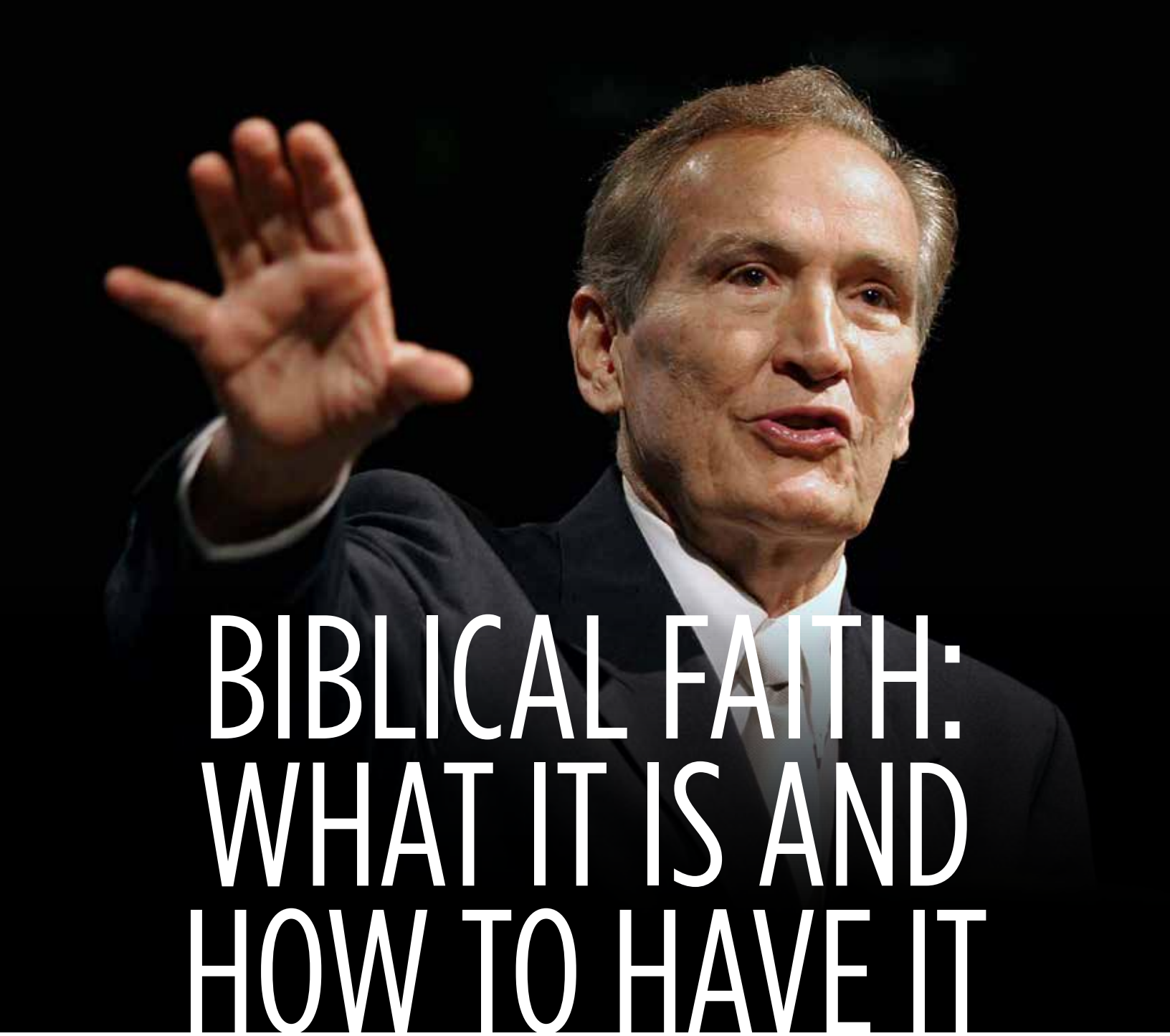

BIBLICAL FAITH: WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO HAVE IT

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS

Biblical Faith: What It Is and How to Have It

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Biblical Faith: What It Is and How to Have It

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 10:11-17
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1749

Scripture Passage: Romans 10:11-17

It is not by fame, feelings, fortune, friends, or fate, but by our faith that we measure our accomplishments.

