conflict within my mind between my knowledge of the subject at hand and my **FAITH** about it, I must always follow my **FAITH** in Jesus through the conflict. If I don’t, then I could very easily indeed find myself erring “concerning the **FAITH**.” I must learn (very quickly) to trust (believe in or have **FAITH** in) Jesus in every situation. Intelligence is a great problem when it comes to **FAITH** because intelligence can see in a worldly sense that “xyz” cannot happen, whilst our **FAITH** says it will. Grace be with you. Amen.

29th March 1991

86. I Timothy 6 v 11: “But you, O man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, Godliness, **FAITH**, love, patience, meekness.”

Who says (*as I have often heard*) the Bible only ever says negative things? Yes, God does say negative things – as in the beginning of this verse, but follows the negative with a list of positives, and without checking, I’ll believe that is quite ‘the norm’ throughout the Scriptures. What I believe the Lord Jesus is saying here is: put these other things behind you now (*i.e. confess and repent*) and go into righteousness, Godliness, **FAITH**, love, patience and meekness without ever even thinking about these negatives because they no longer exist! “I will remember them (*sins*) no more” says the Lord in **Jeremiah 31:34, Hebrews 10:17 and 8:12**, so why should we remember them? I must have **FAITH** to believe these words of God, they are of great comfort when I feel low and dejected, for I am not rejected by Jesus. I believe (*have FAITH*) that the only things (*sins*) for which I will have to account to Jesus on the Day of Judgement, are those which I haven’t confessed to Him (*and to Him alone!*) and hence I have not repented from them! Oh praise You Lord Jesus, King of kings, Lord of lords and God above all gods, for the **FAITH** which You have set within all those who know and love You. Hallelujah! Amen.

87. I Timothy 6 v 12: “Fight the good fight of **FAITH**, lay hold on eternal life, to which you are also called and have confessed a good profession before many witnesses.”

Who said that the Christian life was going to be easy? Who said ‘become a Christian and everything will be lovely in life?’ That is how it was presented to me in my youth! The truth is here, in the first part of this verse: “Fight the good fight of **FAITH**.” One doesn’t fight when there is no fighting, so we must need to fight. Of course, that doesn’t mean fisticuffs or the like (*it does NOT mean pacifism either*) it means a spiritual fight to maintain the truths of Scripture before ourselves, first keeping our own **FAITH** in Jesus as Lord and saviour of our lives, and to put these same truths before others that they may come to **FAITH** in Jesus as Lord and saviour of their lives. It is a fight of **FAITH**, one of the things we will have to fight is the mocking and sneering by non-believers, the ostracising and ridicule of those who are ‘nominal Christians,’ when we try to say what the Bible has written down for a particular situation. These are the main things for which we are called into “the good fight of **FAITH**.” Strengthen my **FAITH** Lord Jesus for this fight. AMEN!

1st April 1991.

88. II Timothy 1 v 6: “When I call to remembrance the unfeigned **FAITH** that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother, Lois, and your mother, Eunice; and I am persuaded that is in you also.”

“Unfeigned **FAITH**?” True **FAITH**, **FAITH** without pretence, **FAITH** without any falseness at all. Paul had seen this **FAITH** come into being, first of all, in Timothy’s grandmother, then in his mother and finally, Paul had seen this living true **FAITH** in Jesus Messiah, Yeshua Ha’Mashiach, as Lord and saviour of the soul of Timothy. This **FAITH** in others, Timothy and his mother and grandmother in this present context, was a source of great joy to Paul. In the next verse, however, we see a new aspect of this **FAITH**: it can be used to stir up into use, the gift(s) that God has placed within each Christian, particularly those that are put in place by the laying on of hands. We all have **FAITH** in all its fullness, none is held back by God, although we often fail to realise its existence in situations. So, here in this passage in our instance, where we do well to remember an application of the **FAITH** that we have been given. It is through **FAITH** that we are called upon to “stir up the gift of God” in order to exercise it to the glory of God. Amen.

89. II Timothy 2 v 18: “Who, concerning the truth, have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the **FAITH** of some.”

These people, including Hymanaeus and Philetus, were people in the Church who were not denying Scripture (*Old Testament remember*) for the New Testament didn’t exist at this time, but were denying the resurrection (*of Christians*) and, hence, were causing some to lose their **FAITH** in Jesus as Lord and saviour of their souls. Paul had already dealt with the fate of these heretics in **I Timothy 1:20**. They, like the “liberals” in high places (*and lower levels too*) today, were teaching things which cause some – or even many today, to lose what little **FAITH** they had and preventing others coming to a **FAITH** in the first place! These “liberal thinkers” pontify on TV, putting forward their Satanist views, claiming to be Christians which they most definitely are not. They are the “tares” and “goats” in the Church, of whom we should avoid any contact, nor listen to their erroneous views propagated as ‘Scriptural.’ They will make shipwreck of your **FAITH** if you hear them. Amen.

90. II Timothy 2 v 22: “Flee also youthful lusts, but follow righteousness, **FAITH**, love, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

FAITH is, in this passage, shown to be something to be followed. It is also shown to be followed along with righteousness, love and peace. This verse also makes it clear that we are to follow after these things along “with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” In other words, keep the company of the Lord’s people, and do this following with them, seek not the company of unsaved people (*except, of course, to evangelise them*) for they will lead you astray. Once again, this verse starts with a negative, but immediately gives a number of positives to be sought out. These youthful lusts – and please don’t narrow your mind to think only of sex, it means very much more than just that – there are things which may or may not be evil in themselves, but, they will cause you to take your eyes away from Jesus and so, hopefully only temporarily, bring them into the centre of your life in the place where only Jesus should ever be. If we find this has happened (*obviously only temporarily*) then we need to confess that situation to the Lord Jesus and truly repent of it, that Jesus may be put back at the centre of our lives. Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

91. II Timothy 3 v 8: “Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth, men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning **FAITH**.”

Reprobate means “express or feel disapproval, censure. cast off, exclude from salvation” in my Concise Oxford Dictionary. A reprobate is a ‘(person) cast off by God, hardened in sin, of abandoned character, immoral.’ These are the people (*Men?*) of the “last days” (*in verses 1-9*) who will oppress our **FAITH** in Jesus as Lord and Messiah, and who will persecute us for that **FAITH**. This has already happened in communist lands and still is in China, it is also happening in the lands under Islam and it will happen here as Islam takes over this green and pleasant land of Great Britain (*UK*)! We believers in the salvation of Jesus must therefore exercise the **FAITH** we have been given at salvation – continuously, in building up one another and ourselves in so doing. If we pray to God for more **FAITH**, my own belief is that He will put us into situations, where we shall prove to ourselves the **FAITH** which He has already given us. Help me Lord Jesus, to realise the **FAITH** which You have already set within me, that I may grow in You thereby. Amen.

4th May 1991.

92. II Timothy 3 v 10: “But you have fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, **FAITH**, longsuffering, love, patience,”

This is a personal note from Paul himself to Timothy. It is nevertheless a part of Scripture, and hence, for us today. We have “fully known **FAITH**....” The **FAITH** of and in Jesus. If we do not fully know that **FAITH** (*and who really does know Jesus in the way that Timothy knew of Paul’s ... FAITH....*) then it is up to each and every one of us to seek out Jesus in our lives, through Scripture and prayer, in order that we can say, in some truth, that we know the **FAITH** of Jesus. This **FAITH** within us, as believers, is to be exercised continually, and so built up within us, for we must prepare ourselves, in that **FAITH**, for the persecution of us all, for that **FAITH**, that will surely come if we do live Godly lives as **verse 12** assures us. It is only if our **FAITH** has been built up within us by continually exercising it, that we shall be able to withstand that persecution, when it comes, retaining our **FAITH** in Jesus through that persecution and not giving way under the pressure of persecution and so falling away. Lord Jesus, lover of me, and my salvation, help me to so exercise that full measure of **FAITH** that you have set within me, that I may withstand and not fall away when the time of testing comes to me. Amen.

93. II Timothy 4 v 7: “I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the **FAITH**;

O that when I meet the Lord Jesus face to face, I could say that! I know in truth that I haven’t yet begun to fight, much less to finish my course, I haven’t even kept the **FAITH** until quite recently. As I have exercised my **FAITH** in Jesus in small practical ways, and more recently doing these studies, I feel that I may have *begun* “my course.” We are already into the last days when we see and hear, that the context of **verses 3-4** of this passage have come to pass all around us. Help me Lord Jesus, from this new starting point in my life – my course – to keep the **FAITH** diligently, help me to realise the fact that You are always with me to help me keep the **FAITH**. Oh that You shall be glorified in my eyes and even through me – NOT that I should be glorified, for glory belongs only to You. All glory, praise and honour to You Lord Jesus. Amen. Amen. Amen. *6th May 1991.*

94. Titus 1 v 1: “Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the **FAITH** of God’s elect, and acknowledging of the truth which is after Godliness,”

“According to the **FAITH** of God’s elect.” Who are God’s elect? We know from the Scripture (*Tanakh or Old Testament*) – God’s own words – that this is the believing remnant of the nation of Isra’el plus those Gentiles who, by believing in Jesus as Lord and saviour, are “grafted in among them” (*Romans 11:17*). Having established who’s **FAITH** we are concerned about, what is their **FAITH**? Their **FAITH** is quite simply to believe God! To believe that He will do what He says – if God has spoken ‘it,’ then ‘it’ will come to pass! We as Christians believe that we are bound, at our natural, to go to the “lake of fire” and eternal separation from God, except that Jesus, through Calvary and His resurrection, has provided an escape route which we can (*but there is no compulsion to!*) take, by believing that Jesus is the Son of God and becoming His disciples, doing His Will and producing His fruit in our lives (*Galatians 5:22-26*). If we have this **FAITH**, then we shall be saved from this eternal death in the lake of fire, and live forever with Jesus in the presence of the Father in Heaven. O praise You Lord Jesus, Father God and Holy Spirit, that You love each of us so much, that You have not taken away our freedom of choice, but given us a choice to make. Praise You Lord Jesus that I have chosen Your way – keep me in it I pray! Amen.

95. Titus 1 v 4: “To Titus, my own son after the common **FAITH**: grace, mercy and peace, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ, our saviour.”

“The common **FAITH**?” This implies that there is more than one **FAITH**. Let’s turn to that question later, and look at “the common **FAITH**.” What is this? It is the **FAITH** that is common to all true believers in Jesus as Messiah (*Jew and Gentile*) given by God in full measure. The ability to believe that God (*Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit*) will do what He says, and that what He says will happen, will happen. This is not to take a fatalistic attitude over life in whole or in detail. We must also work in **FAITH** in our lives, to realise that through our communion with God in prayer, He will answer. Maybe not always in the way we expect, but we must operate in the **FAITH** which is common to all believers, to have that **FAITH** that He will hear our prayers if we do pray in **FAITH**. This **FAITH** then, is common to all believers. Thank You Lord Jesus, that You love me so much that You have given me this “common **FAITH**.” Keep me in it please Lord Jesus. Amen.

12th May 1991.

96. Philemon v5: “Hearing of your love and **FAITH**, which you have toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints.”

O WOW! What a wonderfully uplifting letter is this one to Philemon, especially **verses 4-7** relating to the character of Philemon. Such a love and **FAITH** in Jesus shows that it refreshes the hearts of the saints (**verse 7**). We have previously seen a coupling of love and **FAITH** in these studies, so we see in this passage that **FAITH** (*maybe only when coupled with love*) refreshes the saints. So **FAITH** is refreshing. I am beginning to understand too, that where **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus is active, it engenders other Godly attributes in the heart and person of the one exercising that **FAITH**. I am beginning to realise that where **FAITH** is, then Love is too, the love of God dwelling within that person. Paul was observing this **FAITH** and love in action in Philemon, not directly, but through others. We should, therefore, tell one another the acts of **FAITH** (*and love*) of those that know, in order to encourage and uplift – refresh – one another as was Paul in this case. Help me Lord Jesus, to so walk in **FAITH** in You, that I may be a refreshing to others and to Your glory. Amen.

97. Hebrews 4 v 2: “For to us was the Gospel preached, as well as to them; but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with **FAITH** in them that heard it.”

If the word of God be preached to people who believe in no God, then it is no use to them for salvation. In other words, no one can receive salvation (*from Jesus*) unless they believe that He can save them – i.e. they do not have the spark of **FAITH** within them to believe salvation is possible (*or even needed or from what...*). Only God knows who are those with, or without that spark of **FAITH** – the sheep and the goats, the wheat and the tares. Not only that, He is the only Judge and only He will judge on Judgement Day, it is not for us to judge here on the Earth. Which is not to say that we should not discern situations. I am sure that God creates each one of us with that spark of **FAITH**, but many suppress it by the lifestyle we lead – or is it suppressed by the lifestyle of the parents – who will answer to God for that! Meanwhile, we must continue in **FAITH**, to love and to follow the Lord Jesus, seeking His way for our own lives. Amen.

1st June 1991

98. Hebrews 6 v 1: “Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of **FAITH** toward God.”

We have here in these verses, **verses 1-2**, a list of doctrines that are basic to our relationship with Jesus – Christianity, and “**FAITH** towards God” is one of them. The essence of **these verses** is that, “yes we do need these things, they are the foundations upon which the rest of our relationship with Jesus is built, but let us remember that we are here to build that relationship with Jesus, not to go on and on laying the foundations.” As a foundation of **FAITH** toward God is vital, and if it is not adequate, then when the storms of life come against our relationship with Jesus, then that relationship will crumble and disappear! So it really is vital, that these foundations be adequately built and **FAITH** towards God is one of them, but “let us go on to perfection” having laid those foundations – let us go on in the building of that perfect relationship with our saviour Jesus, the Messiah of Isra’el – which will be completed in Heaven. Oh Lord Jesus, saviour of my soul, bring me into this ever improving relationship with You, having firmly laid these foundations, including **FAITH** in You. Amen.

99. Hebrews 10 v 22: “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of **FAITH**, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

FAITH in Jesus as our Lord, saviour, Messiah and God and His ability and willingness to do exactly as He says to us and for us, produces an assurance within each of us that our **FAITH** in Jesus as.... It is a little bit like a spiral going ever upwards towards the heavens, first a little part of **FAITH** which we have toward Jesus which leads to salvation, is added-to by the Lord God when He gives us the full measure of **FAITH** (*Romans 12:3*). Then as we exercise that **FAITH**, we come to realise the magnitude of the **FAITH** within oneself and so it goes on – ever building upward to ever higher levels of **FAITH** within oneself. So, “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of **FAITH**” to the living Lord God of Isra’el, the one and only way to Heaven, to our Father God (*John 14:6*). Thank you Lord Jesus that You have provided the way to the presence of the Father, but also the way in which our **FAITH** in You is built up! Hallelujah! Praise the name of Jesus! Amen.

3rd June 1991.

100. Hebrews 10 v 23: “Let us hold fast the profession of our **FAITH** without wavering (for He is **FAITH**full that promised).”

When things seem not to go in what we see as the Lord’s way in our lives, when we are oppressed either physically mentally, that is the time when it is hardest to keep our **FAITH**, but these are the very times when it is most important to “hold fast the profession of our **FAITH**, without wavering,” remembering that “He is **FAITH**full that promised!” The phrase, ‘keeping our eyes on the Lord’ comes to mind. So easy to say, but often very hard to actually accomplish, is still the thing that we must do. So, what do we learn of **FAITH** in today’s context? We see that it is the “profession of **FAITH**” to which we must “hold fast.” This implies that we could let go..., but this is the “profession of our **FAITH**,” not the **FAITH** itself. This seems to be meaning that we must continue to witness in our **FAITH**, what Jesus has done for us and has promised us – “for He is **FAITH**full that promised” and He will not let us go, even if we let go of Him! ‘Thank God for Jesus’ is often seen in the rear window of cars, and it is never more true than in the circumstances at which we have been looking today. Thank You Father God for Your Son Jesus and for all that was accomplished at and through Calvary and His resurrection, for me! Amen.

101. Hebrews 11 v 1: “Now **FAITH** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

In order to properly understand this verse, it is first necessary to realise that “hope” in this context is a certainty, not like the same word in the world today – maybe or maybe not. **FAITH** now can be seen to be that which makes us know, that when Jesus says, that through the salvation which He offers, we do go to the Father’s presence in Heaven, instead of to the “lake of fire” (*Hell*) if we do not accept that salvation (*Titus 3:7*). So here is a new aspect of **FAITH**, it is a substance. It is **FAITH** which enables born again Christians to know that what Jesus says will happen, or He will do, will actually come to pass. This **FAITH** brings us to the point of rest in the work of God, because the only thing we do not know about any issue, is the timescale, but we can rest in the hope (*certainty*) that what God says, will come to pass. This is our **FAITH** in God. “**FAITH** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Says it all really! Hallelujah! Amen.

5th June 1991.

102. Hebrews 11 v 6: “But without **FAITH** it is impossible to please Him; for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a new order of them that diligently seek Him.”

This **FAITH** in Jesus (*God*) is a prerequisite to salvation, we must have sufficient **FAITH** to believe that He exists, and is not just some myth! Having received that salvation from Jesus, we must continue in (*i.e. exercise*) that **FAITH** that He gives to each and every one of us (*believers*) or there is no way in which we can please Him, as the beginning of this verse shows. Having pleased Him, and going on diligently to seek Him, to get to know Him better and better, this verse assures us that He will reward us with that better knowledge of Him. This will in turn, increase our perception of the **FAITH** within ourselves (*we've had all the FAITH we are going to get – it is written within us*) in order that we can go on to ever greater acts of **FAITH**. What a verse this is! It says so much about **FAITH** and about God and so many other things. Thank You Father God, Lord Jesus and Holy Spirit for the full measure of **FAITH** that You have set within each of us, that You want each one of us to develop and use for Your glory and our up-building. Bless You and thank You again, wonderful God. Amen

103. Hebrews 12 v 2: “¹. Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which does so easily beset us, let us run with patience the race that is set before us. ². Looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our **FAITH**, who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the Cross, despising shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

“The joy that was set before Him?” What changed in Heaven at the time of the Cross? Simply it was the reconciliation of God and man! It was for this joy that Jesus endured the shame and the pain of the Cross – what a joy this must be to Him then! Hallelujah! Now Jesus is shown here to be “the author and finisher of our **FAITH**,” He is everything in between too. In other words our **FAITH** begins and ends with Jesus, He is our whole **FAITH**, we have no other **FAITH** but the **FAITH** of Jesus. I see here that the **FAITH** which I have is not of me, it doesn't depend upon me but upon Jesus. All I have to do is to accept that Jesus is my **FAITH**. Oh Lord Jesus, thank You for that revelation, it doesn't depend upon me at all, but upon You, for You are the author and finisher of my **FAITH**. Hallelujah! Amen.

10th June 1991.

104. Hebrews 13 v 7: “Remember them who have the rule over you, who have spoken to you the word of God, whose **FAITH** follow, considering the end of their manner of life.”

It is obviously important to know “who have the rule over you” in order that we follow the correct example of **FAITH**. This verse is normally taken to mean that we should obey our vicars and ministers and elders, but I believe that the qualification at the end of the verse rules out most, if not all of them! So, the **FAITH** example we should follow? I believe that the Lord is directing our attention towards Paul, Peter, John and the other apostles, who were totally the Lord’s and showed the lifestyle which is most appropriate for us to follow, including the end of the manner of their life. None of them were paid in anyway, Paul, for instance earned his keep wherever he went preaching, by making tents and sails, he declared that he was dependent upon no-one for his keep, although it is obvious the he did stay with people in their homes – when he wasn’t in prison(!). So, the examples of **FAITH** we should follow are those laid out for us in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, oh yes, what about John or Avraham in the Old Testament then, they were surely examples of **FAITH** in the living Lord God too! Oh Hallelujah Lord Jesus. Thank you for Your word. Amen.

