

# **PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES**

**A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION  
FOUNDED OCTOBER, 1984**

**FAITH'S ROLE & OPERATION  
STUDY GUIDE**





# **FAITH'S ROLE AND OPERATION**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

### **Luke 18:8**

I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?

### **Romans 10:17**

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

### **Hebrews 6:1**

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,...

### **Hebrews 11:1**

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

### **Hebrews 11:6**

But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.

## **THEME**

The believer often has mistaken ideas regarding the role and operation of faith. Misunderstanding is generally followed by abuse or misuse. Faith is not the result of speaking; faith is the result of hearing. Each individual is responsible for personally hearing and exercising his faith toward God, Who will honor the faith which has been released. Faith must be united with hope; otherwise, the substance will have no direction. Conversely, direction without substance is futile.

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. *Pistis* is the Greek word most often translated as faith. It comes from the Greek word *peitho* (pi'tho), which is defined as persuasion. Persuasion means to convince.

- B. Role is defined as a function or position. Position is defined as a point of view or attitude on a certain question. It is vital that we follow faith's point of view and attitude in every area of our lives.
- C. Operation is defined as an instance or a method of efficient, productive activity. Faith is active and always produces good results.
- D. Faith's role and operation is to function in the most efficient and productive way.
- E. Faith must take the position of control in the believer's life.
- F. Faith operates in an **active**, not a passive way.
- G. Faith is **spiritual**, not intellectual; it issues forth from the **heart**, not the head.
- H. Generally speaking, truth in the head is passive; truth in the heart is active.
- I. Faith is truth in the heart.
- J. Faith provides the believer with the needed substance to get the desired results. Faith is also evidence to the believer that results are on their way. Faith leaves no room for failure or doubt. (Hebrews 11:1)
- K. One can abort faith. When faith is aborted, doubt and failure will occur. (Galatians 5:7)
- L. Faith is a defensive piece of armor with which the believer must always be adorned. (Ephesians 6:16)
- M. The "above" in Ephesians 6:16 comes from the Greek word *epi* which means over. The insinuation is that once all the armor is in place, we must not forget to hold tightly to the **shield** of faith.
- N. When the shield is used effectively, weapons cannot damage or penetrate the armor. Faith protects all the weak areas of the armor.

- O. II Corinthians 10:3-6 cannot be accomplished without the shield of faith. The “casting down” and “capturing” are accomplished as a result of faith. These fiery darts, which are directed toward our minds, are quenched by the shield of faith.

## **II. FAITH AND HOPE**

- A. A person is not given the choice of faith or hope; faith and hope always work together. One cannot accomplish anything without the other.
- B. Hope directs faith to the proper location.
- C. Hope is the anchor of the soul. (Hebrews 6:19)
  - 1. One who loses hope is like a ship that aways anchor.
  - 2. Once a ship aways anchor, it loses its holding ability; it will immediately begin to drift, and it will ultimately get into serious trouble.
  - 3. Hope keeps the soul stable while faith accomplishes the desired results.
- D. We need both confidence and stability. We must have substance **and** a goal to which the substance can be applied.

## **III. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF FAITH**

- A. The one who desires to receive from God must direct his faith toward God. (Hebrews 6:1)
  - 1. Often, those who come to receive from God place their faith in man, not God.
  - 2. Those who minister the power of God must instruct the prospective recipients to direct their faith toward God.
  - 3. Faith is the vehicle that transports power from the Source to the need.
    - a. The woman with the issue of blood used **her** faith to transport power from Jesus into her body. (Mark 5:25-34)

- b. The centurion exercised **his** faith for the healing of his servant. (Matthew 8:5-13)
  - c. The paralytic was healed because his friends exercised **their** faith in his behalf. (Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 5:17-26)
  - d. The blind men were healed according to **their** faith. (Matthew 9:27-31)
  - e. The Syrophenician woman demonstrated **her** faith by refusing to take “no” for an answer; as a result, her daughter was delivered. (Matthew 15:21-28)
  - f. Blind Bartimaeus was healed as a result of **his** faith. (Mark 10:46-52; Matthew 20:29-34)
- B. The responsibility of faith rests upon the one who is seeking God’s power to intervene on his behalf.
  - C. Rewards are given to the **diligent seekers**. (Hebrews 11:6)
  - D. The prospective recipient must prepare his heart to **receive**.

#### **IV. THE MINISTER’S RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. The one who is ministering God’s power to others must believe that God’s power is available to meet their needs.
- B. The minister is responsible for presenting the Word of God in such a way that the prospective recipient has grounds to believe. (Romans 10:13-15)
- C. The minister’s responsibility is not to get the person’s need met, but to lead the person to the provision.
- D. The minister **must prepare his heart** to give. He **must** lead people to the provision.