Our belief is our greatest spiritual asset and richest currency. On the contrary, unbelief is our greatest stumbling block. This is why there is an immediate urgency to grow in a solid and exciting faith in God.

Romans 10 reveals the intricacies of biblical faith, what it is, and how to have it.

"For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame'" (Romans 10:11).

First, faith must be placed in the right object to be real.

When we rely on the wrong things, it can be dangerous to our spiritual health.

Adrian Rogers says, “Weak faith in the right object is better than misplaced faith in the wrong object.” We do not rely on positive thinking, or even in faith itself. True biblical faith is placed in Jesus Christ, alone.

Once we understand the reality of biblical faith, we can see the root of it, which is the Word of God.

"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" (Romans 10:14). In order to spiritually grow, we must hear from God; we cannot know the will of God by guessing at it. It cannot be generated; it is given, as Ephesians 2:8-9 says, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

When God speaks to us through His Word and Jesus Christ, we will see the result of our faith, which is the will of God.

Adrian Rogers says, “The will of God is not something that you must do; it is something you get to do.” The purpose of faith is to get God’s will done on Earth. He is sovereign; He remains in control at all times. What He says He will do, He will accomplish. We have the beautiful opportunity to take part in His will, through faith.

Life Application
How are you going to release your faith today? True faith does more than merely believe; it translates into action. When you pray and ask God what to do, and how to accomplish His will for your life today, trust and obey Him.

Biblical Faith: What It Is and How to Have It

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 10:11-17
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1) INTRODUCTION
   a) The measurement that will measure what we accomplish in our Christian life is faith.
      i) Matthew 9:29
         (1) Not according to our fame, our feelings, our fortune, our friends or our fate, but according to our faith.
   b) Faith is the medium of exchange in the Kingdom of Heaven.
      i) When we go to the grocery store, we use money to buy groceries.
      ii) But we receive from God by faith.
   c) Faith is the greatest asset that we have; unbelief is the greatest stumbling block.
      i) Unbelief is the chief wickedness.
      ii) The sin of all sins is unbelief.
         (1) Unbelief caused Eve to sin against God in the Garden of Eden.
            (a) She failed to believe the Word of God.
         (2) Unbelief caused the Israelites not to go into the Promised Land.
            (a) Hebrews 3:19
         (3) Unbelief tied the hands of Jesus when He was in His own hometown.
            (a) Matthew 13:58
               (i) The sovereign God has limited Himself to work according to the faith, the belief of the people of God.
   d) Unbelief is the sin that sends people to Hell.
      i) John 3:18
         (1) It is unbelief that shuts the door to Heaven.
   e) Mark 9:23
      i) In the spiritual realm, if we do not believe, nothing is possible.
   f) Romans 1:17
      i) Just as we live physically by breathing and eating, we live spiritually by faith.
   g) Romans 10:11-17
      i) “Shall not be ashamed” literally means that he will not be put to shame.
   h) The blessings of God will come to us if we will learn to believe Him.
   i) It is absolutely necessary that we learn how to believe God.

2) THE REALITY OF BIBLICAL FAITH (ROMANS 10:11)
   a) Faith must have the right object to be real faith.
      i) Romans 10:11
      ii) There is no power in faith alone.
         (1) There is nothing mystical or magical about just believing.
      iii) Faith is no better than its object.

iv) Misplaced faith is a dangerous thing.
(1) It is not faith that moves mountains; it is God that moves mountains.
(a) Mark 11:22
(b) John 3:15-16

b) Faith is not positive thinking.
i) If we make faith just simply positive thinking, we will get discouraged.

c) If we put faith in faith, we will be a sitting duck for the devil.
i) The devil will say that we are not good enough to be saved.
(1) We ought to say that we don't have faith in ourselves.
ii) The devil will say that there are hypocrites in the church.
(1) We ought to say that we're not putting faith in hypocrites, but we're trusting the Lord.
iii) The devil will question our feelings.
(1) We ought to say that we're not trusting in feelings but trusting in the Lord.
iv) The devil will question whether our faith is good enough, strong enough and the real thing.
(1) We should not put faith in our faith; our faith should be in Jesus.

d) The least amount of faith in the right object is better than strong faith in the wrong object.
i) We are to believe in Him.
ii) Hebrews 12:2
(1) We are to be looking unto Jesus.
(2) Do not look at your look, and do not put faith in your faith; put faith in God.