105. James 2 v 1: “My brethren, have not the **FAITH** of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.”

The NIV renders this verse, “My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don’t show favouritism” and hence gives the meaning much more clearly than the AV. We see today then, an outworking of our **FAITH** in Jesus – that we shall no longer show favouritism or be a respecter of persons in Kingdom matters (*the context makes that clear*). In our **FAITH** in Jesus (*believers, in the NIV*) we shall treat all men and women as equal, not differentiating in any way because of earthly differences of position since, the rich (*in money or power or both*) of this world, are the ones who oppress us in this world, yet the Kingdom of God is revealed to the poor! Our **FAITH** in Jesus then, allows us to rise above such matters when it comes to issues of that Kingdom of God. All men have sinned and need to repent before Jesus in order to receive salvation and the **FAITH** of Jesus and so, we must see that in God’s eyes, there is no difference between men at all, no matter how rich in worldly terms! Let us therefore exercise the **FAITH** that Jesus has given each of us, in the way in which He determines – and this is one of them. Amen.

13th June 1991.

106. James 2 v 14: “What does it profit, my brothers, though a man say he has **FAITH**, and have not works? Can **FAITH** save him?”

What a hard passage this is. We come later to “**FAITH** without works is dead.” **FAITH** in Jesus cannot exist alone, it must express itself in the works of the Lord. This may or may not be spectacular miracles for all of us to see, but they certainly will be accomplishing the Will of the Lord Jesus, our (*Jews and Gentiles*) Messiah. This passage goes on to express an instance of acting without **FAITH** – a religious person’s way perhaps, but works only, no action in **FAITH**. Now is a time for a word of warning: Ha’Satan (*the adversary in English*) that great deceiver of the saints, would have each of us running ourselves ragged doing “good” works. We need to develop our **FAITH** in Jesus to the point where we can discern between good works and dead works (*Hebrews 6:1ff*) these dead works are those which seem good and right on the surface, but are Ha’Satan’s ploy to stop us doing that which Jesus would have us to do, that we might even be able to rest at times! Oh Lord Jesus, help me to develop my **FAITH**, which You have given me, to the point where the works that I do are in **FAITH** in You and are glorifying to You and You alone. Amen.

107. James 2 v 17: “Even so, **FAITH**, if it has not works, is dead, being alone.”

If we do not exercise our **FAITH** (*in Jesus*) then it will die, is what this verse is saying! It does not say that this **FAITH** will shrivel up and a remnant of it, a shell perhaps, will be left, the verse is quite clear: No works of **FAITH** = No **FAITH**. “Being alone” it says. Now this is a rather terrifying verse, when one considers the implications, to those who “accepted the Lord Jesus,” but never showed any signs of a change of lifestyle, and eventually drifted (*or deliberately turned*) away from the “Church” and fellowship with Christians, back to their former friends. What would the Lord say about **FAITH** in this context today? He would have me plead with those of whom I know in that category, to repent of these things and to return to the Lord Jesus (*who will forgive them*) and re-commit their lives to Jesus, and to rekindle that spark of **FAITH** in Jesus that is within them and to start to operate in **FAITH**, as they should have done in the first place. Lord Jesus, help and encourage me to speak to those I know, in this category. Amen. 15th June 1991

108. James 2 v 20: “But who will know, O vain man, that **FAITH** without works is dead?”

The Lord is emphasizing the point, **FAITH** cannot (*and does not*) exist without showing itself through works or actions. So here we have it, the fact that the only evidence of a **FAITH** in Jesus, in a person, is by the works that **FAITH** must produce. These may be in any form as the Lord Jesus dictates, but will certainly include the lifestyle of the individual believer. Our lifestyle cannot contradict the **FAITH** in Jesus that lives within each believer. BUT, don't think that this means instant perfection! Perfection may take many months or even years for the Lord Jesus to change a particular habit in our lives, since He has given each one of us free will to choose His way or our own. In any case, final perfection will not be achieved until we reach the “Pearly Gates!” We must learn to not judge others anyway, but particularly over something we see in someone else, which we think is not glorifying to Jesus. Our **FAITH** in these things must be to lift to that other person, up to Jesus for Him to deal with **US!** Ask Jesus to bring to our own mind (*to me especially!*) what it is that He is seeking to change in our own lives – that we may submit that very thing to Jesus. This may involve confession and repentance, although not necessarily. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for revealing these things to me. Please Lord, I ask You to reveal these things within me, that I don't presently see, which You wish to change in me. Amen.

109. James 2 v 26: “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **FAITH** without works is dead also.”

The Lord Jesus really is making a point about **FAITH** being dead, i.e. no longer existing if it is not demonstrated to exist by works. We also see the analogy that works are to **FAITH** as the human spirit is to the body, so, as the body is dead without the spirit, then also **FAITH** doesn't exist if there are no works to give it life. So we have now, Lord Jesus, You showing most clearly that **FAITH** (*in You*) needs works (*the performing of Your Will*) in order to exist. I see now dear loving Lord Jesus, that if I don't do Your Will in my life, that my **FAITH** shall die, it is that essential to my belief (**FAITH**) in You even. Lord Jesus, I don't want my **FAITH** in You to shrivel up and die, please help me to seek, and so find, Your Will for me in my life moment by moment, in order that I may give the glory to You in all that I do in doing Your Will for me. All glory and honour and praises be to You Lord Jesus! Amen.

19th June 1991.

110. James 2 v 18: “Yes, a man may say, you have **FAITH** and I have works; show me your **FAITH** without your works, and I will show you my **FAITH** by my works.”

This verse is, to me, a little frightening. It re-enforces previous studies in this series, that seem to show that **FAITH** that is not accompanied by works (*or at least a lifestyle*) of Jesus, is of no avail! It is our works, which flow out of our lifestyle of Christianity - our relationship with Jesus as Lord and Messiah – which show that we have that **FAITH** in Jesus to save our souls from eternal separation from God and a destiny of the lake of fire. The middle part of this verse, “show me your **FAITH** without your works,” is a challenge to every one of us – it cannot be done. The previous study shows that if there are no works, i.e. visible evidence, then there is no **FAITH** present ‘cos it is dead! It is only the visible evidence of lifestyle and the works of Jesus commands to each of us, that shows that **FAITH** exists at all. This really is a cause to stop and examine my own life, to look, or “not to think ... more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly.” (*Romans 12:3*), see myself in my way of thinking as God sees me, to ensure that I do have a living active **FAITH** in Jesus as the Son of God. Lord Jesus, help me to come to a sober assessment of myself in the light of Your word, that I may lift up to You those things in my life that are not of You, that my **FAITH** may shine for Your glory. Amen.

111. James 2 v 22: “See how **FAITH** wrought with his works, and by works was **FAITH** made perfect?”

Don’t you understand? It is only by works (*of FAITH*) that **FAITH** is brought to perfection! That is a paraphrase of this passage and verse in particular. If I do not carry out the works that the Lord commands me (*by FAITH do I know that they are the Lord’s commands!*) then I cannot attain to the perfection of **FAITH** that should be my goal in my Christian life! We have already seen in *James 2:26 (in study 109)* that I do not have **FAITH** ‘cos it is dead if I do not have works – no matter how much I talk about it or how much I tell others about Jesus - if I fail to carry out the works that Jesus tells me to do. Abraham made ready, and went to sacrifice his son of promise to the Lord when the Lord told him to do so. It was only at the last possible moment that the Lord intervened to stop this obedience, at which point, Abraham had found out for himself just how far his works would take him when he believed that it was the Lord who had commanded him. Thus was his **FAITH** grown toward perfection. In the same way, I must obey the commands of the Lord in works in my life. Amen. *7th July 1991.*

112. James 5 v 15: “And the prayer of **FAITH** shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”

“The prayer of **FAITH**.” What is the difference between this and any other prayer? A prayer of **FAITH** is one prayed knowing of a certainty that what is prayed, is the Will of God for that moment, place and person, rather than a prayer that we feel is right, but in our hearts we know that it is what we want – even if we know that God heals. It may be that it is not God’s time for what we pray. That is why we must have the mind of God before we pray for anything. **FAITH** comes into this, because it is the **FAITH** within us that lets us know what is the mind of God, in the particular situation. It is all very nice that we should pray, but if it is done without **FAITH**, it is sin (*Romans 14:23*). Terrible as it may seem, it is so! Before praying for someone’s healing or anything else, we must seek God, to find out His purposes or Will. We are wasting our time at least and maybe raising false expectations, and as we have just seen, sinning at worst – both of which are dead works (*Hebrews 6:1*). Lord Jesus, Messiah, save me from dead works and from sinning by acting without knowing Your Will. Amen. Glory to You Lord!

113. 2 Peter 1 v 1: “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious **FAITH** with us through the righteousness of God and our saviour Jesus Christ:”

FAITH is here shown to be precious and only given “through the righteousness of God and our saviour Jesus Christ.” So what does one do with something precious? Look after it; nurture it; keep it in good working order; treasure it; admire it; keep it; share it. Any or all of these things and more we would do with an earthly item! How much more should we do these things with **FAITH** which is so precious and obtained only through the righteousness of God? Naturally and supernaturally we should do all these things with that **FAITH** that is written within each true believer in the Son of God, Yeshua Ha’Mashiach – Jesus the Messiah! Help me Lord Jesus, to seek Your help in all that I do with the full measure of **FAITH** that You have given me. Amen.

114. 1 John 5 v 4: “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our **FAITH**.”

“Our **FAITH**?” What is this **FAITH** that overcomes the world (*and that is the present ongoing tense of the word – overcomes*)? This **FAITH** is the **FAITH** of God within us (*Hebrews 12:2*) and it is the **FAITH** to which we hold. This is the **FAITH** which overcomes the world. If we say ‘my **FAITH** doesn’t,’ then we are not believing the word of God! We have it here in this verse, that if we have **FAITH** in God, then that **FAITH** overcomes the world! We cannot, at the same time say, I have the **FAITH** and yet deny it. We contradict ourselves!!! We must not make the mistake of thinking that this “overcomes the world” is some sort of military overcoming or moral or any other overcoming of the people or places of this world, “the victory that overcomes this world, even our **FAITH**” is our own individual victory over the world of sin within myself! We, before our salvation, were in the world, and the ways of the world (*SIN!*) were in us, we had no choice in the matter, we were all born that way. Now when the Lord God brought Isra’el out of Egypt, it then took 40 years to get Egypt out of Isra’el, it is said. In the same way, when we are born again and even when we were baptised in the Holy Spirit, the world and its ways didn’t miraculously disappear from within us, we are being perfected which is an ongoing process as we gradually submit more and more areas of the world within us, to the Lord Jesus, as He reveals them to us! Hallelujah that we are being perfected by You Lord Jesus! Amen.

115. Jude v3: “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write to you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write to you, and exhort you that you should earnestly contend for the **FAITH** which was once delivered to the saints.”

How often this verse is mis-interpreted! We must contend (*fight, compete, argue*) for the **FAITH**, not with those outside the Church, but, so the context of this verse tells us, with those within the Church who seek to water down our **FAITH**, to “traditionalise” (*if there be such a word*) our **FAITH**, to liberalise our **FAITH** and to make our **FAITH** of less or no effect. Ha’Satan is even working within *each* one of us to do these things, to reduce our **FAITH**, to formularise our **FAITH**. There are many in the Church who seek to fit Christianity into neat little formulae – if we do this..... then that will happen, type of thing, or if we do this in such and such a way, then God will answer our prayers, etc. etc. etc. I have seen it happen many, many times. The parable of the wheat and the tares and the parable of the sheep and the goats were directed precisely at this situation in the Church. We must contend within ourselves and amongst ourselves for a strong **FAITH** in Jesus, the messiah of Isra’el. Amen.

10th August 1991

116. Jude 20: “But you, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy **FAITH**, praying in the Holy Spirit,”

In contrast to those who mock, not believing in Jesus, keep yourselves in the love of God – so building up yourselves in your most holy **FAITH**..... This is this verse in its context. In order to build up ourselves in **FAITH** (*most holy*) we must keep in the love of God..... We have recently seen how **FAITH** must produce works if it is **FAITH**, now we see how **FAITH** itself within us is covered by keeping in the love of God. How to keep within the love of God is a whole subject on its own, perhaps to turn to my Study on the word “love” would be a help there. We must also pray in the Holy Spirit too, in order to build up ourselves in... **FAITH**. Does this mean in “Tongues?” Yes it does, but much more than that, it means to pray in the Will of God, to pray into being those things for which God would have us pray, knowing the Will of God in the circumstances. Our **FAITH** (*in Jesus*) will reveal to us the Will of God if we seek God and His love and mercy. Hallelujah Lord Jesus. Thank You, that You not only tell us what to do, and when, but also show us the way to do them! Hallelujah!

117. Revelation 2 v 13: “I know your works, and where you dwell, even where Satan’s throne is; and you hold fast My Name, and have not denied My **FAITH**, even in those days in which Antipas was My **FAITH**ful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwells.”

“and have not denied My **FAITH**,....” Whose **FAITH**? It does not say ‘your **FAITH**,’ it says ‘My **FAITH**.’ In other words, the **FAITH** of Jesus! **Galatians 2:20** shows that Paul, whose example we have seen is one we should follow, tells us that we live by the **FAITH** “of the Son of God,” so we don’t have the opportunity to say that we don’t have enough **FAITH** for this or that or anything else! The **FAITH** that we have is the **FAITH** of God. That **FAITH** is also in God. We simply have to believe that what God says, is what will happen. If we deny that, then we deny our own place in Heaven! The Christians of Pergamum – the very seat of Ha’Satan himself, not just his demons – had not denied the **FAITH** of Jesus, they had held fast to the name of Jesus and not denied His **FAITH**. Lord Jesus, that I may never deny Your **FAITH** in me, even to death if that should be. Amen. 17th August 1991.

118. Revelation 2 v 9: “I know your works, and love, and service and **FAITH**, your patience, and your works; and the last to be more than the first.”

“I know your.....**FAITH**.” Again, a question – who does “know your **FAITH**?” Who else but the Lord Jesus Himself! He knows everything about us, all that pertains to each of us, our thoughts, plans, attitudes, works and even our patience as well as our **FAITH**, which is the subject of these Studies. In the last study (117) we saw that the **FAITH** that we hold is the “**FAITH** of Jesus.” In this study, we see that it is “our **FAITH**” that Jesus knows. So what is the difference? Our **FAITH** is simply to believe in the salvation that Jesus offers (*and, of course, all that means – repentance etc.*) then His **FAITH** working within each of us as believers, will perform all these things through us: Good works; love; service; **FAITH**; patience; as it says in this verse before us today. If we only have **FAITH** in Jesus, then His **FAITH** will live and reign and work in us and through us. Amen! If we don’t have that initial **FAITH** in the salvation of Jesus, then we cannot have the **FAITH** of Jesus within us. Thank you Lord Jesus, Messiah of the Jews, for that revelation to me. Hallelujah! Amen.

119. Revelation 13 v 10: “He that leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he that kills with the sword must be killed by the sword. Here is the patience and the **FAITH** of the saints.”

The first thing that we see about **FAITH** in this verse, is the coupling together of patience and **FAITH**. Because, in **FAITH**, we can see the things of which we hope – salvation, eternity in Heaven with King Jesus etc. we have the patience to wait for what we assuredly know will come. Now, the verse says: “Here is the patience and the **FAITH** of the saints.” What does it mean, “Here is....” then? In the face of all the pressure to worship the beast, the persecution for not doing so and the captivity and the death that will follow persecution; the saints that endure all this do so by their patience and **FAITH** in Jesus to grant to them eternal life and so entry into the Kingdom of Heaven. Thus, in that endurance, is that patience and **FAITH** displayed for all see – i.e. “Here is...” Lord Jesus Messiah, I would not go through such a thing without being filled with Your **FAITH**, I see from previous Studies that I can be filled with Your **FAITH** and I ask You now to so fill me. In Jesus name. Amen.

24th August 1991

120. Revelation 14 v 12: “Here is the patience of the saints; here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the **FAITH** of Jesus.”

Today we have another “Here is...” and a “Here are...” These are shown to be the opposite of those who worship the beast and also allow his mark to be put upon their foreheads or their hands. We saw in the last study, of the “patience of the saints,” so have here in this one, a confirmation of that, and indeed, and expansion, “Here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the **FAITH** of Jesus.” Since these are studies of **FAITH**, we see again that it is “the **FAITH** of Jesus” that the saints keep, not, as we have seen before, their own **FAITH**. This is a great comfort to each of us, since our own **FAITH** is such a puny thing compared to the **FAITH** of Jesus. His **FAITH** dwells in the heart of every believer and in that sense, His **FAITH** is our **FAITH** but we have seen in previous studies that we have a **FAITH** - in Jesus. We, in our **FAITH**, believe that Jesus can and has saved us from sin and the Lake of Fire, to be with Him in Heaven throughout eternity. All praise and glory and honour to Jesus. Our **FAITH** is to have **FAITH** in His **FAITH** dwelling within us. Hallelujah! Oh Lord, I believe, help You my unbelief. Amen. Amen.

121. Habakkuk 2 v 4: “Behold, his soul that is lifted up is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his **FAITH**.”

The “him” of the first part and the “his” of the second part of this verse, from the context, could be taken as: either the person concerned; or, to be the Lord God. “But the just shall live by his **FAITH**,” would hold true as long as we hold that **FAITH** to believe Jesus can and will save us and bring us to His side in eternity. “But the just shall live by His **FAITH**,” is even more true, naturally and supernaturally, we, “the just,” shall live by the **FAITH** of Jesus which dwells within us as believers. Thank You Lord Jesus, King of the Jews, that we shall live by **FAITH**, and that in **FAITH** we shall be in Your Heavenly Kingdom with You for all eternity. Amen.

26th August 1991

122. Romans 1 v 17: “For in it is the righteousness of God revealed from **FAITH** to **FAITH**; as it is written, the just shall live by **FAITH**.”

The **FAITH** of God reveals to our **FAITH**, His righteousness, just as it was written in the Old Testament. Even looking at the previous study reveals that the result of this revelation of God by God to believers is that we shall live by His **FAITH**. So this living in **FAITH** by the just, i.e. by those who are justified in God’s eyes, is not something new, revealed to us in the New Testament by Jesus or His Apostles. It is something that was revealed in the Tanakh, the Old Testament, as we have just seen. We see today, that we shall live by **FAITH** (*not that we may possibly, if we push the right buttons, say the right words at the right time or go to the right Church/Fellowship or any of these man-made devices attempting to formularise God*) but that we most definitely will live by **FAITH**, since we are just – just in God’s eyes as a result of our believing that Jesus is the Son of God, that He is able and willing to save us from the results our sins, to bring us to be with Him in eternity and our receiving of all this (*and much more*). Oh praise You Lord Jesus, Father and Holy Spirit, for all Your love and mercy toward me, that You created me knowing all about me, that I would want to and go my own way, not Yours (*this is original sin*) yet You still went ahead, just because You wanted my love and fellowship for all eternity. Thank You most wonderful God from the bottom of my Heart! Amen.