#### **V. JESUS IS OUR EXAMPLE**

- A. Jesus did many great and mighty exploits in His earthly ministry. It is vital that we observe His ministry and follow His pattern.

- B. Study of all the healings that Jesus performed reveals that the majority of those who were healed were healed by their faith, not His.
- C. The miracles that Jesus performed were out of compassion for the need of the people. Compassion, not sympathy, moved Him to act supernaturally. (Matthew 15:32; Mark 8:1-9)
- D. We must not forget that Jesus did not act independently of His Father, but He only did what he saw and heard His Father do and speak. (John 5:19; John 5:30)
- E. Jesus never operated outside of the realm of faith. He saw or heard before He acted. We must follow His example.

## **VI. FAITH IS IMPERATIVE TO THE BELIEVER**

- A. The just shall live by faith. (Romans 1:17)
- B. Without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6)
- C. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin. (Romans 14:23)
- D. Faith requires corresponding action. (James 2:18)
- E. The gospel must be mixed with faith in order for a person to receive the provisions of the gospel. (Hebrews 4:2)
- F. Faith comes by hearing. We must believe and act upon what we are hearing.

## **VII. THE ENDANGERED SPECIES**

- A. Faith is not common among believers. Why do we call ourselves believers? Believers should live a life of faith.
- B. In His earthly ministry, Jesus asked a very sobering question - "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)
- C. Many people put all the responsibility of giving and receiving upon Jesus, Who **did** His job and sat down beside His Father.
- D. Jesus has given us the keys of the kingdom, but until we recognize these keys and learn how to use them, we will continue to operate in unbelief.

- E. Unbelief kept the Israelites from entering the Promised Land. They expected God to do everything for them, but He did not do as they expected. He expected them to believe Him, not provoke Him. (Psalm 95:8-11; Hebrews 3:19)
1. When God sent Moses into Egypt to deliver the Israelites from bondage, His intent was to take them into the Promised Land. (Exodus 6:6-8)
  2. Moses took the Israelites to the border of the Promised Land, but they refused to enter. They set their attention on the obstacles and abandoned God's promise. (Numbers 13 & 14)
  3. Even Moses missed the opportunity of entering into the Promised Land because of his disobedience. (Numbers 20:7-12)
  4. Although God promised the nation of Israel a land flowing with milk and honey, the first generation who received the promise did not see the fulfillment of the promise because of unbelief.
  5. If we expect to receive the promises of God, we must cooperate with God. Not everyone who starts finishes.
- F. Joshua and Caleb exercised their faith and went into the Promised Land. Let's follow their example and believe God.
- G. It is through **faith and patience** that we inherit the promises of God. (Hebrews 6:12)

## **VIII. SUMMARY**

- A. Every believer must live by his faith.
- B. Faith is active, not passive.
- C. Faith issues forth from the heart, not the head.
- D. First we hear, then we make our profession. We must speak what we believe rather than trying to believe what we speak. (II Corinthians 4:13)
- E. Each individual is responsible for exercising his faith toward God.

- F. Faith moves the power from the Source to the need.
- G. The minister is not responsible for our needs being met; however, he is responsible for leading us to the provisions.
- H. When we respond to Jesus as the people in Scripture responded, we will get the desired results, just as they did.
- I. Unbelief will never possess the promises of God. Faith possesses; unbelief relinquishes.

## **IX. CONCLUSION**

- A. We should locate our faith before making our profession.
  - 1. We locate our faith by identifying what we are presently hearing.
  - 2. If we do not like what we are hearing, we must renew our minds with the Word of God. (Romans 12:2)
  - 3. Faith can easily be defined as conviction. Conviction comes as a result of hearing. Conviction is what you believe. What is your conviction?
- B. Our faith is determined by what we believe in the heart, not the head.
  - 1. The head cannot produce faith; consequently, quoting scriptures which we have memorized is not faith.
  - 2. Faith comes by hearing, not speaking. First, we must hear; then, we speak. (II Corinthians 4:13)
  - 3. Confession of scriptures which we have memorized is a good tool for getting the scriptures out of the head and into the heart.
- C. Faith comes when the heart speaks to the head, not the head to the heart.
- D. It is the heart, not the head that brings conviction.

- E. It is possible for one to hear and move in faith, then abandon faith when he begins to listen to the circumstances. Peter walking on water is a good example of this truth. (Matthew 14:28-31)
- F. Remember! Faith comes by hearing. Once we hear, we must lock in to what we have heard. Faith can be aborted if we change our direction of hearing from the inside to the outside.
- G. Faith's role is to secure the believer in a position of confidence until the provision for his need manifests in the physical realm.
- H. Faith's operation is to become the tangible until the tangible comes.
- I. When faith is allowed to fulfill its role and to operate freely, the individual acting in faith will be just as convinced in the time of waiting as he is in the time of possessing.