e) God will honor even weak faith.
i) Mark 9:20-27
(1) The father in this passage had a weak faith, but it was a faith in God.
ii) This is not to say that we should have weak faith; it is far better to have strong faith.
iii) Matthew 17:20
(1) The least amount of faith is greater than the greatest amount of difficulty if it is faith in God.

f) The way to have strong faith is to put your faith in God; find out who God is.
i) When we put our faith in God, our faith will grow.
ii) Faith comes from a knowledge of God.
(1) Romans 10:11
iii) If you want to have strong faith, do not try to make yourself believe; get to know God.
iv) Psalm 9:10
v) Daniel 11:32

g) Faith is no better than its object; we must know God.

3) THE ROOT OF BIBLICAL FAITH (ROMANS 10:14)

a) All true Biblical faith is rooted not only in knowing God, but in hearing from the God we know.

b) Romans 10:14, 17
i) In order to have faith, we must hear from God.
(1) We cannot know the will of God by guessing at it.
ii) In verse 17, it says that faith comes.

(1) We don't generate faith; it comes.
(a) God gives faith.

c) Ephesians 2:8-9
i) Faith is the gift of God.
(1) Grace is the gift of God, and so is the faith to receive the grace.

d) Philippians 1:29
i) It is given to us to believe; God gives faith.

e) No one can believe God unless God enables him to believe.
i) God enables us to believe by giving us His Word.
(1) Romans 10:17
ii) We don't name and claim it.
(1) God speaks, and we believe it and receive it.

f) Hebrews 11:1
i) "Hope" in the Bible means bedrock assurance based on the promise of God.
(1) It is assurance mingled with anticipation.
(a) This is why the Bible calls the Second Coming of Jesus "the blessed hope".
(i) Titus 2:13
(ii) It is the blessed hope, not the blessed maybe.
(iii) We know He is coming because He said so.
ii) The Greek word "substance" means "sub-stand"; something beneath that we can stand on.
(1) When we're living by faith, we're not walking around on eggshells and Jell-O.
(a) Faith is not Jell-O; it is the substance of things hoped for, the things that God has said.

g) The root of faith is the Word of God.
i) Romans 10:17

h) How does God communicate His Word? How does God speak?
i) There are two words in the Greek language for "Word:"
(1) One is "logos."
(a) Jesus is called the "Logos", the Word of God.
(b) The Logos is the Bible, the written Word that tells of the Living Word.
(i) The Revelation of God, given in Christ, revealed in the Bible.
(2) The other word is "rhema."
(a) This is the word that is used in Romans 10:17.
(i) Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the rhema of God.
(b) "Rhema" means "an utterance", "a spoken word".
(i) It is a word from the Word.
(ii) When we read the Bible (the Logos), it begins to speak to us out of the Word of God.
1. We get a rhema from the Logos.
2. We hear from God in our hearts.
ii) We must hear from God; it is not enough just to hear a sermon.
(1) Romans 10:14
iii) God speaks to us and gives us something when we're reading the Bible or praying, and God puts that portion in our hearts.

(1) Does God speak to you?
(a) Are you listening?
(b) Do you have a quiet time?
(c) Are you saturated with the Word of God?
(d) Are you ready to do His will?
(e) Do you want to hear Him?
(f) Are you reporting for duty?

iv) The root of faith is the rhema of God.

4) THE RESULT OF BIBLICAL FAITH

a) The purpose of faith is not to get man's will done in Heaven, but to get God's will done on Earth.
b) The result of faith is the will of God.
i) We cannot have faith unless we hear from God.
ii) What we will hear from God is the will of God.
c) We cannot have faith for anything that is not the will of God.
i) If it is not the will of God, then there is no possible way that we can have faith for it because faith is the gift of God.
ii) Faith comes by hearing the Word of God, and God is not going to give us a word on something that is not His will.
(1) This keeps God in control.
(2) If we could just believe for whatever we want and have it, then we would easily make a mess of things, and it would put us in the driver's seat rather than God.
iii) This does not mean fewer blessings for us, it means more blessings for us.
(1) The will of God is not something we have to do, it is something we get to do.
d) 1 John 5:14

5) THE RELEASE OF BIBLICAL FAITH (ROMANS 10:16-18)

a) True faith does more than merely believe; it obeys.
i) If what we say we believe does not translate into action, then we don't really believe.
b) Romans 10:16-18
i) When we believe the Gospel, we are to obey it.
(1) Faith is belief with legs on it.
c) Romans 10:21
i) God spoke, but they did not all obey.
(1) Not everyone will obey the Gospel; not everyone will release their faith.
ii) The word "gainsaying" means "obstinate".
(1) We debate.
(a) We hear the Word of God, we hear God speak, but we parade it past the judgment bar of our minds and choose not to believe it or obey it.
d) We must release our faith by obedience.