123. Galatians 3 v 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**.”

This study, along with the previous two, re-enforces the fact that we cannot be saved by obeying the Torah (*teaching in English*) not even the 10 Commandments! Only by **FAITH** in Jesus can we attain eternal life. In the early studies of the word “Righteousness,” it was seen that in following Jesus, we shall not break the 10 Commandments as a result of the righteousness He has given us for our **FAITH**, not that we shall not break them because we set out to keep them. This is a question of attitude: a legalistic attitude, keeping the 10 Commandments etc. will not get us that eternal reward no matter how good we are; for this is trying to get into Heaven our way instead of God’s way – original sin! “The just shall live by **FAITH**,” it is only by **FAITH** in Jesus and doing what He says – in the way He says – living by **FAITH**, is there any hope of salvation. We cannot do it our way, His way only, by **FAITH**. Thank You Lord Jesus that You have made a way for us to have eternal life with You! Amen.

8th September 1991

124. Hebrews 10 v 38: “Now the just shall live by **FAITH**; but if any man draws back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

Yes, it is true, “the just shall live by **FAITH**.” The verse goes on to give a solemn warning to those who, at first, profess Jesus as the Messiah of the Jews, Christ, and then draw back into the world and its ways. Being just, justified by Jesus, we go on to live in His **FAITH** as we have seen in previous studies. This is not living by **FAITH** as it is interpreted by some - having no fixed income, but, step by step, living every moment with the knowledge of Jesus living within us, directing each thought, word and action that we have to His glory. The question that should arise in the hearts of every one of us, is what I am thinking, saying and doing, glorifying to Jesus? When the answer is yes, then we know that we are truly living by **FAITH**, as this Scripture testifies. Lord Jesus, help me to bear these truths in my mind at all times, that I shall think, say and do all things to Your glory and in Your will. Amen.

125. Acts 15 v 9: “And put no difference between us and them, purifying our hearts by **FAITH**.”

Our **FAITH** in Jesus as saviour, purifies our hearts! So the more we believe in Him, i.e. the more we put our **FAITH** in Him into practice, the more our hearts are purified. We have then a glimpse of the on-going process of perfection that Jesus is performing in our hearts as we live, in order that Jesus can present us perfect to the Father God when we die. Now I suppose that for some, Jesus is going to have to perform this very, very quickly, as in the case of someone who accepts Jesus as Lord and saviour of their lives on their deathbed, or one who accepts the Lord but never really goes on in **FAITH** for many years. Others quietly go on in **FAITH** throughout their lives. The end result is the same, like the wages in the vineyard parable, we are purified by our **FAITH** in Jesus and are perfected by Jesus in time to be presented to our Heavenly Father as part of the bride of Jesus. Hallelujah! Amen.

126. Acts 26 v 18: “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Ha’Satan (*the adversary*) to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and inheritance among them who are sanctified by **FAITH** that is in me.”

“...Sanctified by **FAITH**.” So this is what makes me holy? By **FAITH** in Jesus as Lord and saviour am I sanctified, made holy in His eyes. Paul, here in bonds before Governor Festus and king Agrippa, could say that “...who are sanctified by **FAITH** that is in me.” He was not saying that anyone should have **FAITH** in Paul, that wouldn’t do anyone any good, but that people are sanctified (*made holy, remember*) by having **FAITH** in the same way as does he, or by having the same **FAITH** within them as in him. Paul is making the point about **FAITH**, that it only **FAITH** that can sanctify, **FAITH** in Jesus to save us from the power of Ha’Satan, **FAITH** to receive forgiveness of sins and that same **FAITH** in Jesus that gives us the inheritance with others in Jesus. So **FAITH** in Jesus sanctifies us to allow all this to happen. Thank You Lord Jesus, that You made all this possible by believing in You as the Son of God, Lord of all. Hallelujah!

127. Romans 1 v 12: “That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual **FAITH** both of you and me.”

“Mutual **FAITH**” indicates that this is a **FAITH** held in common. By the existence of the **FAITH** of Paul and the **FAITH** of Christians in Rome (*to whom Paul was writing this letter*) the **FAITH** of each was built up and was a comfort to each other. So, the existence of mutual **FAITH** is a comfort to all those who hold this **FAITH** in Jesus. We see then, that **FAITH** comforts and this is why we should not neglect to meet together with other Christians – not the only reason of course (!) as there are many reasons for that, but we do need to comfort one another in our mutual **FAITH**. Thank You Lord Jesus, for showing me another reason why I need both my **FAITH** in You and the company of those of like **FAITH**. 12th October 1991

128. Romans 3 v 22: “Even the righteousness of God which is by **FAITH** of Jesus Christ to all and upon all them that believe; for there is no difference.”

“By **FAITH** of Jesus?” What is “by **FAITH** of Jesus?” This verse begins by telling us the answer to the question – “the righteousness of God” comes “by **FAITH** of Jesus.” So, as a result of our **FAITH** in the saving grace of the blood of Jesus, shed for every one of us, we have the “righteousness of God.” This means that we are justified in the sight of God, as a result of which is that we may enter into His presence. This verse also tells us that there is no difference between believers, no matter what our ethnic origins (*Jew or Gentile*) or our training (*Clergy or Laity*). In God’s eyes we are all the same! This may come as a shock to those who like to be called “Reverend” or “Pastor” or “Bishop” or “Father” (*Matthew 23:9*) and also a shock to those who like to look up to those so titled and place them on some sort of pedestal. We are all the same in the eyes of God! We each (*the believers*) have the same **FAITH** (*and the same amount – beyond measure – Romans 12:3*) and are expected to live our own lives in that **FAITH** looking to God in all things, not to man or men! Praise You Lord Jesus, that You have dealt to me every bit as much **FAITH** as You have to any other man (*including women*), help me to live in that **FAITH**, that You are glorified and I and others are uplifted into Heavenly places by it! Amen.

129. Romans 3 v 28: “Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by **FAITH** apart from the deeds of the Law.”

We see in this verse today, that we are justified by **FAITH**. We have seen this before in these studies, so what is different? It is that here, the Lord God is telling us that whatever we do in trying to keep the Law, that will not justify us in God’s sight, only **FAITH** in Jesus, His Son, and the salvation which comes through repentance and belief in His salvation, that can give us that justification that we need in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Nothing else can accomplish that! *John 14:6* tells us that no-one can come to the Father except by Jesus – by **FAITH** in Jesus. All other righteousness is “as filthy rags” (*Isaiah 64:6*) the Lord tells us, meaning that we cannot “earn” our way into the presence of the Father, the kingdom of Heaven, no matter how much we try to keep the Law! Only by **FAITH** in Jesus can we come to the Father. Oh thank You Lord Jesus that You have made it possible – only You could have done it. All praise and glory to Your Name! Amen.

130. Romans 5 v 1: “Therefore, being justified by **FAITH**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

“**FAITH** justifies.” We have seen this before in these studies, that we are justified in the eyes of God by **FAITH** in His Son, Jesus, Yeshua Ha’Mashiach of Isra’el (*Jesus the Messiah of Isra’el*). We see again today in this verse, that “we have peace with God,” and that is “Through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Where would we be without Jesus?! We would not have peace with God for sure, only Isra’el had any hope of that, before Jesus came to live and die as a man – and was resurrected by the Father. Now, by **FAITH** in Jesus, everything has changed. We are, as Paul said in **Romans 11:17**, ‘grafted in’ amongst the believing remnant of His people Isra’el, and can have that “peace with God” through our Lord Jesus Christ! O thank You Father God, that You have extended Your grace and mercy to me through my belief (**FAITH**) in Your only Son Jesus. Oh Praise You wonderful God. All praise and glory and honour and joy is due to You, for You alone are worthy of these things. Keep me O Lord from ever taking any of that which is due only to You. Amen.

131. Galatians 2 v 16: “Knowing that a man cannot be justified by the works of the Law, but by the **FAITH** of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we may be justified by the **FAITH** of Christ and not be the works of the Law; for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified.”

There is no way we may come into the presence of God, except by the one and only way ordained by Him – through **FAITH** in Jesus! All our good works – following the Law, even to the letter, will never ever result in any of us being justified in the eyes of God. Our trying any other way but by **FAITH** in Jesus, is rebellion against God! It is a manifestation of original sin. Paul says in **this verse** even though he is a Jew, there is still no way, he knows, that he or anyone else can be justified through the Law; only by **FAITH** in Jesus, or the **FAITH** of Jesus can we possibly be justified. Paul says in this verse, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we may be justified by the **FAITH** of Christ....” Thank You Lord Jesus, that You made it possible for me to be part of Your Bride and to come into the presence of the Father. Hallelujah!

27th October 1991

132. Galatians 3 v 24: “Wherefore, the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by **FAITH**.”

So we see again that it is our **FAITH** (*in Jesus*) that justifies us, we are not justified (*before God*) by any other means. However, what is shown today is the fundamental reason why the Law was added (*see verse 19*) – as a “schoolmaster to lead us to Christ” Jesus. That we might see for ourselves that there is no way in which we can keep 100% of the Law 100% of the time. However religious we become, in ourselves, we know that we have to acknowledge that there has been some infringement of the Law – great or tiny! We cannot justify ourselves through the Law. So, by the grace and mercy of God, He sent Jesus, that we could be justified if we simply believe that He is able and willing to save us from that result of our being not justified in the eyes of God. That **FAITH** in Jesus is all that matters, everything else will follow on from that **FAITH**, if it is truly in place. Our lifestyle, our language, our manner of speaking, our attitude to God and to others etc. etc. etc. will all change as a result of our **FAITH** in Jesus. Hallelujah Lord Jesus, that You have made all these things possible simply by believing You and taking all that belief into my heart. Hallelujah! Amen.

133. Romans 3 v 30: “Seeing it is one God, who shall justify the circumcision by **FAITH**, and the uncircumcision through **FAITH**.”

There is but one God who justifies both Jew and Gentile. There is no other way of justification but by the Lord God of Isra’el, who by His grace and mercy justifies by **FAITH** in Yeshua Ha’Mashiach, Jesus Christ, the only Son of the Father who died on the cross to be the perfect and only sacrifice for the sins of the Jews and Gentiles alike. It is only by **FAITH** in Him that we can be justified, is what is said here in this verse. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile in this matter. It is held by some, that by the end of the first Century AD, something like one third of the Jewish nation had come to believe in Jesus as their Messiah – to have **FAITH** in Jesus to save them from the result of their sins, but this didn’t make them any better than the Gentiles who had that **FAITH** in Jesus, nor vice-versa! All praise and glory to You Father, that You are the justification of all those who have **FAITH** in Jesus! Amen.

31st October 1991

134. Romans 5 v 2: “By whom also we have access by **FAITH** into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.”

So **FAITH** gives us access to the grace of God. **FAITH**, by giving access to the grace of God also allows us to rejoice in the “hope of the glory of God.” This makes **FAITH** appear to be a door of sorts, through which, once we go through it (*i.e. start to believe the promises of Jesus and who He is*) opens up for our (*spiritual*) eyes to see much, much more of the things of God, and, as we see in this verse, to rejoice in them with the Lord God. Until we go through that door of **FAITH**, all these things of God are meaningless and, simply eyewash! Now I understand a little, why the world cannot conceive what is on the other side, through the door of **FAITH**. Thank You Lord for this insight into the world and Your Kingdom – on either side of the door of **FAITH**. Of course, this is why the things of the world have little interest for me now. Why didn't I see these things before? Hallelujah! What a wonderful God He is! Hallelujah! Praise Him for He is worthy! Amen.

135. Romans 9 v 32: “Why? Because they sought it not by **FAITH** but, as it were by works of the Law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone;”

Further proof from Scripture, that the following and obeying of the Law, is never going to give anyone righteousness, in the eyes of God. Only by **FAITH** in Jesus will that happen. The majority of the Isra'elis and later the Jews, tried to attain that righteousness by observing the Law without **FAITH** (*in God*) i.e. as a ritual. The same is true for us Christians today; if we think that by going to Church and following its rituals, that this will give us righteousness, then we are VERY sadly mistaken – that is religion, not Christianity and no matter how much we think the roots of the rituals are set in Christianity, the rituals are NOT Christianity and will never get us into the Kingdom of Heaven! Only **FAITH** in Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, Messiah, will achieve that. The rituals are to us, a hindrance, as was the Law to the Jews. Oh Lord Jesus, keep us out of that Satanic substitute religion, and keep me in **FAITH**, simple **FAITH** in Jesus now and forever. Amen.

2nd November 1991

136. Romans 11 v 20: “Well, because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by **FAITH**. Be not high-minded, but fear,”

Don't these few verses set out the whole question of God's view of the Jews so clearly! We believers in Jesus as Lord and saviour, stand as a result of that **FAITH** in Jesus. In contrast to this, the Jews, God's own chosen people, do not stand at present because of their lack of **FAITH** in Jesus, the majority of them rejected Jesus at the time, and most still do (*at this time*). Such was the benefit to the rest of the world (*us Gentiles*) when they did! The warning is here in this verse though, for those who “stand by **FAITH**,” “be not high-minded, but fear;” If God can do this to His own people Isra'el, if we don't stand by our **FAITH**, then He could just as easily do the same to us, if we don't stand (*operate*) in that **FAITH**. The good news for us as believers, is that, great as the blessing is to us as a result of the Jews being cut off from the root, very much greater blessings are on their way to us when the time comes for them to be grafted back into God. I can't imagine any greater blessing than salvation, but, God says in this passage that (*verse 15*) the Jews shall have “life from the dead!” All this is conditional upon us standing by our **FAITH**, not deviating from God's ways in the tiniest part. Oh praise You Father God, for the blessings You have already bestowed upon me, and even more for those that are to come when Your own people, Isra'el come back to worship You! Hallelujah! Amen.

137. II Corinthians 1 v 24: “Not that we have dominion over your **FAITH**, but are helpers of your joy; for by **FAITH** you stand.”

Reinforcing the last study, we see today again that it is our **FAITH** in Jesus that enables us to stand. This begs the question, stand against what? **Ephesians 6:11** tells us that this is “against the wiles of the Devil.” Our **FAITH** then enables us to stand against the wiles of the Devil, having, in that **FAITH**, clad ourselves with the whole armour of God first. We must therefore realise that Ha'Satan is the ‘Angel of Light,’ all reasonableness, and that it is difficult without that armour and **FAITH**, to recognise (*discern*) when Ha'Satan is trying to pull the wool over our eyes. Unfortunately, he never confronts us with anything, his strategy is simply to fool each of us with reasonableness, into thinking that what he puts into our mind is sensible and correct. In our **FAITH** in Jesus, He will give us gifts (*of the Spirit*) to help us in our Christian walk. In the situations outlined here, the Lord gives us the gift of discernment, which if we exercise it continually, enables us to see through the ‘wiles of the devil’ and so “stand against him” in **FAITH**. Hallelujah! Thank You Lord Jesus for all Your good gifts to us, help me to keep them well exercised. Amen.

4th November 1991

138. II Corinthians 5 v 7: “(for we walk by **FAITH**, not by sight);”

If we walk by sight, we would be exactly the same as all the world, for the not-yet-saved have no other way to walk, but we, as born again Christians, “walk by **FAITH**.” We have choice in every situation to walk by **FAITH** or by sight. The Lord God of Isra’el has not and will not take away our free will, we are free, and that means free to choose God’s way or our own way. Naturally, in the **FAITH** of Jesus, we will want His way, but we are not so foolish to think that is what we shall always do, the Lord knows the frailty of our frame (*body, mind and spirit*) and waits with open arms to receive us back into His ways. Oh what a loving God we have! As we go on in the Christian life, as we mature in Jesus, we shall walk more by **FAITH** and less by sight. What does this mean then, “to walk by **FAITH**?” It means to seek Jesus moment by moment as we go through life, wanting to walk closer and closer to Him, wanting to do more of what He wants of us, in the way He wants and when He wants. Seeking always for Him to be glorified instead of ourselves. Oh it is so easy to snatch at His glory, often we don’t even realise it. But we must continue to develop that gift of discernment, in order to be able to truly do His Will in His way and in His time. Lord Jesus, help me to walk by **FAITH** (*in You*) that You might be glorified and not me. All praise and glory to You Lord Jesus in my life. Amen.

139. Galatians 2 v 20: “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the **FAITH** of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

Paul exclaims here that, not living by his own **FAITH**, he lived “by the **FAITH** of the Son of God.” We don’t have to say to ourselves ‘Oh I don’t have enough **FAITH** to do this or that as Scripture says to do.’ If we say this of our self, then we are listening to a lie of Ha’Satan! We don’t have to do anything in our own **FAITH**, is what Scripture is saying here, we do them in “the **FAITH** of the Son of God” – Jesus. It is He “who loved me and gave Himself for me,” no one else! We, I, must abide in His **FAITH**, to live by the **FAITH** of Jesus who lives in me (*I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19*). We, I, who love the Lord Jesus and seek to do His Will, need to do no more than submit our, my, will to His and live by His Will alone. The only reason that it is not easy to ‘live’ by the **FAITH** of Jesus, is because we ourselves want to do things our way and in our timescale, not His! We, I, get in the way of Jesus. Lord, teach me to see when I am doing things my way instead of Yours, that , teach me to see when I am doing things my way instead of Yours, that You might be glorified in me and through me. In Jesus’ name I ask. Amen. *17th November 1991.*

140. Galatians 3 v 22: “But the Scripture has concluded all under sin, that the promise by **FAITH** of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”

“...the promise by **FAITH** of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.” If we believe in Jesus to be our Lord and saviour, then we have His promise of eternal life in His Kingdom, by the **FAITH** of Jesus. It is not our **FAITH** that gives us this promise, but His **FAITH** – His **FAITH** is much more dependable than ours! We are sure of eternal life only because of the **FAITH** of Jesus, all we have to do is to believe that this is true and model our lives accordingly, turning our backs on the world and its ways – repenting of our former self-centred life and following Jesus and His way and His Will for our lives. His **FAITH** enables us to do these things and so, to deny ourselves what we want to do when we want to do it and how we want to do it. Help me Lord Jesus to hear You and to know Your way and timing, that You might be glorified in me and through me. Amen.

141. Galatians 3 v 26: “For you are all sons of God by **FAITH** in Christ Jesus.”

What a wonderful passage this is in **verses 26-29!** In **verse 26** here, we have the statement that if we have **FAITH** in Jesus, then we are all sons of God. The following three verses then go on to show the mechanics of this by expanding on **Romans 11:17**. What we are seeing, is just how central is the **FAITH** in Jesus to our relationship to Him and the Father, Without **FAITH** in Christ Jesus (*Yeshua Ha'Mashiach*) we cannot be sons of the living Lord God of Isra'el, and if we are not sons of the living God, then we have no relationship with Him and, hence, we have no place with Him in eternity; so if we have no place with Him in eternity; there is only one alternative place to spend eternity and I don't even want to go there on a visit to see what it is like!!!! Lord God, thank you from the bottom of my heart that You sent Jesus, Your only Son, to be born as a human, to live, to die on a cross and be raised up from the dead, just to enable us to believe on Him and so to spend eternity with You both in Heaven. Amen. Hallelujah! Amen. *24th November 1991*

142. Galatians 5 v 5: “For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by **FAITH**.”

The context of this verse is that the Galatian believers had in their midst, those who were saying that the Gentiles, in order to be saved, had to become Jews first and obey the outward happenings of Judaism – circumcision amongst other things. Paul was writing to correct this error. “For we, through the (*Holy*) Spirit, wait for the hope of righteousness by **FAITH**.” In this verse, Paul has set out the whole Gospel – that salvation is only accomplished by **FAITH**. For we know (*hope*) that we shall receive that robe of righteousness from Jesus, which enables us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. In the Spirit we wait, knowing (*hoping*) that by **FAITH** alone will this happen! Only by **FAITH** will the promise of God of our place in Heaven come about. Hallelujah! Thank You Lord Jesus that these things are not just vague things that we have heard rumours about, but are solid facts upon which we can rely – because we have the **FAITH** of Jesus. Amen.

143. Ephesians 3 v 12: “In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the **FAITH** of Him.”

Why be afraid to share Jesus and His salvation with others? A message especially for me! In this verse we are told that we have boldness, not timidity, as Ha’Satan (*more correctly translated as “the Adversary”*) would have us believe! We have this boldness “by the **FAITH** of Him,” not by our own **FAITH**, but “by the **FAITH** of Him.” The confidence we have is again, “by the **FAITH** of Him,” so to what do we have access? The context of this verse tells us several things: 1st of all to boldness; to the manifold wisdom of God; that we Gentiles should now be fellow heirs with the Jews; to the fellowship of the mystery and others. These not being in any order, are found in **verses 1–12**. There are, of course, many others and all these are “by **FAITH** of Him.” Thank You Father God, that I don’t have to rely on my own **FAITH** for anything, but upon the **FAITH** of Jesus, and so I know that these things are, not that I think that they might possible be so! Hallelujah! Amen.

15th December 1991

144. Ephesians 3 v 17: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by **FAITH**; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,”

“Christ may dwell in your hearts by **FAITH**,” we have only to believe, have **FAITH**, that Messiah, Yeshua Ha’Mashiach, Jesus Christ, can dwell in our hearts and that His **FAITH** takes over from there. This verse shows that, as a result of the Messiah dwelling in our hearts, we are “rooted and grounded in” His love. The next verse goes on to show the result of this: we shall be able to comprehend the breadth, length, depth and height of that love. So, the more we operate in the **FAITH** of Jesus, the more we are able to know His love. Hallelujah! Thank You Lord Jesus for Your love for me and Your **FAITH** in me which brings Your presence into my heart, and my whole being. Amen.

145. Philippians 3 v 9: “And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the **FAITH** of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by **FAITH**;”

We have righteousness in the eyes of God! We do not have any righteousness in the eyes of God as a result of any action of our own, not even as a result of Pharasaical keeping of the Law given by the Lord God to Moses, for all the earth. Paul, in the context of this verse was explaining how he, above just about everyone, would have been super righteous in the eyes of God, had it been possible to enter the Kingdom of Heaven any other way but by Jesus the Messiah. Only by the **FAITH** of Jesus, and our belief in Him and His ability to save us from Hell and Damnation – the Lake of Fire – can we receive the righteousness which will enable us as individuals to enter into the presence of God Almighty. As the old song says: “...for there is no other way...” Oh thank You Father God, Lord Jesus, Holy Spirit, that You made a way by which I can be reconciled to You, to spend all eternity praising and worshipping You. Help me to, as that same song says:trust and obey....” That I may give You glory. Amen.

22nd December 1991

146. Hebrews 11 v 4: “By **FAITH** Abel offered to 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 speaks.”

FAITH is defined in **verse 1**, and by that **FAITH**, Abel obtained a witness from God Himself that Abel was righteous in His eyes, I’m sure that Cain had the same **FAITH**, but he declined to sacrifice in the same way as God had ordained, so he didn’t apply his **FAITH** correctly. We don’t know precisely why Cain’s sacrifice was not acceptable to God (*and this is not the place to discuss it*) but we do see in **this verse** before us, that it was by **FAITH** that Abel gave a more acceptable sacrifice. We must observe that Scripture tells us here, that **FAITH**, and its application, is necessary to please God. We must not think that we can do what the Lord tells us in our own way even, and think that we can please God in that way. We must work in **FAITH**, knowing God’s work, methods and timing in what we do, otherwise, we shall not meet with God’s approval! Help me Lord Jesus, that in all things, I might do what You want me to do in the way in which You want it done and at the time You want it done. Amen.

147. Hebrews 11 v 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.”

What a wonderful testimony, that God was so pleased with Enoch, of his walk with Him so closely, by **FAITH**, that he didn’t let him suffer the pangs of mortal death. How many others did that? I can only think of Elijah, Moses died and the Lord buried him outside the land. To walk so closely with God by **FAITH**! Enoch was the father of Methuselah who was the grandfather to Noah. Noah was (*and his family!?!*) was the only righteous man on the whole earth in God’s eyes, so it must have been pretty awful even in his great grandfather, Enoch’s day. So to walk by **FAITH** so closely to God, must have been incredible to the Godless people around him at the time. Lord Jesus, today we are surrounded by Godless people, **so** work in me, Lord Jesus, that my walk with You by **FAITH** shall seem incredible to those around me. That You might be glorified, not me! Amen. *29th December 1991*

148. Hebrews 11 v 7: “By **FAITH**, Noah, being warned of God of things not seen yet, moved with fear, prepared an Ark to the saving of his house, by which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by **FAITH**.”

Noah, by **FAITH** in the Lord God, that He would do what He said He would, spent 100 years building a colossal structure called the ark. Have no doubt as to the enormity of the task, for the Ark was about 450 feet long with a beam of 75 feet and a height of 45 feet. These dimensions probably err on the low side! No doubt Noah’s sons helped, as they were saved too, but, Noah must have been taunted by everyone else for most of the 500 years up to that point where he started building the Ark, for his standing for God, he was the only one in the whole world at that time. Now, miles from any sea, he started to build this enormous vessel. Can you imagine the testing through which his **FAITH** must have gone? I confess difficulty! Another 100 years of unimaginable taunting and ridicule carried through by **FAITH** in the living God. We have that same **FAITH** available to us! This is the incredible part, yes, we, each of us, has that same **FAITH** within us as believers. We have the righteousness of God by **FAITH** – whose **FAITH**? The **FAITH** of Jesus as we have previously seen! We don’t have to be great in any way to exercise this level of **FAITH**, only believe that the **FAITH** of Jesus lives in me. Lord Jesus, help me to realise just what Your **FAITH** is. Amen.

149. Hebrews 11 v 8: “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 where he went.”

Abraham, by **FAITH** went and left his family, not knowing where he was going! When I was much younger, I used to go out on long journeys with some trepidation, even though I knew where I was heading (*today, I’ll jump in the car and drive down through France and Spain to Gibraltar!*). When we set out to look at the countryside around where we were living at the time, I was not too happy when I reached the point to which we had previously been, and would turn around and go home again. So, I can imagine that Abraham must have had a great deal of **FAITH** in God to not just wander around to have a look-see at the area, but to load up his camels and asses and uproot Sarah and just take off without having the faintest idea where he was going. Abraham “believed in the Lord, and He counted it to him for righteousness,” (*Genesis 15:6*). Because Abraham not only believed God, but acted upon that **FAITH**, it was counted to him as righteousness. As we know, it is Godly righteousness that allows us entry into Heaven. Thank You Lord Jesus for showing me today, that I must not only trust You, but I must obey You too. Amen.

2nd January 1992

150. Hebrews 11 v 9: “by **FAITH** he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise;”

“By **FAITH.**” Everything has to be “by **FAITH**” in all that we do. Abraham lived in the land (*with his son and grandson*) that had been promised to him and his seed after him. He was a foreigner in the land that had been promised to him, yet in no way did he, his son, or even his grandson see themselves as occupying the land. It was just a promise of God to him, yet none of these ever doubted that it would come true, because they each trusted, believed, had **FAITH**, that the Lord God would do just as He said – to their seed. If I had an instruction or promise from God, I must not let that promise or instruction go, even if I never do see the fulfilment of it. That is not my problem, I must remember that God’s timing is perfect and that He is in control of all things, I must simply, in the words of that song again, “Trust and obey!” I am not called upon to know the “ins and outs” of God’s ways and times. Sometimes I am privileged to know a little that, in His grace, He reveals to me, but I must not expect God to confide in me! Hallelujah! Praise You Lord Jesus that You have revealed so much to me already. Hallelujah!

151. Hebrews 11 v 17: “By **FAITH** Abraham, when he was tested offered up Isaac; and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,”

Abraham had laughed at God when he was told that he was going to have a son by Sarah (*Genesis 17:17*) because he was 99 years old and Sarah was 89 at that time. He did receive Isaac a year later and 37 years later Sarah died, after which he married Keturah and had SIX more sons (*Genesis 25:1-2*)! Isaac was not the first or the last son Abraham, but he was the one promised to Abraham through whom he should be the father of millions – billions maybe. Doesn’t it show all the more how much Abraham trusted God to sort out the situation when God told him to sacrifice the one through whom all the promises were to be fulfilled! When Isaac asked about the sacrifice, Abraham answered “my son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering.” he didn’t know how or why God was telling him to ‘destroy’ the channel of the promises, but he trusted God to work it out somehow, and how gloriously did He honour the **FAITH** of Abraham. Thank You Father that we can trust You even if “... He slay me, yet will I trust in Him;” (*Job 13:15*) so trustworthy are You. Hallelujah! Amen.

2nd January 1992

152. Hebrews 11 v 20: “By **FAITH** Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.”

When Isaac realised that Jacob (*the name means chiseller, supplanter or swindler*) had deceived him, he didn't say that the blessing he had put on Jacob was null and void, he recognised God's hand in the matter and said that the blessing must stand. He had trust, **FAITH** in God at that point. We must remember that when Rebecca was having the twins and they continually fought within her belly, she sought the Lord, who told her that the elder would serve the younger (*Genesis 25:22-26*) and no doubt that had been mentioned to Isaac at the time. So at the time of blessing Esau and Jacob, and the deception came to light, Isaac would have remembered the word of the Lord to Rebecca all those years before. Thus was the **FAITH** of Isaac built up by the deception of the younger of the twins in taking the blessing of the first born. So, when things go wrong and we see we are, perhaps, deceived in something, seek the hand of the Lord, it may not always be so in the situation, but it could very well be so. This way, our own **FAITH** can be built up. We must always look to Jesus, these situations can also be a ploy of Ha'Satan to take our eyes off Jesus! Remember that Jesus is Lord, full stop! Amen.

153. Hebrews 11 v 21: “By **FAITH**, Jacob, when he was dying, blessed both the sons of Joseph, and worshipped, leaning upon the top of his staff.”

By **FAITH**, Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph by crossing his hands deliberately and blessing the younger son, Ephraim, above the older boy, Manasseh (*Genesis 48:1-22*). Why should he do that quite deliberately? He did it by **FAITH**, believing that it was what the God of his fathers, Abraham and Isaac would have him do. Ephraim was to be greater than Manasseh. One can only do such things by **FAITH**, be you Jacob or John Smith. At the time, Joseph, their father was affronted, but being a Godly man, he recognised that what his father Jacob, was saying, was of the Lord God whom they both worshipped and served. I confess to being mystified by the reference to “leaning upon the top of his staff” though, because the Genesis story relates to Jacob sitting up in bed, so I cannot offer anything to that. It is for Christian fathers to bless their sons and, in the case before us, grandsons too, but this must be done in **FAITH**, not crossing the hands between the ages either, unless there is a very clear command from God! Hallelujah. Keep me in **FAITH** in You Lord Jesus. Amen. *6th January 1992*

154. Hebrews 11 v 22: “By **FAITH** Joseph, when he died, made mention of the departing of the children of Isra’el, and gave commandment concerning his bones.”

Joseph knew and so, trusted God, from his own dreams and their fulfilment, that his was a God who could be trusted absolutely without doubt, he would also have known of the covenant that same (*and only God!*) had made to his forefather Abraham. This was that the children of Isra’el would be captive for 400 years in the land where they now dwelt and that they would leave it with great wealth, to go to the promised land, where he was born (*Genesis 13:14 to 17*). Joseph didn’t want his bones left in Egypt, because he had **FAITH** in the living Lord God of Isra’el, that the children of Isra’el would leave Egypt to return to the promised land, to take possession of it, and he wanted to be part of that possession. Joseph had seen so much in his life where he had no control over events, where he had seen the hand of God in his life, so he had experience of trusting or having **FAITH** in God, we can now say the Lord God of Isra’el his father. Joseph could now draw upon his experiences of the trustworthiness of God, consequently, his **FAITH** had been built up over his lifetime and so could be the easier “By **FAITH**...” We too should be in that same position, Joseph’s life wasn’t miracle after miracle, hour by hour, there were great periods of time in between. We shouldn’t expect our lives to be different in that respect. Help me Lord to remember these miracles that you have wrought in my life. Amen.

155. Hebrews 11 v 23: “By **FAITH** Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child, and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment.”

The parents of Moses, whose names are not revealed in Scripture, had **FAITH** in God, enough to defy Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. So, does this show that **FAITH** overcomes fear of men? I think it does, *this verse* says “By **FAITH**... and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment,” which is a pretty good indication. The Egyptians themselves had been commanded to throw all Isra’eli sons into the river (*Exodus 1:22*) which is why Moses had been hidden for three months, but by that age (*of Moses*) it was becoming difficult to hide him any longer, so, he was symbolically ‘thrown’ into the river as we know from *Exodus 2:1-10*. So, if God commands us one thing, we are not to countermand that in any way to appease even a king. The parents of Moses had **FAITH**, so we must walk in **FAITH**. Amen.

8th January 1992

156. Hebrews 11 v 24: “By **FAITH** Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,”

Moses, apparently about 40 years of age, knowing that he was an Isra’eli, came to the point in his life where he had to identify with his own people. And hence deny any relationship with the Egyptians who had brought him up and trained him as one of themselves, in the royal family no less. Obviously, God had started to move in his life, for this verse tells us that he did this “By **FAITH**.” Moses would have been brought up to worship the pagan gods of Egypt, yet he would probably have been told many times by his ‘mother’ of how he was taken out of the river, being a Hebrew child. So, he was probably not used to hearing from the living God, the Lord God of Isra’el; yet, this verse tells us of how he did things “By **FAITH**.” Moses must have gone through something akin to conversion, whilst being brought up to worship pagan gods, he must have heard something of this Hebrew God, and at some time, before the burning bush incident, would have come to realise, and so have **FAITH** in the living Lord God of Isra’el. At the very least he would have been prepared for the burning bush by the Lord God. So, “when he was come to years,” he “By **FAITH**.... refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter,” wanting to be a part of God’s own chosen people, Isra’el.

157. Hebrews 11 v 27: “By **FAITH** he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is invisible.”

Although Moses fled Egypt in fear, his return was more of apprehension toward the Isra’elis, and not fear of Pharaoh at all, see **Exodus 3:1 to 4:31**. The Lord had built up the **FAITH** of Moses whilst he was in the land of Midian; yet Moses forgot to circumcise his own son Gershom, and the Lord had to take drastic action to remind him (**Exodus 4:24-26**). No doubt Moses could have gone back to Egypt as Pharaoh’s daughter’s son, but, “By **FAITH**,” or trusting in God, that what the Lord had told him was that which was going to come to pass, “he forsook Egypt,” preferring to throw in his lot with his own kin and trust God to bring them all out of Egypt as He had said. This again, is how we must conduct our lives as Christians – trusting, having **FAITH**, in Jesus the Lord. We must not struggle to achieve that which He has not said will happen and we must rest in His **FAITH** that what He says He will do, will come to pass. Have the **FAITH** of Jesus, as we have seen in past studies. Amen.

10th January 1992

158. Hebrews 11 v 29: “By **FAITH** they passed through the Red Sea as by dry land, which the Egyptians, attempting to do, were drowned.”

At this stage, the whole nation of Isra’el had come to **FAITH** in the Lord God of Isra’el (*Jacob*) and went through the dried up bed of the Red sea, with the waters piled up on either side of them. That must have been most frightening to go through! They could see this with their own eyes and knew that it was done by the God of their forefathers and they also knew by now that He was (*and still is*) a God who could be totally trusted. They could have complete **FAITH** in Him. How much more was this **FAITH** confirmed, when they saw the last of the Isra’elis, coming up out of the Red Sea bed chased by the Egyptian Army, and watch the sea close in over them! Not only did they see God save them, but they also saw God destroy all their enemies ‘at a stroke.’ How that must have built up their **FAITH**! We too have seen miracles (*albeit, maybe, not on that scale*) in our own lives, answered prayer for small things, such as a parking space, as we drive into a packed town on a Saturday afternoon, or to seeing someone healed when the doctors have said nothing can be done. How much less than them, do we forget these things when the going gets tough, as did the Isra’elis as soon as they were thirsty in the Wilderness. We must each keep our **FAITH** alive by calling to remembrance those things where we have seen our **FAITH** in Jesus honoured. Amen.

159. Hebrews 11 v 30: “By **FAITH** the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.”

Many ‘explanations’ have I heard of why the walls of Jericho fell, but only one does the Lord support, and that is given in **this verse**, “By **FAITH**!” All the others seek to deny God. There is no other explanation to the born again Christian, the Lord told the Isra’elis (*through Joshua*) what to do and they believed, had **FAITH** in the Lord, and simply did exactly as they were told, when they were told to do it and how they were to do it. Those walls, I am told, were 40 to 60 feet high and 20 or so feet thick at the base. There was no way in which they were going to be induced to fall down flat. Yet, the Isra’elis had the **FAITH** to believe that the Lord was going to deliver that city into their hands, they probably didn’t think about exactly how the Lord would deliver it to them, but they had that **FAITH** that He would do exactly what He said. We too have **FAITH**, we have the **FAITH** of Jesus, as we have seen in these studies before, so we must operate in that **FAITH** and nothing else. We must move in **FAITH** in every area of our lives! Amen. *12th January 1992*

160. Hebrews 11 v 31: “By **FAITH** the harlot, Rahab, perished not with them that believed not, when she received the spies with peace.”

Rahab had **FAITH** in the Lord God of Isra’el before she hid the spies (*Joshua 2:11b*)! The couple of verses that precede this one in the book of Joshua, show why she believed. Because she had **FAITH** in the Lord God of Isra’el, and acted upon it, in extracting an oath from the spies, she lived and all her family, who also believed. Rahab, a common prostitute before she was saved, went on to marry Salmon, who was the father of Boaz who married Ruth (*Matthew 1:5*) and was therefore in the lineage of Jesus, being between Jacob and David. Now this **FAITH** that Rahab had, was just a simple believing **FAITH**, enough to extract a promise of safety from the spies. The result of that **FAITH** is that she alone (*and her immediate family*) of all the people of Jericho, was saved. Now we may not have quite such a dramatic result to our having the **FAITH** of Jesus, but that is none the less reason to our operating in **FAITH**. We are required by God, as born again Christians, to operate wholly in the **FAITH** of Jesus. Amen.

161. James 2 v 24: “You see, then, that by works a man is justified, and not by **FAITH** only.”

Anyone can say ‘I have **FAITH** in Jesus,’ and probably mean it too. This verse tells us that **FAITH** alone is not much use. It is by the works that a person does, that he or she is justified. The passage goes on to say that our **FAITH** is dead if it isn’t accompanied by that **FAITH** going into action! If we say we have **FAITH**, and don’t hear the Lord telling us to do this or don’t do that, or if we do hear Him but take no notice, then we nullify our **FAITH**, is what *this verse* says. Oh dear! This will upset a few apple carts! In order to be justified in the eyes of God, I must do as He says to me. Words are not enough, unless they are the words of obedience to the Lord telling us to speak into a situation. If I only say the ‘right things’ and rely upon that, have **FAITH** in that, I have **FAITH** in a false god, not in the living Lord God of Isra’el! It is only as I obey what the Lord Jesus tells me, minute by minute in my life, that I show my **FAITH**, by my actions. Lord Jesus, my saviour, help me to take this deep into my soul and put it into practice, in the name of Jesus I ask. Amen.