6) CONCLUSION
   a) When the Lord Jesus hung on Calvary's cross, He united God and man.
      i) With His blood, Jesus reconciled God and man.
      ii) Romans 5:10
   b) We will not get to Heaven by the works that we do.
   c) We will not get to Heaven by our reason or logic.
   d) We will only get to Heaven through redemption.
      i) Trust and obey Jesus.
   e) The release of our faith is believing God and obeying Him.
   f) Have you given your heart and life to the Lord Jesus Christ?
      i) Do you trust Him to save you?
   g) Pray to Jesus now, asking Him to come into your life.
   h) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      i) Romans 3:23
      ii) Romans 10:9-10
      iii) Romans 10:13
      iv) Acts 16:31
      v) John 3:16

Biblical Faith: What It Is and How to Have It

SERMON REFERENCE: Romans 10:11-17
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Be finding please Romans chapter 10. “Biblical Faith: What It Is and How to Have It”. When you’ve found it, let me tell you this, if there were ever a time for us to have an earth-shaking, mountain-moving, devil-defying faith in Almighty God, this is the time, this is the day and this is the hour. I don’t know what you will accomplish in your Christian life, but I can tell you the measurement that will measure what you will accomplish. In Matthew 9:29, the Bible says this clearly and plainly, “According to your faith, be it unto you.” Not according to your fame, not according to your feelings, not according to your fortune, not according to your friends, not according to your fate. But, “According to your faith, be it unto you.” Faith is the medium of exchange in the kingdom of Heaven.

When you go to the grocery store to get groceries, you get groceries with dollars. But we receive from God by faith. Faith is the medium of exchange. Faith is the greatest asset that we have. Unbelief is the greatest stumbling block. Unbelief is the chief wickedness. Unbelief is the mother sin, the father sin, the parent sin, the sin of all sins is unbelief. It was unbelief that caused Eve to sin against God in the Garden of Eden. She failed to believe the Word of God. It was unbelief that locked the doors to the promised land and the Israelites did not go in, the Bible says in Hebrews 3:19, “Because of their unbelief.” It was unbelief that tied the hands of Jesus when Jesus was there in His own hometown and the Bible says in Matthew 13 verse 58, “He could do no mighty works there because of their unbelief.” And the sovereign God has limited Himself to work according to the faith, the belief of the people of God.

Did you know the sin that sends people to Hell today? It is not lying, it is not murder, it is not rape, it is not arson, it is not sexual perversion, it is not pride, it is not arrogance, it is unbelief. You see, Jesus died for all those other sins. Those sins have been paid for. So, in John 3:18, the Bible says, “He that believeth on Him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already because he has not believed.” It is unbelief that shuts the door to Heaven. Now, folks, if you can believe, all things are possible to Him that believes. And, in the spiritual realm, if you do not believe, nothing is possible. The Bible says in this book of Romans chapter 1 and verse 17, that, “The just shall live by faith.” Just as you live physically by breathing and from nourishment that you take from food, you live spiritually by faith. Romans 1 verse 17, “The just shall live by faith.”

Now, look here in Romans chapter 10 and verse 11, “For the Scripture saith, ‘Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.’” That literally means, “he’ll not be put to shame,” “‘For there’s no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord overall is rich unto all that call upon Him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they’ve not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!’ But they have not all obeyed the Gospel. For Esaias saith, ‘Lord, who hath believed our report?’ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.”

Several things I want to put into your heart today. And, how I pray God the Holy Spirit will rivet these things into your soul. How I pray God, He will indelibly write these things upon your heart. Now, please listen today, listen, because you need, desperately need to believe God. Oh, the blessings of God that will come to you if you will learn to believe God. Pray, believe and you'll receive. Pray and doubt, you do without. It is absolutely necessary that you learn how to believe God. So, as we look at this passage of Scripture, you keep Romans chapter 10 open there before you and look at the lessons that are there that tell you how to have a Biblical faith.