14th January 1992

162. Romans 4 v 19: “And being not weak in **FAITH**, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb.”

At the age of 100 years old, Abraham looked for the fulfilment of the word of God to him, that he should have a son by his wife, Sarah, who was 90 years old. The fact that both he and Sarah were, for child bearing purposes, as good as dead; in other words, in human terms, it couldn’t happen; Abraham still had **FAITH** in the word of the Lord to him - that they would have a son! As we know, Sarah conceived by Abraham and had a son whom, they called Isaac, which was the fulfilment of the word of God. As we also know, the Lord God has made his seed as numerous as the stars in the heaven, or the grains of sand upon the sea shore – 3 million in New York State alone! What a wonderful God we have, who makes promises to us that are quite impossible in worldly terms, and still brings them to pass in His own good time. In such a God we can have **FAITH**! Hallelujah! Amen. Lord Jesus, help me to remember that with God, all things are possible (*Matthew 19:26*). Praise the Lord. Amen.

163. Romans 4 v 20: “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in **FAITH**, giving glory to God,”

When the Lord God said to Abraham that he was to be the father of many nations, Abraham didn’t say to himself, ‘some hope!’ He simply believed God, that he was strong in **FAITH**. His attitude was, God said it, so it must be true. Abraham didn’t doubt the Lord at all, even though he was 90 years old at the time the promise was made, any more than Mariam did when she was told that she was going to have a son (*even though she was a virgin*) and He would be the Son of God. They both gave glory to God! It seems then, that the stronger we are in **FAITH**, the more we give glory to God. We do this in 2 ways: the stronger we are in **FAITH** (*in Jesus for us*) the more likely our lifestyle itself is going to be glorifying to God; also, the stronger our **FAITH** (*in Jesus for us*) the more likely we are to see His doing in our lives and around us and hence, verbalise our glorying to the Lord God. Lord Jesus, my saviour, help me to walk ever closer to You in my **FAITH**, that You might be glorified in me and through me before I even open my mouth. Amen

18th January 1992

164. Romans 14 v 1: “Him that is weak in the **FAITH** receive you, but not to doubtful disputations.”

We are to receive all who have **FAITH** in Jesus, we are not to discriminate between those who are strong in the **FAITH** and those who are weak in the **FAITH**, we are to receive (*love, have dealings with, offer hospitality to etc.*) them all. We are, however, given the gift in the Spirit, of discernment, and with this gift, we are in **this verse**, called upon to discern those who are weaker in the **FAITH** and, whilst encouraging them, not let them pontify their own views on the Scriptures in disputations. We, who are stronger in the **FAITH**, must be very careful not to stifle the **FAITH** of those weaker brothers (*or sisters*) in the Lord, but to encourage them (*ALL must be done in love*) into a better understanding of spiritual things and the Scriptures. We must lovingly encourage them to be more willing to learn and be corrected in their thoughts, whilst encouraging them also, to study the Scriptures for themselves. Lord Jesus, help me that I may be one who encourages and uplifts all my fellow Christians in **FAITH** in Jesus, especially those who are weaker in **FAITH**. Fill me with Your love and Your Holy Spirit to that end, may I overflow with them. Amen.

165. I Corinthians 16 v 13: “Watch, stand fast in the **FAITH**, quit you like men, be strong.”

“Stand fast in the **FAITH**” it says. So what does it mean to stand fast in the **FAITH**? It means not only to keep on believing in Jesus, having **FAITH** in Him to save me, we should never stop doing that of course; but it means to continue doing that or those specific things that the Lord has told you to do. That could be anything (*for myself it meant in 1981, to start an Audio Cassette Duplicating Company, about which I had no idea, much less experience, but he put people into my path, who taught me all I needed (now closed since 2008) was named by the Lord at the time, as Angel Talk Limited. Later the company progressed to CD and then also DVD duplicating*); it could be to pray regularly for Isra’el and God’s chosen people, or for the marriages of those around you or many other subjects; it could be to go out on the streets to the ‘down and outs’ to feed them and even give them the Gospel etc. etc. etc. Once the Lord Jesus has commissioned you to do whatever, there will be much opposition, even, dare I say it, as I had, mostly from fellow Christians including the Church leaders. In this way, each of us must also stand fast and continue in **FAITH** that we are doing what God wants us to do. He will make it clear to us if He wants us to do anything different or in a different way, and He will do so directly to the one concerned. He may go on to confirm it through someone else, so, until that is the case, “Stand fast in the **FAITH**.” Thank You Lord Jesus. Amen.

25th January 1992

166. II Corinthians 8 v 7: “Therefore, as you abound in everything, in **FAITH**, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that you abound in this grace also.”

“Therefore, as you abound in everything, in **FAITH**.... see that you abound in this grace also.” The context of this verse starts at **verse 1**, where we see that the ‘grace’ in **verse 7** is the “grace of God” in **verse 1**. Today, we see then, that since we “abound in every thing,” (*since “every thing” is two words, not one, it means every material and Spiritual thing*) as we do today, we must abound in the grace of God. So, what does this mean in practical terms? It means that I must give liberally to those who are less well off than me, and be prepared to receive from others when if and when I fall on hard times and have not enough. These things I must do in **FAITH**. This is explained in **verses 13-15**. Now the context of **chapter 8**, is the giving to widows and the fatherless in Jerusalem by the Churches in Macedonia, as an example of their **FAITH** in Jesus and salvation. Interestingly, this is the only example of giving for Christians, no mention is ever made of payment for Paul or any other leader, nor of tithing for Christians. We should not limit ourselves to tithing in our giving. We are given one example here of what we should be doing in **FAITH** in terms of our material wealth and our giving to others. Basically, we should give in the same manner to the less fortunate as we would hope that they would give to us if we were in their position. Thank You Lord Jesus, for that revelation of how our **FAITH** should operate concerning our material wealth. Amen.

167. II Corinthians 13 v 5: “Examine yourselves, whether you are in the **FAITH**; prove yourselves. Know you not yourselves how Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are discredited?”

The Lord Jesus makes it clear to us, through Paul here, that it is our own responsibility to make sure that we are walking in **FAITH** in Jesus every waking moment of our lives, prove it to ourselves he tells us. Remember at all times that in our **FAITH** in Jesus, that Jesus is in each and every believer and hence, remember that Jesus is there (*within us*) in all that we say, think or do, unless we or I am discredited. It is also for this discrediting that we are to examine ourselves, for if we are discredited, then we have not been in **FAITH** in Jesus. If we find that we are not in **FAITH**, then we must confess this to Jesus and repent of it, in order to get right back into **FAITH**! If we do this, individually and corporately, then Jesus will not hold anything against us, for our sins (*and that is what it will have been*) will be remembered no more **Jeremiah 31:34, Hebrews 8:12, 10:17**, it will be as if we had never sinned! Oh Hallelujah! Amen! Thank You Lord Jesus for Your grace, mercy, love and forgiveness to each and every one of repentant sinner like me. Amen.

1st February 1992

168. Colossians 1 v 23: “If you continue in the **FAITH**, grounded and settled and be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel, which you have heard, and which was preached to every creature that is under heaven, of which I, Paul, am made a minister.”

The NIV says: “If you continue in your **FAITH**, established and firm...” The point is that we are reconciled to God, if we continue in my/your **FAITH**. **FAITH** in Jesus to reconcile us to God, and continue to walk in that **FAITH** in Jesus, not going on in our worldly way, opening the cupboard on Sundays to bring out our god and dust him down, and worship him for an hour or two, then put him back away again for another week. Our life, our whole life must be firmly established and settled in Jesus, seeking at all times to glorify Him by doing what He wants from us. We mustn't be fooled into that this is a one morning (*and evening if we go twice to Church*) a week thing. This is a whole lifestyle to which we are called, there is nothing part time about it! If we are not firmly established, grounded and settled in our **FAITH** in Jesus, then that **FAITH** will not shine out of our lives, simply because that **FAITH** is not totally at the heart of us. Lord Jesus, expose to me, those parts of my life that are not firmly rooted in **FAITH** in You, that I may submit them to You for Your glory, in Jesus name. Amen

169. Colossians 2 v 7: “Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the **FAITH**, as you have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving.”

In effect, **this verse** in its context, tells us not only that we should be “established in the **FAITH**,” but that the way that this shall happen, is “so walk you in Him, rooted and built up in Him.” It is only as we do this that we shall be able to be so “Established in the **FAITH**.” There is no other way, Jesus, the Messiah of the Jews, is our **FAITH**. No other **FAITH** will enable us to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, only **FAITH** in Jesus. All other **FAITH** is **FAITH** in false gods who cannot save. Oh praise You Lord Jesus, foundation of our **FAITH** and our saviour! Hallelujah! Help me to walk in Your ways and be firmly rooted and built up in You and in You alone, that You might be glorified in me. Amen. *9th February 1992*

170. I Timothy 1v 2: “Unto Timothy, my own son in the **FAITH**: Grace, mercy and peace, from God, our Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In the **FAITH**, Paul regarded Timothy as if he were his own son. Paul looked after him as a father should, nurturing and building up Timothy in **FAITH**, that, young as he was, he might be strong in **FAITH** in Jesus as his saviour and able to do works of might and wisdom and know the Scriptures (*the Old Testament – Tanakh – only. None of the New Testament had been written!*). In This **FAITH** in Jesus as the Messiah of Isra’el and saviour of the world, Timothy was to be strong in facing up to those who were part of the Church, yet rebelled against God in many ways, as listed in **I Timothy 1**. Timothy was to be the voice of Paul in seeing these things were corrected in the Church and that Jesus was to be glorified in His Church. Paul gave instruction to Timothy on how to conduct himself in the **FAITH** and the same instruction is good for me to follow. Paul also gave instruction to Timothy of many things in the running of the Church of Jesus Christ, the qualifications for office etc. and those qualifications are good for all of us to set our hearts to attain, not just for those who would be elders etc. Lord Jesus, help me to attain those qualifications in order that You alone may be glorified. Amen.

171. I Timothy 1 v 4: “Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions rather than Godly edifying which is in **FAITH**, so do.”

We are called to Godly edifying in **FAITH**, edifying whom? Ourselves and others of course! In **this verse** before us today and in its context, we are told one of the ways of accomplishing this – not listening (*giving heed*) to fables and endless genealogies, and **the verse** gives reasons too. Some of the converts at Ephesus were obviously teaching wrong doctrine, and Paul had left timothy to sort them out, make sure that no-one taught any other doctrine but that of **FAITH** in our Lord Jesus Christ. Therein no other way of salvation but this **FAITH** in Jesus. These fables etc. were (*and still are!*) one of Ha’Satan’s strategies to divert the attention of Christians away from being a totally Jesus centred **FAITH**, he will do anything to divert our eyes, our attention away from Jesus, the hope of our **FAITH**. Lord Jesus, please help me to discern Ha’Satan and his methods to try to stop me concentrating my whole life upon You. Amen.

16th February 1992

172. I Timothy 2 v 7: “For this 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.”

Paul was doing what he believed (*had FAITH*) that the Lord Jesus wanted him to do, teach the Gentiles about Jesus and salvation through Him. Paul was ordained (*notice that this was not done by any Man!*) a preacher, and an apostle, a teacher of the Gentiles in **FAITH** and verity. God Himself had ordained him for this, not by the “laying on” of any hands. Such **FAITH** only comes from God, we cannot do any of these things ‘off our own bat,’ or, in our own strength. Not only can we not do them, but it is rebellion against God to even try. Remember what happened to the Isra’elis when they realised that they had rebelled against God by not going into the promised land at Kadesh Barnea (*Numbers 13:26 to 14:45*). From this we see that not only is it important to do what the Lord wants, but it is just as important to do it when the Lord says! Thank You Lord Jesus, for showing me this, that I must be in Your Will and in or at Your time. Help me please Lord Jesus to always be sensitive to You and what You have for me to do. Amen.

173. I Timothy 2 v 15: “Notwithstanding, she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in **FAITH** and love and holiness with sobriety.”

This chapter clearly lays out the Churches position for the ladies. It could not be more clearly stated. **The chapter** makes clear also that about one half of the population shall be saved in childbearing, as long as they continue on from that point in their lives in **FAITH** (*in Jesus*) and holiness (*to Jesus*) with sobriety. All these things are to be done in **FAITH** in Jesus, for He alone is our salvation from the lake of fire and eternal separation from God. **FAITH** in no other can bring us to salvation. Thank You Lord Jesus that You made a way for us, in our sins, to come to salvation through **FAITH** in Jesus. Amen

174. I Timothy 3 v 13: “For they that have used the office of deacon well, purchase to themselves a good standing, and great boldness in the **FAITH** which is in Christ Jesus.”

A deacon in Scripture is one who serves. They serve the poor and the widows in the congregation, literally serving at tables in the feeding of the poor and widows, which was the use to which collections were put. No one in the New Testament received any payment, wage, stipend, salary or even expenses for what they did! Paul always worked as a Tentmaker wherever he went preaching. Now **this chapter** details the pre-requisites of a Bishop (*another word for an elder*) and a deacon (*waiter?*) and then **this verse, 13** tells us the result of meeting these pre-requisites, not holding the office of elder or deacon, and that is to have “a good standing and great boldness in the **FAITH** which is in Christ Jesus.” We are each able to have this “good standing and great boldness in the **FAITH**” if we meet the pre-requisite of office as detailed in this chapter. I do desire to see the Lord Jesus glorified in and through me and my life, but I don’t think that I meet many of these pre-requisites for office. However, I cannot deny that, through the shed blood of Jesus and my **FAITH** in its cleansing power, that I am righteous in the eyes of God, as a result of that, I should have “a good standing and great boldness in the **FAITH**.” So why don’t I exercise it? It can only be because I, me, gets in the way. Lord Jesus, please help me understand my true position in life and in Your Kingdom, that I may be a better witness for You in all things! Amen.

175. I Timothy 4 v 12: “Let no man despise your youth, but be you an example of the believers, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in **FAITH**, in purity.”

This is a call to all believers, be a good example of a believer, in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in **FAITH**, in purity. What greater exhortation could one have from the Lord Jesus through Paul? This was written by Paul to Timothy, but no Christian can ignore it, saying that it doesn’t apply to him or her! Every one of us is to be an example to the world, a silent witness, in **FAITH**, WE cannot escape this instruction and live in Eternity. **FAITH** is the essential ingredient to enable us to be an example of all the other things mentioned in **this verse**. Any of those other things could be taken away from this verse and the meaning of the verse and the reasoning of the verse would still be clear, but take away **FAITH** and all that is left is pure Humanism. **FAITH** is essential for us to be any sort of Christian witness. Lord Jesus, I know that You have already given me all **FAITH**, I ask You to help me to operate my life in that **FAITH**, in order that you might be glorified. Amen.

22nd March 1992

176. II Timothy 1 v 13: “Hold fast the form of sound words, which you have heard of me, in **FAITH** and love which is in Christ Jesus.”

In **FAITH** and love, I must hold the sound words tightly, not letting anyone deny them or water them down. These sound words are, of course, the Scriptures (*normally this means only the Old Testament, but in this case both Old and New*). It is only in **FAITH** and love of Jesus, that we can hold them fast, not altering their meaning, or seeking to bend them to our own purposes as do many, even those in Leadership! Holding fast onto the Scriptures is necessary for our **FAITH** in Jesus as our Lord and saviour, at the same time, as this verse (*and its context*) says, our **FAITH** in Jesus is necessary for us to be able to hold on to the Scriptures. It is, in worldly terms, the old chicken and egg situation again. So how do we break into the word and **FAITH**? We don't, it is as simple as that! Only Jesus can do that, and He does it for each and every one of us, He puts us into the cycle (*chicken and egg*) by giving us **FAITH** in Him and the Scriptures. We are very weak and wobbly at first in this situation, but as we (*as new Christians*) exercise our new **FAITH** in Jesus and read and study His word, so this builds us our **FAITH** in Jesus and thus enables us to hold fast to the sound words in the Scriptures of which Paul spoke in this verse. Thank You Lord Jesus, for the **FAITH** and the Scriptures that You have given me. Amen.

177. Titus 1 v 13: “This testimony is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the **FAITH**,”

This is a verse which witnesses (*testifies*) to the fact that our **FAITH** shows in our lifestyle! Paul was reminding Titus that the Cretans themselves had witnessed that their lifestyle left much to be desired and this was obviously true of the believers there too. Paul was instructing Titus to not just rebuke them for their lifestyle, but to “rebuke them strongly!” The lifestyle of these Cretan believers showed a **FAITH** in something or someone other than Jesus. Whatever our **FAITH** is, that is what our lifestyle will display, whether we are willing or unwilling to let it show. Since our **FAITH** is in Jesus, He must show in our lifestyle, and that lifestyle is given in **verses 6 to 9 of this chapter**. If I find that my lifestyle doesn't measure up to these standards when I examine myself in accordance with **Romans 12:3**, then I must exercise the **FAITH** in Jesus that I have within me, by taking the shortcomings (*in my lifestyle*) to Jesus and submit it to Him and ask Him to deal with that area. Only in this way can my **FAITH** in Jesus begin to shine out through my lifestyle. Thank You Lord Jesus, that You have made a way. Amen.

5th April 1992

178. Titus 2 v 2: “That the aged men be sober minded, grave, temperate, sound in **FAITH**, in love, in Patience;”

As I near retirement age (*as I type up this manuscript(2016) I am 80 years old.....*) I must count myself as being instructed by this verse, amongst other things to be sound in **FAITH**. We must note that this verse uses the word ‘aged’ rather than older and can therefore not be misconstrued as referring to anything other than physical age. There are, in this verse, the qualities that should be displayed in the lifestyle of aged men. We are to be sound in **FAITH**; sound in love, sound in patience. In this ‘instant society’ in which we live, it is very difficult for the young men (*who will become aged in time*) to learn patience. Only by being “sound in **FAITH**” and applying that **FAITH** in our lives, even moment by moment, can we begin to develop these qualities in our lifestyle. Young men should remember that youth is the time of training for being aged, and should remember that life on earth at all ages is training for our place in the Kingdom of Heaven. Only by being “sound in **FAITH** can we apply that **FAITH** in our lives, can we be trained for eternity with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus, instil deep within my being, the urge to learn sound **FAITH** and to apply it in my own life, that my lifestyle may be a silent witness to Your glory. Amen.

179. Titus 3 v 15: “All that are with me greet you. Greet them that love us in the **FAITH**. Grace be with you all. Amen”

“Love in the **FAITH**.” Now, there is a lifestyle! **FAITH** is a part of our lifestyle and obviously, love for our fellow Christians is another part of the lifestyle that should be shining out of us as believers. If I love Jesus as much as I profess that I do (*Oh if only they were the same!*) then the strength of my **FAITH** in Him would compel me to love those whom He loves in the same way as He loves them. That I may not, is a sign of my level of commitment to the Lord Jesus. Thank God that my **FAITH** in Jesus as Lord and saviour, means that I am forgiven for my shortcomings in those and every other area! Oh praise You Lord Jesus, that with You all things are possible. Hallelujah, I’m forgiven. Fill me anew, Lord Jesus, with Your love and Your Holy Spirit, that You might be glorified in me, that I may truly be that ‘silent witness’ for You, before I can ever even speak of You. Amen.

12th April 1992

180. Hebrews 11 v 13: “These all died in **FAITH**, not having received the promises, but having seen them from afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.”

They “died in **FAITH**.” (As a further study, you may wish to find out who?) They, as must we, held on to their **FAITH** in God and in the Messiah to come. All Isra’el had **FAITH** in that coming anointed one, Messiah (*Christ is Greek, or is it Latin, for Messiah*) well, not all, that is how so many problems come upon that Nation and still does. In this verse today, the **FAITH** is in God to fulfil His promise to Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Jacob (*re-named Isra’el by the Lord*) to give them the land to which He had called them. They never saw the possession of the land, since that was not to happen for hundreds of years after they died. Just because they didn’t see it happen in physical terms, as far as they were concerned, their **FAITH** in God was such that He said it would happen, so there was no question about it. All they knew was, that the timescale was in God’s control and that had not been revealed to them. How often in today’s instant society do I lack the patience to allow the Lord God of Heaven and earth, to do things in His timescale, which I take upon myself, to find that I am disappointed and upset, solely due to my not correctly exercising my **FAITH** in the Lord. I must learn to accede that God knows best, including timescales. Oh Lord Jesus, You’ve given me all the **FAITH** that I am going to get, help me to walk in it in all things. Amen.

181. James 1 v 6: “But let him ask in **FAITH**, nothing wavering. For he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven by the wind and tossed.”

“Ask in **FAITH**” for wisdom from the Lord God of Isra’el. **Verses 5 & 6** say that we are to “ask in **FAITH**” if we lack wisdom. Just how important is it for us to have wisdom is shown by the fact that the Lord has given us a whole book (*Proverbs*) dedicated to wisdom. However, we must ask for it in **FAITH**. If we ask without the certainty of being in **FAITH** about it, the Lord says what will happen in **the 2 verses** following our **verse above**. So it is vitally important that we operate in **FAITH, FAITH** that Jesus knows us and loves us and has saved us, otherwise we waste the Lords time and our own. So we see again today, how important is **FAITH** in our lives, this is another aspect of our Christian walk with Jesus, another area where it cannot be done without that **FAITH** in Jesus. Thank You Lord Jesus for all that You are showing me about the importance of that **FAITH**. Amen.

18th April 1992

182. James 2 v 5: “Hearken, my beloved brethren, has not God chosen the poor of this world to be rich in **FAITH** and heirs of the Kingdom which He has promised to them that love Him?”

Jesus said, as we all know, “that it is easier for a Camel to pass through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.” He also said, in the same context “but with God, all things are possible.” This verse before us today does NOT say that the rich will not enter the Kingdom of Heaven, we know, of course, that they cannot take their riches in with them. We know too, many poor who have no **FAITH** in God. So what do we learn of **FAITH** in this verse and its context? This passage is about not being misled by appearances, that those who look least likely, are the ones who are “rich in **FAITH** and heirs of the Kingdom.” Consider the story Jesus told about the Tax Collector and the Pharisee praying. The world would expect the Pharisee to be going to Heaven, but Jesus pointed out the truth, it was the one who had **FAITH** in the mercy of God! We are to have respect for the authority which some on earth have, but we are not to exalt the person with the authority, he or she needs repentance and salvation just as much as everyone else! Only when each of us humbles ourselves (*the Lord will never force us to do this!*) and repents and believes the salvation offered to us by Jesus, by **FAITH** in Him, will we be heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven. Thank You Lord Jesus, that You are no respecter of persons, we are all the same in Your eyes. Hallelujah! Amen.

183. I Peter 5 v 9: “Who resist steadfast in the **FAITH**, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in you brethren that are in the world.”

So, in **FAITH** (*in Jesus*) we must resist. Resist what or whom? The **previous couple of verses** give us the answer, Ha’Satan, or in English, The Adversary. There is no way that we could even begin to resist Ha’Satan in our own strength, only by **FAITH** in Jesus can we do that, and when we do resist him in **FAITH** (*in Jesus*) can we do that he will flee from us (*James 4:7*). Ha’Satan’s attacks on us, as believers in Jesus, are no more than those he perpetuates upon unbelievers, **this verse** tells us. It is just that through the Spiritual gift of discernment that we notice them more where we are the recipients. The difference is that because we walk in **FAITH** and resist him in **FAITH**, we have the huge advantage over the unsaved in that by our resisting him in **FAITH**, he has to flee, because the Scripture, the word of God, says so! So, the message of this verse is quite clear: “Resist steadfast in the **FAITH**..... and he will flee from you.” Hallelujah! The battle against Ha’Satan is already won, Jesus says so in His word, but, remember, Ha’Satan is fighting one enormous rear-guard action and he will not give up until he is locked up for the Millennium and then cast into the lake of fire prepared for him! Oh praise You Lord Jesus, for You alone are worthy of all praise, honour and glory. Amen.

20th April 1992

184. Matthew 9 v 2: “And behold, they brought to him, a man sick of then Palsy, lying on a bed; and Jesus, seeing their **FAITH**, said to the sick of the Palsy, son, be of good cheer; your sins be forgiven you.”

This was the collective **FAITH** of those who carried this bed with the sick man upon it. Jesus saw that **FAITH** and responded to it. So we see today, that **FAITH**, whilst each individual must have it, in being exercised collectively, will cause God to respond in delight. We can see too that this **FAITH** was not being exercised for the benefit of those doing the exercising, but for another. If those carrying the bed had not done so (*in FAITH*) then the sick man would not have been healed. This is a case of “**FAITH** without works is dead” (*James 2:17, 20, 26*). If we do not exercise our **FAITH**, then we might as well not have any! What a terrible condemnation for those who think that just going to ‘Church’ on Sundays (*twice on Sundays and you are a real Christian I know, I’ve been there*). If I am a Christian, which means one who has **FAITH** in the saving grace of Jesus, then I won’t be able to stop myself exercising that **FAITH** in good works that Jesus has set me to do! Help me Lord Jesus, to see those areas that You are opening up for me to exercise my **FAITH** in You and in Your salvation. Amen.

185. Mark 2 v 5: “When Jesus saw their **FAITH**, He said to the sick of the Palsy, son, your sins are forgiven you.”

O what a wonder, for the **FAITH** of those who carried him, this man had his sins forgiven and he was healed. Oh that I and the friends of mine should have such an active **FAITH**! It says “Jesus saw their **FAITH**.” Now while Jesus is quite capable of perceiving things in the heart of men, as *verses 7 & 8* make clear, on this occasion Jesus “saw” their **FAITH**. He saw their **FAITH** in action, He saw that they carried the bed and the man, we know not how far, and they took the roof of the house to pieces, carried the man and his bed up on to the roof and let him down through the hole to Jesus. How many of us would have given up when we couldn’t get into the house for the crowds! That takes **FAITH**, real belief in what you are doing, to go and wreck someone else’s house without their permission (*I guess the owner would have been inside*). Oh Lord Jesus, that my **FAITH** would be such an active **FAITH**. Show me, Lord Jesus, the areas in which You would have me to activate my **FAITH** in You, that You may be glorified. Amen. *26th April 1992*

186. Luke 5 v 20: “And when He saw their **FAITH**, He said to him, Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

My **FAITH** in Jesus can influence others! What a responsibility that is. So, today we see that **FAITH** has responsibility for others as part of the package. ‘No man is an island,’ is a saying and in this verse, we see something of the implications of that saying. If I have **FAITH** in Jesus as my saviour, then I must recognise that the **FAITH** I have will be that which is outworked in my lifestyle. So, I have the responsibility to see that my lifestyle shows the glory of God and nothing else and no-one else! Conversely, if my lifestyle shows or gives glory to anyone but Jesus, then it shows where my **FAITH** lies. I cannot separate the two: lifestyle and **FAITH**, **FAITH** and lifestyle. I see now, that it is not only my **FAITH** in Jesus that can influence others, it is whatever **FAITH** shows in my lifestyle that influences others. My responsibility then is to ensure that my **FAITH** in Jesus is dominant! Lord Jesus, You have given me all the **FAITH** that there is to be had in You, help me to so exercise that **FAITH**, as did the men who brought this Palsied man to Jesus for healing, that my lifestyle shall give glory to You and none other. Amen.

187. Acts 3 v 16: “And His name, through **FAITH** in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know; yes the **FAITH** which is by Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.”

FAITH in the name of Jesus was enough to heal this man – the power that even the name of Jesus has! It was Peter’s **FAITH** in that name that healed this man. We must remember the context of the book of Acts; none of the New Testament books, not one, had been written at this time, so all that the disciples of those days had was the Old Testament (***Remember** that every reference to “Scriptures” in the New Testament means the Old Testament!!!!*) and the name of Jesus. Today, we have the advantage of more of the written word of God, we have both New and Old Testaments, yet we seem to have largely lost the **FAITH** (*which we sorely need!*) in the name of Jesus. The power has gone out of the Church of God! The songs we sing, how many of them even mention the name above all names – **Jesus**? I must get back to **FAITH** in the name of Jesus and to the power of the name of Jesus! Lord, please bring me to the place where You can release the power of Your name, Jesus, into my life Amen.

3rd May 1992

188. Romans 3 v 25: “Whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through **FAITH** in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”

Today we see another thing that the Church these days, seems to be largely ignoring: “**FAITH** in His blood.” The blood of Jesus is a powerful weapon for us Christians to use in Spiritual warfare, but, we don’t hear much about Spiritual warfare either, much less our armoury for use in it. The adversary (*Ha’Satan, nor any of his demons*) cannot withstand the blood of Jesus, and when we, in **FAITH** in that blood (*shed for the remission of our sins*) put the blood of Jesus against the adversary, he has to withdraw – retreat. The adversary is defeated by the blood of Jesus every time, he cannot face it, he has to turn away from the sign of his ultimate overthrow. This is why our **FAITH** in the blood of Jesus is so important and our use of the blood of Jesus as a weapon against Ha’Satan, following on from that **FAITH** is also very important. Do not be confused, this is the same blood we symbolically drink at Communion but that is to remind ourselves of our salvation through the blood, but Communion does nothing to show us how to “use” that blood as a weapon in Spiritual warfare. Lord Jesus, please show me and remind me continually how to use my **FAITH** in that blood of Jesus as a weapon, ever ready for use, in Spiritual warfare. Amen.

189. Romans 3 v 30: “Seeing it is one God, who shall justify the circumcision by **FAITH**, and uncircumcision through **FAITH**.”

There is only one God and it doesn’t matter from where you start, there is only one way into His presence. It doesn’t matter whether you are a Jew or a Gentile, the only way into the Kingdom of Heaven, is by **FAITH** in Jesus. There is no other way, but to believe that Jesus lived, died and was raised from the dead by the Father God and so we can have **FAITH** in that blood shed for me at Calvary for my salvation from eternal death in the lake of fire. The only way for anyone to be justified in the sight of God is “...by **FAITH**, ... through **FAITH**.” This is the measure of **FAITH** that is dealt out to each of us at salvation and we must walk in that **FAITH**. Help me Lord Jesus to do just that, walk in **FAITH** in You. Amen.

5th May 1992

190. Romans 3 v 31: “Do we then make void the Law through **FAITH**? God forbid; yes, we establish the Law.”

Our **FAITH** in Jesus for our salvation in no way diminishes the Law. Jesus says quite clearly here, that our **FAITH** (*in Him*) establishes the Law. In my study on the word RIGHTEOUSNESS, I discovered that, as a result of the righteousness ascribed to me at salvation, I shall find that I do not break the Law and I don't have to try, it will happen supernaturally as a result of my salvation through **FAITH** in Jesus. (*Schofield says in his notes to this verse: “The sinner establishes the Law in its right use and honour, by confessing his guilt and just condemnation. Christ, on the sinner's behalf, establishes the Law by obediently keeping its precepts, and by enduring its penalty – death.”*) What a wonderful God we have, to give us the Law to show us that there is no way in which we can keep it in our own strength; then having let us find this out for ourselves, gives us Jesus in whom we can place our trust (**FAITH**) to bring us to a place of keeping the Law without even trying to do so as such. Oh what a wonderful God we have! All praise, glory and honour to You Lord Jesus, for what You can do with our **FAITH** in You. Help me Lord Jesus, to keep my **FAITH** placed firmly in You. Amen.

191. Galatians 3 v 8: “And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles through **FAITH**, preached before the Gospel to Abraham, saying, in you shall all nations be blessed.”

God knew from before the creation, that He was going to justify (*save*) the Gentiles by their **FAITH** in Himself. Now before Abraham's time, i.e. before there was any Isra'el, much less Jews, there were those who believed God as did Abraham himself. Because Abraham believed God, it was credited to him as righteousness (*verse 6*) and Abraham was told that through his offspring (*Isra'el and in particular, the Jews, hence Jesus*) the whole world would be blessed – and how! What a result from **FAITH**: peace of mind; freedom from worry; salvation itself; entry into the Kingdom of Heaven and so many other things. How can we understand why God would set up all this at creation, knowing how much He would be rejected by those He created? We just have to believe God (*have FAITH in Him*) and conduct our lives in accordance with this belief and we have His promise that we shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven to be with Him after the judgement – wonderful beyond words. Thank You Lord Jesus, I don't understand but I do believe. Amen. *7th May 1992*

192. Galatians 3 v 14: “That the blessings of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through **FAITH**.”

All the promises of blessings to Abraham are for all believers, Jew or Gentile, now that Jesus, God’s only Son, has come to live and die and be resurrected. For the same reason, if we believers have **FAITH** in Jesus as our Lord and saviour, we also receive the promise of the Spirit through that **FAITH**. Oh what a difference to life since Jesus came. It is said that He (*or at least His followers*) turned the world upside down, well, certainly there was not much hope at all for Gentiles since the Isra’elis failed to tell the world about God and His righteousness and love and mercy and..... But now, by **FAITH** in Jesus, all the nations of the world can receive the blessings of Abraham as well as the promise of the Spirit. Hallelujah! Thank You Lord Jesus that You have mercy upon us who were without hope and You have grafted us in amongst You own people Isra’el (*Romans 11:17-25*) through **FAITH** in their Messiah. Thank You, thank You, thank You Lord Jesus. Amen.

193. Ephesian 2 v 8: “For by grace are you saved through **FAITH**; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.”

By the grace of God alone are we saved and then only if we have **FAITH** in Jesus. We must believe that Jesus (*God*) both can and will save us, in order to be saved. If we do not trust, believe in, have **FAITH** in God for these things, then we cannot be saved. Our **FAITH** in God is the key to our salvation from eternal separation from God, in the lake of fire instead of being in His Kingdom. The salvation itself is the free gift of God through His grace and mercy, there is absolutely nothing that we can do to get salvation. There is nothing that we can do for God that He isn’t quite capable of doing for Himself, except our trusting Him. He will never force anyone to do that! I must only have **FAITH** in Jesus to do what He says He will. Abraham trusted God and that was credited to him as righteousness (*Galatians 3:6*). Thank You Lord Jesus, Father God, for Your gift to me of salvation by Your grace and mercy, with my **FAITH** in You. I accept that gift. Hallelujah. Amen.

9th May 1992

194. Philippians 3 v 9: “And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the **FAITH** of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by **FAITH**;”

The cry of Paul, is that all things are worthless except to be found in Jesus! The whole point of life is to be found in Jesus. It matters not whether or not we are rich, all that matters is our attitude to Jesus (*our **FAITH** in Him or not*). If we have **FAITH** in Jesus, then this will change our attitude to everything else in the world, I may or may not be rich in the eyes of the world; in this country I may be counted poor, were I in some ‘third world’ country, I would be seen to be rich. What counts is my attitude to Jesus. Do I trust Him? If I trust Him as I should, completely, then any worldly wealth that I have, I should be ready to give it all away if the Lord should so desire (*please remember that nowhere does it say or imply in the Bible, that to be rich is wrong! Only if we love the riches.*) or to keep it and be a wise steward of it until the Lord wants to use the wealth I have. Only when we have complete trust (**FAITH**) in Jesus can we do this. Our riches cannot get us into Heaven, but our attitude towards them can keep us out! Only righteousness in the eyes of God can allow us to enter the Kingdom of Heaven to be with Him for eternity, and that only comes by **FAITH** in Jesus. Help me please Lord Jesus, to hold lightly all that You have allowed me to have in the worldly sense, and to hold tightly all that You have given me in the Spiritual sense. Amen.

195. Colossians 2 v 12: “Buried with Him in baptism, in which also you are risen with Him through the **FAITH** of the operation of God, who has raised Him from the dead.”

Do I believe (*have **FAITH***) that God raised Jesus from the dead? Of course I do, I wouldn't be writing this (*or typing it in February 2016*) if I didn't! Then it must follow that if I have **FAITH** for this, that I believe that Jesus was actually dead, and actually buried for 3 days and nights, before being raised from the dead. I must also believe that what **this Scripture** says, that my baptism in the name of Jesus was my death and burial (*not for 3 days and nights, of course!*). My **FAITH** in Jesus, therefore, means that I must be baptised in order for this to happen. Baptism then is an outworking of my **FAITH** in Jesus! So without my own **FAITH** in Jesus, my baptism would be meaningless. I owe no allegiance to the Baptist (*or any other*) denomination, by the way. I share only what the Lord Jesus has just shown me. Thank You dear Jesus, for Your grace and mercy to me, and for that revelation. Hallelujah! What a wonderful God we have! Amen. *16th May 1992*

196. II Timothy 3 v 15: “And that from a child you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through **FAITH** which is in Christ Jesus.”

So, what can make me wise? Knowing the Holy Scriptures (*the Old Testament only, remembering again, that the New Testament didn't exist, when this was written!*). Is that enough to get me salvation if I know them well enough? The answer is NO! It doesn't matter how well I know the Old Testament (*written as 'the Scriptures' throughout the New Testament!*) this will not save me. Apparently, Nikita Krushchev, one time President of the USSR (*now Russia*) could, as a child recite the whole of the Gospel of John, but that didn't get him into Heaven! This verse makes it quite clear that “the Scriptures.... are to make you wise to salvation through **FAITH** which is in Christ Jesus.” So the Scriptures make us wise by pointing the way to salvation (*not give us salvation*) which is already stated to be through **FAITH** in Jesus. We now see one of the purposes of the Old Testament, to point the way to salvation, but they also point out that those Scriptures are not themselves the way to salvation. They do, however, contain the knowledge of that way. The only way, this verse tells us, is through **FAITH** in Jesus. Jesus Himself said “no man comes to the Father but by Me” in **John14:6**. Lord Jesus, thank You for the Old Testament, the Holy Scriptures, which give me wisdom in this world and have shown me the way of salvation through **FAITH** in You, Jesus my saviour! Amen.

197. Hebrews 6 v 12: “That you be not slothful, but followers of them who, through **FAITH** and patience, inherit the promises.”

The ones who inherit the promises do so through **FAITH** and patience and are not slothful. **FAITH** and patience means that there is nothing instant about our **FAITH**, we must not expect, as does the world in its ways, instant results - plastic flowers in a flower bed. **FAITH** is not a panacea to all our ills and troubles, our **FAITH** in Jesus and salvation is **FAITH** for our future in eternity (*and peace of mind about it now*) to be in the Kingdom of Heaven with Jesus, not in the lake of fire with Ha'Satan. We can rest in Jesus, but that doesn't mean that we do nothing here and now, we must remember that “**FAITH** without works is dead,” **James 2:17, 20, 26**. So in our **FAITH** in Jesus, we must develop patience to await His timing for things to happen on earth, not to be part of the instant society which is the world. Help me Lord Jesus, to develop that patience that can wait for Your timing in all things.

23rd May 1992

198. Hebrews 11 v 3: “Through **FAITH** we understand that the worlds were formed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which appear.”