The very first thing I want you to notice is what I'm going to call **the reality of Biblical faith**. Look in verse Romans 10 verse 11, "For the Scripture saith, 'Whosoever believeth,'" now watch this, "'on Him,'" underscore that, "'shall not be ashamed.'" "Whosoever believeth on Him." Now, faith must have the right object to be real faith. I›m talking about the reality of faith. Now, you know there›s sometimes people who just they say to you, "Oh, just have faith. Oh, only believe." When a person says to me, "Just have faith." The first question in my mind is, faith in what? They say, "Only believe." I say, "Only believe what?" There is no power in faith alone. Don›t think there›s something mystical or something magical about just believing. Put this down big, plain, and straight, your faith is no better than its object. Misplaced faith is a dangerous thing. It is not faith that moves mountains; it is God that moves mountains. Did that get it? It is not faith that moves mountains. The Bible says in Mark chapter 11 and verse 22, "He said unto them, 'Have faith in God.'" Whosoever believes in Him. You see, there›s so many people who think of faith as positive thinking. That›s what people think faith is. Faith is not positive thinking. There it will help you to think positively and there›s nothing wrong with positive thinking. But the majority of people think there's something mystical and magical of only believing. But the reality of Biblical faith is in verse 11, that we are to believe on Him. Your faith is no better than its object.

Now, if you make faith just simply positive thinking, you know what's going to happen to you? You're going to get discouraged, because there's going to come times when you're trying to think positively and you're not going to be able to think positively. A little boy came to his dad and he said, "Dad, I think I flunked my math test today." His dad said, "Now son, you›ve got to be positive son." He said, "I'm positive I flunked it." I mean if you look into yourself and you›re trying to think positively, actually, you're going to find that rather than encouraging you, it›s going to discourage you. Because, after a while it's going to dawn on you that you don›t have what it takes in the place of discouragement.

I'm going to tell you something else. If you put faith in faith, you're a sitting duck for the devil. Now, the devil will come to you and the devil will say, "Well, you're not good enough to be saved. You say, "Well, I know it but I don't have any faith in myself." Well, the devil says, "There are hypocrites in the church." And, you say, "Well, I'm not putting faith in hypocrites, I›m trusting the Lord." The devil will say to you, "But you don't feel just right." And, you say, "Well, I›m not trusting my feeling. I›m trusting the Lord." You think he›d go away wouldn›t he? But you know what he›ll do and this is the slyest thing of all. He›ll say, "Well, you say you're trusting the Lord, but how do you know your faith is good enough? How do you know your faith is strong enough? How do you know that your faith is the real thing?" And folks, if you're not careful, that's his dirtiest and most sly trick, and many people will go under when he says this. And if the devil ever pulls that stump on you, you just tell him, "Look devil, I am not putting my faith in faith, my faith is in Jesus." Now, there's a difference in that. You see, the least amount of faith in the right object is better than strong faith in the wrong object. We are to believe in Him.

Do you remember what the Bible says there in Hebrews chapter 12 verse 1? "We are to be looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." Looking unto Jesus. Don›t look at your look. Don›t put faith in your faith. Put faith in God. You see, the reality of faith is is not positive thinking. It›s not faith in faith; it is faith in God. Weak faith in the right object is better than misplaced faith in the wrong object. You say, "Will God honor weak faith?" He certainly does. If He didn›t, most of us wouldn›t have anything from Him.

Do you remember that story in Mark chapter 9, where there was a man had a little demon-possessed boy and he came to Jesus and he said, "Lord, if You will, You can heal my boy." And in verse 23, "Jesus said unto him, 'If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.'" And you know what his father said? "And straightway the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe. Help thou mine unbelief.'" And, you know Jesus gave him just what he needed. He had a weak faith. But you see it was weak faith in God. I›m not saying we ought to have weak faith, far better to have strong faith. But Jesus said in Matthew 17 verse 20, "If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, be thou removed and be cast into the midst of the sea." What›s He saying? The least amount of faith is greater that the greatest amount of difficulty, if it is faith in God. Put your faith in God. And by the way if you want your faith to be strong, don't put faith in faith. Put your faith in God. You see that's the way to have strong faith, to find out who God is.