There are many things which I don't understand in this world and there are many things in the Scriptures which I don't understand, but through **FAITH** in Jesus and the word of God, the Scriptures, I can take on board many things and use them as facts upon which to have my understanding of other things. Creation for instance, there are many theories as to how the world came into being, but I must accept (*i.e. have **FAITH** in the word of God, as in **this verse**.*) that God created the whole visible universe out of nothing, “formed by the word of God.” No-one has ever been able to disprove anything in the Scriptures, from what I have heard and read. Those who have set out to prove any given point to be wrong, have usually had the result of proving to themselves that that point is indeed true. Now, I am nothing like intelligent enough to start trying to prove or disprove the word of God, I do have **FAITH** in Him, that what He says is true and that He never breaks His word (*Malachi 3:6*). Therefore my **FAITH** in Him is true and trustworthy. As Job said, “Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him” *Job 13:15*. Thank You Lord Jesus, that in all things I can totally trust You. Amen

199. Hebrews 11 v 11: “Through **FAITH** also, Sarah, 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.”

This is quite incredible in the implications to us today! Remember that Sarah was 90 years old when Isaac was born to her, not just past the age of childbearing, not well past either, but so far past that age where childbearing is possible, that, in human terms, it was totally impossible to conceive and bear a child – AND she had been barren all her life! Although Sarah at first laughed at the possibility, when she was 80 years old, as this verse affirms, she later came to **FAITH** that with God it would be possible. I must learn to have that same **FAITH** to believe that when God says that I will do something seemingly impossible, that He will bring it to pass. For Sarah, it was 10 years before what she was told, came to pass; for Paul, it was 14 years from Damascus to when he started to be a missionary. With God all things are possible, *Matthew 19:26*. Lord Jesus, You have given me all the **FAITH** I'm going to get, **FAITH** beyond measure, lead me to walk in that **FAITH** at all times. Amen.

30th May 1992

200. Hebrews 11 v 28: “Through **FAITH** he kept the Passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest He that destroyed the first born should touch them.”

The Passover (*Pesach in Hebrew*) that Moses kept, through **FAITH** in the Lord, was the very first Passover, when all the first born of Egypt were killed, of man and animals. Remember that Moses **FAITH** (*in his FAITH in the Lord, if you like*) had been built up by seeing the other miracles that the Lord had shown to the Egyptians through himself. Moses had also seen Ha’Satan’s attempts to emulate those miracles, with some success at the first (*we must never underestimate the power of the Adversary; conversely, we must not attribute too much to his power*), Moses had to learn which was the work of God, and how much (*how little?*) Ha’Satan could do to oppose God. In our **FAITH** in Jesus, I must learn to be able to discern the work of God and make sure that I give Him all the glory and honour that is due to His name – Jesus. Only as we act and speak (*and think even*) through our **FAITH** in Jesus as the Son of God, our saviour, can we be that living witness to Jesus, discerning His work from that of the adversary. Lord Jesus, help me to better know Your works and to give You the glory and honour that is always due to Your name. Amen.

201. Hebrews 11 v 33: “Who, through **FAITH**, subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions.”

“...**FAITH**.... obtained promises....” How did these men of **FAITH** obtain these promises and from whom? Through **FAITH** in the living Lord God of Isra’el, trusting Him, who we now know to be Jesus, they heard the promises from God Himself. So what were those promises that they believed God had given to them? They were certainly not for their personal safety, as we can see in **verses 36 to 38**. They didn’t even see the promises come to pass in most cases. The promises were the prophecies of future happenings, e.g. **Isaiah 53**. These men had **FAITH** in God, that these things were going to come to pass and were not thanked for their **FAITH** in God, since they didn’t really want to know about doing things God’s way. Even so, the **FAITH** of these men will be rewarded in Heaven, as will my own **FAITH** in Jesus as my Lord and my saviour. Thank You Lord Jesus, that I am saved from the reward for my sins by **FAITH** in You. All blessings and praise and glory and honour be Yours Lord Jesus. Amen.

6th June 1992

202. Hebrews 11 v 39: “And these all, having received witness through **FAITH**, received not the promise.”

They “received witness through **FAITH**” of many things from God, but they didn’t see the promise borne out. They all lived centuries before Jesus came to earth to save the world, yet they still, in their **FAITH** in God, believed God that He would do that which He said He would. Many of them did see God working out some of His promises to them personally, but, the longer term promises they could not see, for they died beforehand. I too have had words from God concerning salvation for my 3 sons, but I must await the timing which Jesus has ordained for these happenings, and believe them, even though I might die and not see them come to pass. The **FAITH** I have in Jesus, extends far beyond these things and I must learn to extend that **FAITH** way beyond that to which it presently covers. Lord Jesus, I believe, help my unbelief. Amen.

203. I Peter 1 v 5: “Who we kept by the power of God through **FAITH** to salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

Who are kept? **Verse 3** tells us that it is me “who is kept by the power of God through **FAITH** to salvation.” We have seen many times in this series of studies on **FAITH**, that it is our **FAITH** in Jesus that is our salvation. Today we see a little more of why this is so, why and to what purpose we are saved, “to be revealed in the last time.” **Verse 7** tells us that our **FAITH** is “much more precious than gold....and....to praise and honour and glory.” It goes on to tell us that this will be at the appearing of Jesus. Our **FAITH** in Jesus will be revealed to the world at the last time, even if the world refuses to recognise the validity of our **FAITH** in Jesus, at the last time, when Jesus comes again in glory, they will realise just how wrong they are about all this. It is said in **Isaiah 45:23**, **Romans 14:11** and **Philippians 2:10**, that **every** knee will bow to Jesus. I will be among those who bow willingly, will you? Or will you be one of those who bow the knee with a boot on my neck?

14th June 1992

204. Matthew 9 v 22: “But Jesus turned about, and when He saw her, He said, daughter, be of good comfort, your **FAITH** has made you well. And the woman was made well from that hour.”

Aha! So, we can have our own **FAITH** in God and in Jesus! This woman, who had been ritually unclean for 12 long years, had obviously been prompted by God (*or the Holy Spirit*) to believe that she could be healed simply by touching a part of the clothing that Jesus wore. Up until now, nearly everything we have seen in the Scriptures has been the **FAITH** of God operating within people, but Jesus clearly says here “your **FAITH** has made you well,” so this is the words of Jesus showing us that we do have our own **FAITH** as well. It is obvious therefore, that this **FAITH** of our own, which might be better described as belief (*that what God says He can do, He will do!*) is that upon which God builds His **FAITH** within us. It is patently obvious that if one doesn't believe God in the first place, then that one is at enmity with God and He will not build His **FAITH** into that person. So, our belief (**FAITH**) that God is God is an essential first step in our coming to **FAITH** in God, bit chicken and egg again really! I don't understand all that Lord Jesus, but I do believe that You are God and that these things are true. Hallelujah! Thank You Lord Jesus, that I don't have to understand things about You in order to believe them! Amen.

205. Mark 5 v 34: “And He said to her, daughter, your **FAITH** has made you well. Go in peace and be well of your plague.”

What **FAITH**? Your **FAITH**. **FAITH** in Jesus that if she only touched His clothing (*some say the Tzitzit*) that would be enough to heal her. She believed that Jesus was able to heal her, she had enough **FAITH** for that, but she didn't have enough **FAITH** to actually come up to His face and ask for healing. Yet in a way, the **FAITH** she exercised was even greater, she didn't need to ask, only touch the hem of His garment! The **FAITH** that this woman had was enough to overcome the fact that she was ritually unclean and was not therefore allowed to mix with the crowds! Her **FAITH** was enough to break the Mosaic Law on uncleanness, but not enough to overcome the terror when she realised that her Law breaking had been discovered! What a strange thing is **FAITH** then, as with this woman, we can have **FAITH** for part of the job, but not to finish it. Thank You Lord Jesus that Your **FAITH** is complete and that we have the **FAITH** of God (keep the **FAITH** of Jesus Revelation 14:12).
26th July 1992

206. Mark 10 v 52: “And Jesus said to him, go your way, your **FAITH** has made you well. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus on the way.”

He “followed Jesus on the way.” Regrettably, he doesn't say he followed Jesus “in the way,” but, hopefully he did that as well. After all, he no longer had to sit in one place to beg alms of Passers-by. All we know is that he followed Jesus when he was told to go his own way! So how did he come to receive his sight? It was, Jesus said, his own **FAITH** that had made him well. Now we know that we don't have enough **FAITH** within ourselves to achieve these miracles, so although he (*and we*) have **FAITH**, the time has come to examine exactly what that **FAITH** is that we have. It is our belief in Jesus, that He has the power to do miracles. Our **FAITH** then is in Jesus' capabilities. All we have to do is to believe that Jesus can do what He says, all we have to do is to ask Him and believe that it is His will for us and it will happen. This doesn't mean, as some say, ‘it is the Lord's will for me to have Rolls Royce' or a private jet etc. that we shall have that thing, no matter how much we believe Jesus can give us that. It is very true, He could, but that doesn't mean that it is His will for us. So, our **FAITH** in Jesus has to be a righteous **FAITH** in Jesus. Help me please Lord Jesus, to be so ‘in tune' with You, that I don't ask the wrong things of You. Amen.

207. Luke 8 v 48: “And He said to her, daughter, be of good comfort; your **FAITH** has made you well. Go in peace.”

Once again, it was the **FAITH** that this woman had, her belief that if she only touched His clothing, that she would be healed, after 12 years of paying Doctors, who could do nothing for her. She was beyond medical help is what this says. Yet she believed! This says that if I don't have that initial **FAITH** or belief to actually do something about whatever is my need, then nothing will happen. It is like the forgiveness for my sins (*past, present and future*) Jesus has died for them all and they are forgiven by Him, but if I don't believe that, then I cannot receive that forgiveness and I cannot have the peace that the forgiveness offers. If someone offers me a £20.00 note, it is not mine until I take it out of the hand that proffers it to me. Thank You Lord Jesus, that my part in my salvation is simply to accept it, realise that it is mine and to change my life, or more like, let Jesus change it accordingly. Hallelujah! Amen.

11th July 1992

208. Luke 17 v 19: “And He said to him, arise, go your way; your **FAITH** has made you well.”

Because you believed that I (*Jesus*) can make you well, you have been made well. The other 9 didn't lose their healing because they didn't come back to give the glory to Jesus, they all had **FAITH** to be healed by Jesus. This verse is often cited to condemn those who are not healed when others pray for them: ‘you don't have enough **FAITH**, that is why you are not healed,’ it is your own fault etc. etc. So heaping condemnation upon that sick person. Sheila (*my lovely wife, now free of the Arthritic pain and rejoicing with the Lord*) and I have both been subjected to this accusation. It doesn't help one's confidence in Jesus at all! The Lord's timing is, if and when anyone is going to be healed, only in His time and, it isn't for us to say that ‘now’ is the time for anything. If we did, Jesus wouldn't be Lord! **And He is!!** Conversely, lack of **FAITH**, disbelief, can stop the Lord doing what He wants in a person. Thank God that He has no plan B, that He got it right first time and every time, that He will accomplish all that He has set out to do, all that He has ordained to happen will happen. Lord, give me the ability to exercise the **FAITH** which You have placed within me, that You may be glorified. Amen.

209. Matthew 15:28: “Then Jesus answered and said to her, Oh woman, great is your **FAITH**; be it to you even as you would. And her daughter was made well from that very hour.”

This woman wasn't even Jewish, she was a Canaanite, one of these God had intended to be destroyed when Isra'el entered the land, so many centuries before, because of their idolatry. Yet she believed that Jesus could cast out this demon which possessed her daughter. She had never met Jesus, so she could only have heard of Him and the things He was doing in Isra'el, yet she believed that He could meet her (*and her daughter's*) needs. She had such **FAITH** in what she had heard about Jesus, that He said to her “Oh woman, great is your **FAITH!**” Obviously this woman's **FAITH** surprised Him, as did that of the Centurion. It wasn't just that this woman had this **FAITH**, or even how much of it, it was that she exercised it by asking Jesus for her daughter's deliverance. Lord Jesus, Oh that I might have such **FAITH**, and exercise it, that it surprises You. Amen

210. Luke 7 v 50: “And He said to the woman, your **FAITH** has saved you; go in peace.”

This woman showed such love for Jesus, she wasn't just 'smarming up' to Him, she did what she did out of a deep sense of respect and love for Him. She knew who He was and she expressed her feelings for Him in this action, uninvited, in a stranger's house, she went in and did this washing, drying and anointing of Jesus feet. She believed that He could 'get her into the kingdom of Heaven.' She felt so unworthy, full of sin, and knew that Jesus could give her entry to the Kingdom by whatever means. She had **FAITH** in Jesus that He could and would do this. As Jesus said to her, “your **FAITH** has saved you.” “Believe in the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved (*Acts 16:31*) was true for this women. Oh praise You Lord Jesus, that You have made it so easy to be saved (*from the result of our lifestyle, our sins*) just by having **FAITH** in You, to believe that in You it is possible to be saved. Amen.

8th August 1992

211. Luke 18 v 42: “And Jesus said to him, receive your sight; your **FAITH** has saved you.”

Now this is very interesting, Jesus didn't say ‘....your **FAITH** has given you back your sight.’ He said “....your **FAITH** has saved you.” This man who, from the other Gospels, would seem to be named, Bartimaeus, not only received his sight, for which he had asked, but also received salvation. So why, when he asked for his sight by **FAITH**, did he receive salvation because of his **FAITH**? It could only be because his **FAITH** was in Jesus, that Jesus could do such things. He had heard about Jesus and all the wonderful miracles that He was carrying out and he believed them. Bartimaeus must also have believed that Jesus is Messiah too, otherwise Jesus (*who must have perceived this belief in his heart*) would not have said that his “**FAITH** has saved you.” Oh living, loving Lord Jesus, thank You, that I believe that You are the Messiah, the anointed one, saviour of Your people Isra'el, the living Lord God of Isra'el; and that because I believe, I am grafted in amongst Your own people, Isra'el (*Romans 11:17- 24*). My **FAITH**, belief that You are the Son of God, has enabled You to save me from eternal damnation, the Lake of fire! All praises and glory and honour to You Lord Jesus, my saviour! Amen.

212. Luke 22 v 32: “But I have prayed for you, that your **FAITH** fail not. And when you are converted, strengthen your brothers.”

Jesus Himself has prayed for Peter for the **FAITH** within him not to fail. Jesus prays this for each one of us believers too! Very interesting that Jesus said that Peter was not yet converted, even at this stage only hours before His crucifixion. Yet what do we see here of **FAITH**? We see that it can fail! I had never realised that, which is why Jesus encouraged Peter by telling him that He had prayed for him, and He is encouraging us too. Interesting too, that Jesus didn't say 'but Ha'Satan shall not have you, to sift you...' Obviously we shall need our **FAITH** to resist the adversary, as did Jesus in the wilderness temptation, what a comfort that Jesus Himself is praying for us, for our **FAITH** to “fail not” in that time. Thank You Lord Jesus for so many things, and now especially for this prayer of Yours for me. Hallelujah!!! Amen.

22nd August 1992

213. Philemon v6: “That the fellowship of your **FAITH** may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in Christ Jesus.”

The word ‘fellowship’ was ‘communication’ in the original AV of the Bible, and is the only changed word in **this verse**. Fellowship conveys more of the sharing of **FAITH** towards his fellow believers by Philemon. From the context of this verse, we see that the **FAITH** of Philemon, being so shared, was a means of Spiritual refreshing to those with whom it was shared. So we see today, that a **FAITH** shared (*which means an active **FAITH**, by definition*) is one which refreshes or builds up others. Oh dear loving Lord Jesus, help me and guide me (*and may I be open to You in this*) that I may have an active **FAITH** that will be a means of refreshing others, that You alone may be glorified! We may also note that this refreshing of the brothers was accomplished by those brothers in their seeing Jesus in Philemon and in acknowledging every good thing within him. Hallelujah! Let it be so with me, dear Lord Jesus. Amen.

214. James 2 v 18: “Yes, a man may say, you have **FAITH**, and I have works; show me your **FAITH** without your works, and I will show you my **FAITH** by my works!

The Lord is saying that it is not possible to demonstrate **FAITH!** **FAITH** is only shown by the works that result from **FAITH**, like the wind, we cannot see it, we don’t know from whence it comes or goes, yet we feel the effect of it. Just so with **FAITH**, if we can’t feel the effect of it, then it isn’t there! We must beware that we don’t rush around doing works in our own strength too. Remember **Hebrews 6:1** which reminds us to repent of dead works, which are in the eyes of the world, good works – but not those of which the Lord Jesus would have us do. So beware humanism, a trap into which so many Christians have fallen, whereby maybe not consciously seeking, but certainly receiving the approval of men for what they are and do. So many leaders in the Church have fallen into this trap. Read **Matthew 23 verses 5-12**, for the words of Jesus on the subject. Lord Jesus, keep me from this trap of seeking or even receiving the approval of men instead of Your approval. Amen.

29th August 1992

215. Matthew 9 v 29: “Then touched He their eyes, saying, according to your **FAITH** be it unto you.”

In **Job 3:25**, it says, “for the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that of which I was afraid of is come unto me.” Today, we have the converse of that, ‘that for which you have **FAITH** is come upon you. These blind men believed that Jesus both could and would heal their blindness, if only they could get to Jesus. So they followed Him into the house and ‘got to Him’ there. Their **FAITH** was rewarded. It is the desire of Jesus that we should all be healed, but, we must never forget that His timing is sovereign, we cannot tell when that time shall be, for these blind men, it was whilst they were there in that house with Jesus. We must never pray for someone to be healed, then turn around and say (*or even suggest!*) that the person was not healed for their lack of **FAITH!!!** Who am I to judge the quality of the **FAITH** of another? Lord Jesus, You are sovereign over all things including time, since You spoke all creation into being. Help Me that I may never presume to judge another, especially whether they may be short on **FAITH** for You to heal. All glory and honour and praises to You Lord Jesus, creator of all. Amen.

216. Luke 8 v 25: “And He said to them, where is your **FAITH**? And they, being afraid, marvelled, saying to one another, what manner of man is this! For He commands even the wind and the water, and they obey Him.”

I wonder if Jesus really didn't know where was their **FAITH**, I think He did though, but was trying to help the disciples (*and us all*) to realise that Jesus is totally trustworthy. Jesus had said in **verse 22**, “let us go over...” And they (*you and me*) were to learn that if Jesus says something, even so commonplace as in this instance, then they (*and you and me*) are to have **FAITH** in Jesus that, very simply, it will come to pass and nothing can stop it! I must learn to have that total **FAITH**, belief, trust in Jesus and in all that He says. What Jesus says is what will happen, we can be totally certain (*have FAITH*) of this. The only part we do not know is when. In **Acts 1 verses 6 and 7**, He didn't say to His disciples, ‘no. the kingdom of Isra'el will never be restored,’ He said to them ‘it is not for you to know the times....’ Lord Jesus, thank You for all the things that You have revealed to me, help me please to have such **FAITH** in You that I can trust Your timing too. Amen.

31st August 1992

217. Romans 1 v 8: “First I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your **FAITH** is spoken of throughout the whole world.”

Now why and by what means would the **FAITH** of someone (*or some people in this case*) be talked about throughout the whole world? No-one can see into or know the contents of anyone else's thoughts, which is what **FAITH** is, a belief. What this verse means is, very simply, as we saw in **Study Number 214**, that the whole world was talking about what these people in Rome were doing in their **FAITH** in Jesus. We are not privy to the knowledge of what these things were, but we can imagine: miraculous healing; deliverance from demons; words of knowledge; the exercising of all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, maybe even the raising of the dead. Oh that I and those fellow Christians around me, Lord Jesus, might, in Your will, show such **FAITH** in You that the whole world might talk about our **FAITH**. No wonder that Paul thanked God for these people in Rome. Lord Jesus, help me to so exercise my **FAITH**, that it encourages those around me to do the same, that You might be glorified in and through me, and those Christians around me. Amen.