I've used this illustration many times, if you wanted to cross a bridge and you didn't know whether it could hold you up, let's say the bridge going across our Mississippi River here. You were afraid and you tremble and you try to make yourself believe and screw up your courage and get faith so you can cross the bridge. That would be ridiculous. Look at the bridge. It's made of concrete and steel and semi-trucks are going over it every day. And when you see the bridge and can understand what the bridge can do, then it's easy for you to cross the bridge. When you see who God is, rather than putting faith in positive feelings, rather than putting your faith in faith, put your faith in God and your faith will grow.

Let me use another illustration. I heard this so many years ago, but I can't get it out of my mind. Up in the Northern parts near the source of the Mississippi, it was a bitter cold winter and the Mississippi River had frozen over and there was a man who, rather than going to the bridge, decided he would walk across the frozen ice. He didn't see anyone else out there. It looked so crusty and so thick. He said, "Well, I believe I can walk across. I won't have to take the journey down to the bridge." And this man began to walk across that river on ice. When he got out there a pretty good distance from the shore and he looked at the other shore he said, "Maybe I ought not to be out here. I mean, maybe this ice won't hold me up. If I fall through, they'll never know what happened to me. I'm a fool. What am I doing out here?"

And he turned around to go back to the other side and it was as far to the other side as it was where he's in the middle. He said to himself, "I better walk softly." Then he said to himself, "I better get down on all fours, so I won't put my weight in any one place." Then he said to himself, "That's not enough. I better lie down and squirm across. I'm going through. What a fool I am. My wife will never know what happened to me." He began to whimper and cry and then he heard it, a roaring cracking sound. "Oh!" He said, "The ice is breaking!" He said, "I'm a goner." He put his face down. He began to pray, "God save me! Help me, Lord!" The noise got closer and closer. That rumbling, roaring. But the ice didn't seem to be breaking. He looked up and there was a man with a team of horses with a wagon loaded with logs driving across that river. That was the noise that he heard. Well when he saw that, he jumped up and brushed the ice off of him and took his stroll across the rest of the river.

Now, what was the difference in these two men? The second man knew the ice. The second man knew the ice. Friend, where does faith come from? It comes from a knowledge of God. He that believeth on Him, on Him shall not be ashamed. Do you want to have strong faith? Don't try to make yourself believe. Get to know God. Put these verses down, Psalm 9 and verse 10, "And they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee." Put this verse down, Daniel 11 and verse 32, "They that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits." Now, that›s the reality of Biblical faith. Your faith is no better than its object. You must know God.

Now, here's the second thing I want you to see. Not only the reality of Biblical faith, but I want you to see **the root of Biblical faith**. All true Biblical faith is rooted not only in knowing God, but in hearing from the God that you know. Look in Romans 10 verse 14, "How should they call on Him in who they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" And, then look down if you will please in verse 17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God." Are you listening to me? Please listen. In order to have faith, you must hear from God. Did that sink in? Did that sink in? In order to have faith, you must hear from God. You cannot know the will of God by guessing at it. This verse says, verse 17, that faith comes, you don't generate it, it comes. God gives faith.

Ephesians chapter 2 and verse 8 says this, "For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it," what? Faith, "is the gift of God." Grace is the gift of God and so is the faith to receive the grace. Philippians chapter 1 and verse 29, "For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake." Now, that verse tells us two things, I›m going to choose one of them. It is given to us to believe. God gives faith. No one can believe God unless God enables him to believe. Did you hear that? No one can believe God unless God enables him to believe. And how does God enable you to believe? God gives you His Word. God gives you a word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Therefore, contrary to popular belief, you don't name it and claim it, God speaks, and you believe it and receive it. Do you heart that? You don't name it and claim it, God speaks, you believe it and receive it.

Now, Hebrews 11:1, put it in your margin right by verse 17, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Now, the word hope, what does that mean? Well, today it means, maybe a strong desire. Like, "I hoped FSU would win yesterday. But perish the hope. Perish the hope." That›s the way we use hope today, but friend, the word hope in the Bible does not mean what our modern word means. Hope in the Bible, please listen, it means bedrock assurance based on the promise of God. That's what hope is. It means assurance mingled with anticipation. That's the reason the Bible calls the Second Coming of Jesus, the blessed hope. That doesn't mean it's the blessed maybe, it's the blessed hope. How do we know? He's said so. He's not here yet, but we know He's coming. That is the blessed hope, not the blessed maybe. We know He is coming. How? Because He has said so.