218. I Corinthians 2 v 5: “That your **FAITH** should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”

Our **FAITH** is in Jesus (*God*) and through our **FAITH** in Him, we have His power within us and all that involves. We have Jesus within us if we have **FAITH** in Him, hence we have the wisdom of God available to each of us as Christians. Our **FAITH** is not in any way dependent upon nor related to the wisdom of men. We must not confuse that wisdom of men with the wisdom (*and the power that wisdom brings*) of God. We must not rely upon the wisdom of men, unless we discern that their wisdom is of God. Our **FAITH** in Jesus is all that we need, but we must learn to stand in His power and His wisdom and, in fact, in His everything. Every time we rely upon our own capabilities, we fail! Lord Jesus, I confess to You that it is so easy to say to myself in situation after situation, Oh I can do that, I’ve done it so often before, instead of turning to You every time. Forgive me Lord and cleanse me of this habit of self-sufficiency, that I may do all in Your strength and wisdom and not rely upon my own capabilities. Amen. *6th September 1992*

219. I Corinthians 15 v 14: “And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your **FAITH** is also vain.”

What a terrible, unacceptable, thought, if all that I believe in Jesus were just a fable, a myth! If none of it were true in the Bible, that God had not raised Jesus from the dead, what a terrible prospect for our lives! They would have no meaning, no purpose! It is just this in which we believe that gives the purpose and meaning to our lives. We would simply wander around waiting to die. Only our **FAITH** in Jesus, that He is the Son of God, and that He raised Him from the dead. That He is all that has happened and that He will do what He says, gives meaning and purpose to our lives. So **FAITH** is the meaning of my life, my life in Jesus. Oh thank You Lord Jesus for coming to man, to live, die, be buried and raised from the grave, that You give meaning and purpose to my life. Thank You again Lord Jesus, my saviour. Amen.

220. I Corinthians 15 v 17: “And if Christ be not raised, your **FAITH** is vain, you are yet in your sins.”

Vain: unsubstantial; empty; trivial; useless; unavailing; followed by no good result; to no purpose. What sort of **FAITH** is **FAITH** in vain then? It is no **FAITH** at all! No wonder then, if our **FAITH** is vain, that **verse 19** ends by saying “we of all men are most miserable.” This verse before us today shows that if our **FAITH** is not in the risen Jesus, then we are lost. If we don’t believe (*have FAITH*) that Jesus lived, died was buried and raised again to life, then we ourselves are vain. No other **FAITH** can take the place of this belief (*FAITH*). If we are not to be vain ourselves, then we must hold fast to our belief that Jesus is the Messiah and that He has been raised from the dead (*to sit with the Father in Heaven, awaiting us to be His Bride*) for our salvation. No other **FAITH**, or **FAITH** in nothing else, can give us the salvation that we need. So, this **FAITH** is an irreplaceable **FAITH**, nothing else can take its place. Thank You Lord Jesus for the **FAITH** that You have set within my heart. Amen. *13th September 1992*

221. II Corinthians 1 v 24: “Not that we have dominion over your **FAITH**, but are helpers of your joy; for by **FAITH** you stand.”

No-one has dominion over my **FAITH**, or yours. We are set free by the Lord Jesus to have **FAITH** in Him, or not as we choose. What a loving trusting God to give us such freedom of choice, to go His way or our own, to have **FAITH** in Him or not. There is no compulsion upon us to have **FAITH** in Jesus, except that we have been given the knowledge that enables us to choose that **FAITH** in Jesus, ‘cos we know the result of the alternative! Others, who know the Lord Jesus and have **FAITH** in Him to salvation, are helpers in my joy. When things go well for me, when the Lord Jesus blesses me, then others share my joy. Hallelujah Lord Jesus, that You don’t force me to do anything at all, You simply draw me into Your ways with cords of love and joy, willingly I respond and seek to go Your way because I have **FAITH** and trust in You, that Your promises are **FAITHful** and true, “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purposes” **Romans 8:28**. Thank You Lord Jesus for these cords of love that bind me to You. Amen.

222. II Corinthians 10 v 15: “Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men’s labours, but having hope, when your **FAITH** is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,”

When your **FAITH** is increased? Up until now, I have seen that we are given the full measure of **FAITH** upon conversion (*salvation*) so what does this verse mean? Our acceptance of the **FAITH** placed within us increases each time we exercise our **FAITH**, but that acceptance level ‘leaks away’ as we fail to exercise that **FAITH**. So, in effect, our **FAITH** builds up (*or increases*) the more we exercise it. (*It was said by D. L. Moody, when asked why he repeatedly prayed to be filled with the Holy Spirit, said, because I leak!*) I am a rather negative person and I observe that when I exercise my **FAITH**, I am ready to go on to the next exercise, but next morning..... So I must continually exercise the **FAITH** in Jesus that He has placed within me, in order to be able more easily to exercise it again. A bit like chicken and egg again really, so we must continually exercise our **FAITH** in Jesus. In this way, we build up (*enlarge*) those around us to exercise their **FAITH** the more as they observe our own **FAITH** in action. Hallelujah! *20th September 1992*

223. Ephesians 1 v 15: “Wherefore, I also, after I heard of your **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus, and love to all the saints,”

Paul was so moved by the **FAITH** of these Ephesians believing, that he didn’t stop thanking God for them and praying for them. Such a manifestation of **FAITH** that even Paul was encouraged in his own **FAITH** to thank God for them and the **FAITH** that they manifested. So my **FAITH** is able to encourage others when I exercise it! O Lord Jesus, that it might be such a manifestation of **FAITH** in You, that it may be a source of encouragement to fellow Christians to exercise their own **FAITH** in Jesus more often and to a greater extent that You, Lord Jesus, might be glorified over and over again. Amen.

224. Philippians 2 v 17: “Yes, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your **FAITH**, I joy and rejoice with you all.”

“Sacrifice and service of your **FAITH**?” O Lord Jesus, what does this mean? To be offered upon....? The NIV translates **this verse**: “but even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your **FAITH**, I am glad and rejoice with you.” So Paul is referring to the sacrifice (*loss of jobs for standing up as Christians?*) and service (*helping one another in these sacrifices and raising money for the widows and orphans in Jerusalem?*) of the Philippian believers in **this verse** and how they are doing these things willingly because of their **FAITH** in Jesus, and how this gives joy to Paul. Paul, in his **FAITH** in Jesus, was quite happy to be killed (*as he was anyway*) and saw himself as a further sacrifice to God on top of those Philippian believers. Paul’s **FAITH** was built up upon the **FAITH** of others. So, **FAITH** is built up upon and by the **FAITH** in the operation of others.

26th September 1992

225. Colossians 1 v 4: “Since we heard of your **FAITH** in Christ Jesus, and of the love which you have to all the saints;”

Again we see Paul being encouraged by the **FAITH** of others, this time those in Colossae whom he had never met apparently. What else is here about **FAITH** though? We see a coupling of **FAITH** with love of one’s fellow believers. This **FAITH** of the believers in Jesus in the city of Colossae was not a passive **FAITH** then, it was an outworked **FAITH**, showing itself in a love among believers, one toward another. So a fruit of **FAITH** in Jesus, is a love for fellow believers. We know that love is a fruit of the Spirit (*Galatians 5:22*) and now we see that this love is worked out by the Holy Spirit through our **FAITH** in Jesus. We can see today, that where there is love manifested between the believers, then this is an outworking of our common **FAITH** in Jesus. Thank You Lord Jesus for the signs that You give to us to recognise each other when we meet strangers. Amen.

226. Colossians 2 v 5: “For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in the spirit, and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your **FAITH** in Christ.”

Once again Paul is encouraged and joyed at the “**FAITH** in Christ” of others. **FAITH** in operation is a joy to behold for those who are of the same **FAITH**. It is, in **this verse**, the way in which the Colossian believers were holding steadfast to their belief in the salvation of Jesus, in the face of those who sought to talk them out of that **FAITH** with beguiling and enticing words and ideas. We give great joy to the Lord Jesus by the operation of our **FAITH**, much more than that given to Paul even. Jesus is here within each and every one who believes in Him, witnessing and encouraging our **FAITH** in Him and having great joy as we each exercise that **FAITH**. Hallelujah!

28th September 1992

227. I Thessalonians 1 v 8: “For from you sounded out the Word of the Lord, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your **FAITH** toward God is spread abroad, so that we need not to speak anything.”

Such a **FAITH** was shown by those Thessalonian believers under intense persecution, that Paul had no need to preach in the surrounding areas, because the word was already preached by their displayed **FAITH**. The most persecution that I have ever encountered is a bit of ‘mickey taking,’ yet my **FAITH** has always wilted before even that, so I don’t know what would happen if real persecution came my way. Lord, please don’t bring me to the test, for I don’t know how I could be a praise and a glory to You. The **FAITH** of these people spoke volumes about whom that **FAITH** was placed. Hallelujah that You never fail, Lord Jesus, Your word never returns to You void (*Isaiah 55:11*). Amen.

228. I Thessalonians 3 v 2: “And sent Timothy our brother and minister of God, and our fellow worker in the Gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your **FAITH**.”

We are, as Timothy did with the Thessalonian believers, to comfort and establish one another in our **FAITH** in Jesus. These Thessalonian believers, don’t forget, were under great persecution and also temptations to leave the **FAITH** again, and to go back to their old ways of worshipping idols. Timothy was sent by Paul, to establish or re-inforce the **FAITH** of the believers and to comfort them in their persecution and temptations. This is our duty to one another today. So what form did the comforting take? It was to re-assure them that they were not suffering persecution alone, that the Lord Jesus Himself was within them, and that others, in particular Paul, was praying for them (*Verse 10*) upholding them to the Lord Jesus. So should we be with our fellow believers today! Amen.

229. I Thessalonians 3 v 5: “For this cause, when I could no longer forbear, I sent to know your **FAITH**, lest by some means the tempter have tempted you, and our labour be in vain.”

Paul was impatient to know how the **FAITH** of these Thessalonians was coping under the persecution and temptations all around them. He knew in his heart that their conversions were true, but he had doubts in his heart about their subsequent steadfastness in their circumstances. This doesn’t prove Paul to be anything other than human in this! He just had to find out, so he had sent Timothy to see how their **FAITH** was faring. Paul was concerned about the Spiritual welfare of these people over whom he had laboured to bring them into the Kingdom, and had subsequently been forced to leave, I too have concern for my fellow believer’s **FAITH**, that it is properly founded and properly exercised. Help me Lord Jesus, to be so concerned that I exercise my **FAITH** over those around me and that I have known in the past. Amen.

230. I Thessalonians 3 v 6: “But now, when Timothy came from you to us, and brought good tidings of your **FAITH** and love, and that you have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you;”

It was so uplifting to hear of the **FAITH** (*which also shows itself in love, acts of love*) of new Christians in action, not a passive **FAITH** waiting for ‘the man at the front’ to tell them what to do and when to do it, but hearing directly from Jesus our saviour and doing His Will in our lives (*always checking our hearing against the Scriptures and with mature alive Christians*) and giving glory to God in the highest. Such a **FAITH** in action will upset many Church goers of course, including those who ‘have always done it this way’ and others who don’t recognise that our God is a God of change (*not that He changes Malachi 3:6*) but who wants us to be changed. Our **FAITH** must acknowledge that we are *being* perfected, which is an ongoing process of change in our lives. In our **FAITH** in Jesus, there are no ruts! Hallelujah!

2nd October 1992

231. I Thessalonians 3 v 7: “Therefore, brothers, we are comforted over you in all your affliction and distress by your **FAITH**;”

Again I see that **FAITH** comforts. However, I also realise that my **FAITH** doesn’t comfort me. My **FAITH** (*in action, of course*) comforts others, and the **FAITH** of others (*again in action*) is my comfort. This is not to say that I do not receive comfort *in* my **FAITH** from Jesus of course, obviously I do, but it is not my **FAITH** (*again, in action*) that comforts me, it is the **FAITH** in action of others that uplifts, encourages and comforts me, and vice-versa. It is, therefore, incumbent on me to stir up my own **FAITH** to action in order to comfort, encourage and uplift others in their afflictions and distresses, otherwise I am of no comfort to them. Help me Lord Jesus, to stir up my **FAITH** into action for Your glory and the comfort of other believers. Amen.

232. I Thessalonians 3 v 10: “Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your **FAITH**?”

Whilst Paul was thrilled to bits, as we would say today, that these Thessalonian Christian believers were holding fast to their **FAITH**; he was concerned that their **FAITH** was not perfect, presumably because he had to leave them in such a hurry for the persecution he suffered there, before he had a chance to complete their ‘training’ in the **FAITH** in Jesus and all that meant. He was so filled with joy in the Spirit for their steadfastness in the **FAITH** which he had left with them. The Holy Spirit was able to sustain, in these people, what **FAITH** they had been given. Nothing is wasted in the Lord Jesus,” my word shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (*Isaiah 55:11*). So, today we see that no matter how little **FAITH** that we have been given, the Lord Jesus can use it and build upon it. Praise You Lord Jesus that You can and desire to nurture the tiniest seed of **FAITH** into a great big **FAITH** in You! Hallelujah!

5th October 1992

233. II Thessalonians 1 v 3: “We are bound to thank God always for you, brothers, as it is fitting, because your **FAITH** grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all toward each other abounds.”

The growth of **FAITH** in a person or group does not mean that the person or group receives more **FAITH**; for, as we have seen before, we have been given the full measure of **FAITH** (*Romans 12:3*) upon salvation; we see today that the manifestation of this **FAITH** is that which becomes more and more apparent as it is exercised the more, and so there is a growing manifestation of the **FAITH** of the person or group. We see too, a coupling of **FAITH** and love, that love abounds where **FAITH** is exercised. “**FAITH** without works is dead,” says *James 2:17* and also that “the fruit of the Spirit is love” in *Galatians 5:22*, so that, if we see love in the Spirit, then we know that this is a fruit of the Spirit and is a manifestation of **FAITH** in the Lord Jesus to save. In saying this, we must remember that we have too, the gift of discernment, which must be exercised to discern whether or not the love we see in operation is love in the Spirit and not a fleshly version of the same. Help me Lord Jesus, to so exercise my **FAITH** in You, that my love in the Spirit to fellow believers is manifest to You glory. Amen.

234. James 1 v 3: “Knowing this, that the testing of your **FAITH** works patience,”

“The testing of your **FAITH**” is temptation in this present context, but moving testing into the wider context of the last few Studies, we realise that “testing of your **FAITH**” can be anything that would tempt us to go back to our pre-Christian ways, be it sexual temptation, financial temptation or persecution etc. We must remember the end of *this verse* though, the end result is patience, learning to accept that the Lord’s timing is perfect, even, or especially, when it doesn’t agree with ours! *Verse 12* tells us that when we endure testing without giving up (our **FAITH** in Jesus) we shall receive the crown of life. So what we see today is that **FAITH** held fast has a reward or two: immediately it works or gives patience, and in the long term, it causes us to be given the crown of life by Jesus. Hallelujah! ‘Crown Him with many crowns,’ as the hymn says and *Revelation 19:12* confirms that He has. Amen.

7th October 1992

235. I Peter 1 v 7: “That the trial of your **FAITH**, being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried by fire, might be found to praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”

Our **FAITH** (*in Jesus to save*) is much more precious than “gold that perishes.” Our **FAITH** will be tested (*the trial of your FAITH*) with fire, in other words, tested to the point of destruction. This testing itself cannot destroy the **FAITH**, but we could give up the **FAITH** and so be destroyed ourselves. So, it is only by holding fast to our **FAITH** in Jesus, that we ourselves can be saved from the destruction by the testing or trial of our **FAITH**. If we do hold fast to our **FAITH** in Jesus, then, when we come through that trial (*testing*) we shall “be found to praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus” again. Help me please Lord Jesus, that when this time (*or times*) of test and trial come to me, that I will indeed hold fast to the **FAITH** which You have placed within me, and that truly You will receive the praise and honour and glory that is to be found in me at the time of Your appearing. Oh Hallelujah Lord Jesus. Amen.

236. I Peter 1 v 9: “Receiving the end of your **FAITH**, even the salvation of your souls.”

The end of my **FAITH** is the salvation of my soul, this tells me. If I don't hold on to my **FAITH** in Jesus to the end (*of my life*) then I cannot receive this “end.” What a terrible thought! I must, in order not to lose this “end,” hold fast to my **FAITH**. I will not try to see what happens to one who goes away from Jesus, I only know that my security is in Jesus. Without Jesus, I am lost, I need Him every moment of my life to strengthen, comfort, uphold and encourage me, to rebuke me and keep me in His way. When I move away from Him, to do things my way, I soon feel lost and have to turn again to Him in whom my **FAITH** rests, in order to feel secure again! Praise You Lord Jesus, my saviour, for You are always waiting for me to turn again to You and Your ways, Hallelujah!!! Amen. *9th October 1992.*

237. I Peter 1 v 21: “Who by Him do believe in God, who raised Him up from the dead and gave Him glory, that your **FAITH** and hope might be in God.”

So Jesus was raised from the dead in order that I might have **FAITH** and hope in God. It does not say that Jesus was crucified for this purpose, we know that He was crucified as the final sacrifice for our sins, that they may be forgiven. So, we have **FAITH** in God because He raised up Jesus from the dead. What a wonderful God, each and every little or great part of His actions has a purpose and today I see that the resurrection was not just a part of crucifixion etc. it was an essential part, the purpose of which was (*well, is*) to enable us to have **FAITH** in God Himself. Lord God of Isra'el, I am staggered by each new revelation You give me. Thank You Father God, that You count me worthy to see such things. Blessed by Your Holy Name, “I am.” Praise You Lord Jesus, all glory and honour and praises belong to You. Amen.

238. II Peter 1 v 5: “And besides this, giving all diligence, add to your **FAITH** virtue; and to virtue, knowledge.”

Here we are shown what we must do when we have **FAITH** in Jesus as Lord and saviour. It is our own individual responsibility to add to that **FAITH**, virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness and finally love. We are to abound in all these things in our **FAITH**, since these will result in our being fruitful “in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ” **verse 8**. Also, doing these things in our **FAITH** in Jesus will make sure of our salvation, **verse 10**. In this Study on the word **FAITH** in the Scriptures, we are reminded that we do not have a passive **FAITH** in Jesus, we are to have an active **FAITH** and in **this verse** and in the **following two verses**, we are told very precisely, what we are to do. These things are not something that we can tick off on a checklist, but having added virtue to our **FAITH**, we are to continue operating and exercising virtue and **FAITH** whilst we learn to add knowledge (*of Jesus we later learn in verse 8*) and when we are operating in knowledge of Jesus, in virtue and in **FAITH** in Jesus, we are to add self-control and so on, until we are operating in **FAITH**, virtue, knowledge, self-control, patience, Godliness, brotherly kindness and love, all at the same time. Then we shall offer the glory of Jesus in our lives, for all the world to see, not many have reached this stage, but it is to be our aim in life for the glory of Jesus. I could dwell on the interesting order of these items, but..... Praise You Lord Jesus. All

glory and honour and praises to Your name, for they are all due to You. Amen.
Amen. Amen.

1st November 1992

*Lord Jesus, I thank You for the privilege You have granted to me, to hear so much from You in these Studies. I ask You to forgive me for where what is written down here it is my own thoughts and not Yours, and help me as and when I read over what is written on future occasions, to realise, to discern that which is of You alone, and to treasure it, to realise, to discern that which is only of myself, to see it for what it is and ignore it. Lord Jesus, praise You, bless You and thank You again and again for all that you have shown me about **FAITH** in You and the salvation You offer to all. Amen.*