Now, listen to this, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for." Look at the word substance. You know what the word substance means. Well, it could mean guarantee, but actually the Greek word is very much like our English word, sub-stand. Something beneath you can stand on. When you're living by faith, you're not walking around on eggshells and Jell-o. Friend, faith is not Jell-o. Why? Because it is the substance of things hoped for. Things that God has said. Do you see that? That's where faith comes from. The root of faith is the Word of God. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

Now how does God communicate His Word? We said, "You cannot have faith unless God speaks." Well, how does God speak? Well there are two words for the word "word" in the Greek language. One is "logos", and the logos, Jesus, you know, is called the logos, the Word of God. The logos we could say is the Bible, the written Word that tells of Living Word. Jesus is the logos, the Bible is the Logos. The logos, we could say, is the Bible, the written Word that tells of the Living Word. Jesus is the logos, the Bible is the Logos. That just simply means the Word. The Revelation of God, given in Christ, revealed in the Bible, that's the logos.

But there's another Word that is translated Word and is rhema. And that's the Word that is used here in verse 17, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the rhema of God." The rhema of God. Not, the logos, but the rhema. Now, what does that mean? What does the word rhema mean? It means an utterance. It means a spoken word. I guess we could call it a word from the Word. You take the Bible, that's the logos and your reading the Bible begins to speak to you out of the word of God. You get a rhema from the logos. You get an utterance from God and God speaks to you and you hear in your heart, you hear from God. That's the reason folks, that before I preached today, I got on my knees back yonder. I said, "Oh, God, help me to preach." Because friend, in order for you to have faith, you don›t have to hear from Adrian, you›ve got to hear from God. You›ve got to hear from God. You see all I can do is be the western union boy, but it is God that gives the message. It›s not enough to hear a sermon.

Look if you will in Romans 10 verse 14, "How shall they then how shall they call on Him in who they have not believe? And how shall they believe in Him of who they have not heard?" Now, look if you will in that phrase, "of whom". Now, the New American Standard gives it this way, "How shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard." Not "of whom", but "whom". You must hear God. You must get a rhema from God. How does God speak? How does God speak to you and give you something? You're reading the Bible or you're praying and God puts that portion in your heart. God says, "This is from Me." You say, "Well, He never speaks to me that way." Are you listening? Do you have a quiet time? Are you saturated with the Word of God? Are you ready to do His will? Do you want to hear Him? Are you reporting for duty? The root of faith is the rhema of God. The reality of God is faith in God, not faith in faith. The root of faith. You must hear from God.

Now, here's the third think I want you to see quickly and that is the release of Biblical faith. What does faith do? Well, I want to talk not only about the root of this faith, but the result of his faith and then it will bring me the next point. What is the result of this faith? What does faith do? What does it do? Even before we talk about releasing it, let's talk about the result. What does Biblical faith do? What is **the purpose of faith?** Listen carefully, faith is not getting man's will done in Heaven; it is getting God's will done on Earth. Now, the result of faith is the will of God. Now, notice I said you cannot have faith unless you hear from God. Well, do you know what you're going to hear from God? You›re going to hear the will of God? When God speaks, God is going to say, "This is what I want done and therefore, I want you to believe it." Now, you cannot have faith for anything that›s not the will of God. If it›s not the will of God, there›s no possible way that you can have faith for it. Why? Because faith is the gift of God. "Faith comes from hearing the Word of God." And God's not going to give you a word on something that's not His will. And that's wonderful because that keeps God in control. Don't think that you can just believe that you can believe for whatever you want and have it.

For example, if I had enough faith, could I turn this building into solid gold, not unless God wanted it turned into solid gold. And that keeps God in control. Do you remember hearing about the man who had

the king Midas who wanted the Midas touch. He wanted the touch that whatever he touched would turn to gold. He just loved gold and so he got his wish. He said, "Now I'm going to be very wealthy, whatever I want will turn to gold." But when he went to eat his food, it turned to gold. He couldn›t eat it. When he kissed his beautiful daughter and she was no longer a daughter that he could love. And what he thought would be a blessing became a curse. And, if you had unlimited faith, it would become the same curse to you. If you could just say, "Well, I can believe and have whatever I want. Well, you'd make a mess of things, it would put you in the driver's seat rather than God. You see, the result of faith is that the will of God is done. You say, "Oh, that means fewer blessing for me." No, it means more blessings for you because, friend, the will of God not something that you must do. It is something that you get to do.

First John chapter 5 and verse 14, "And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask Him anything according to His will, He hears us." What is the reality of faith? It is faith in God. What is the root of faith? You hear from God. What is the result of faith? The result of faith is that God›s will is done. Now, how do you release faith? What do you do? How does it get down into into private personal experience? How today are you going to release your faith? Now, true faith, listen to me, does more than merely believe, it obeys. If what you say you believe does not translate into action, you don not really believe.

But notice in verse 16, "But they have not all obeyed the Gospel." "Wait a minute, I thought we are to believe the Gospel." That›s right, when you believe it, you are to obey. Let me tell you what faith is. Faith is belief with legs on it. Well, you say, "Pastor Rogers, if I can't believe, then it's not my fault, it's God's fault, because God didn't give me faith. You said no one can believe unless God speaks to Him, and maybe God didn't speak to me and it's not my fault." I›ve got word for you. Look if you will in verse 16, "But they have not all obeyed the Gospel, for Esaias saith, 'Lord, who hath believed our report?'" See, not everybody here is a believer, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. But I say have they not heard?" Yes, but they didn›t obey. God spoke, but why didn›t they obey? Why didn›t they believe?

Look in verse 21, "But to Israel He saith, 'All day long have I stretched forth my hands to a disobedient and gainsaying people.'" God is speaking. God brought you here today and God said, "I love you", but not everybody will obey the Gospel. Not everybody will release their faith. God stretches out His hand, but there are people who are disobedient and gainsaying. Do you know what the word gainsaying means? It's not a very pretty word is it? The word gainsaying means obstinate. You debate. You hear the Word of God and God speaks, the Holy Spirit says, "Yes, that is true." But you parade it past the judgment bar of your mind, and say, "I don't think I'll believe." that. I don't think I'll obey that. God says, I love you. And, God stretches out His hands, "All day long have I stretched out my hands to a gainsaying and disobedient people." They›ve not all obeyed the Gospel. Oh, friend, listen, you must release your faith by obedience.

Years and years ago, men dreamed of a railroad that would span the continent, coming from the west coast toward the east coast and coming from the east coast to the west coast. Obviously they called it the Transcontinental Railroad. They began on the west coast to build those rails. They began on the east coast and they came to a place out west where the rails met. They got the governors of the two states there and they were going to connect those railroads, And when they came to the place where they were going to connect those rails, they brought a steam engine this way and a steam engine that way. And they were there to blow the whistles, and there was a great fanfare and other things I imagine. But one of the things that they did, they took a golden spike and a silver hammer and when the railroad was

almost complete, except the one spike, they took that golden spike and drove it with the silver hammer and when they did, the people gave a shout, because the east and the west were united.

Friend, when Jesus hung on Calvary's cross, he did more than unite east and west; He united God and man. With one hand He took sinful man, and with the other hand He took Holy God. And as they drove those spikes into his hands, the only silver that were there were the silver of His tears. The only gold, the gold of His blood. And, on the cross, with His blood, Jesus reconciled God and man. Now, listen to me, if you go to Heaven, and I hope you will, you're not going to get there on the wagon of works. You're not going to climb up there on the ladder of logic. And you're not going to ride there on the rocket of reason. You're going to get there on the railroad of redemption. The old T and O: Trust and Obey. "Trust and Obey, for those no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey." The release of your faith is your saying, "God I believe it, and therefore, I obey it. I give You my heart." And I promise you this on the authority of the Word of God, if you'll trust Him, He'll save you, for the Scripture that I'm reading from says, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

If you would pray a prayer like this, "God I'm a sinner, I'm lost, I need to be saved. I can't save myself. Jesus, You died to save me. You promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust You, right now. Right now, like a child. Come into my heart. Forgive my sin and save me." Father, I pray today, please our God, that many today will say yes to Jesus and be saved. In His wonderful name I pray. Amen.

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