

Helps For Those Dealing With Illnesses Of Long Standing:

Faith/Trust.....Pt. 1

by Ann Windsor

One issue that surfaced regarding dealing with illness of long standing was the '**trust**' issue'. One said to me: "With me I think it just boils down to a matter of trust - not making things so complicated." That person understands that faith and trust are the same, but they (the person) are quickened by the 'trust' approach and it takes the stress off of, "Do I have enough faith!!!!!!", etc. You may be of a similar opinion, so let's look at these two words.

Vine's Expository Dictionary definitions for 'faith'.....

- firm persuasion,
- a conviction based upon hearing;
- **trust**

In light of this I want to take Hebrews 11, which has been called "The Faith Hall of Fame" and rename it "**The Trust Hall of Fame**". Let us read some portions of Hebrews 11 now and insert the word, 'trust', for the word, 'faith'.

As you go down through these remember:

- faith/trust **isn't** a feeling
- faith/trust is a **decision** to believe God's Word

Hebrews 11: Pt. 1

(Note: The Word of God is the Foundation that **Faith/Trust** is built on in the lives of each of our heroes in this chapter. Please take the time to reread their stories given in the Scripture references. Really look at the interaction between the hero of faith and the Word of God spoken to them. You will find yourself encouraged in trusting God for your situation as you 'catch' their **trust** from **fellowshipping with them**.)

Verses 1-29 - entire verse included also from Amplified Version

- Now **trust** (in God's Word/Promise) is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things not seen.

.....Now **faith/trust** is the assurance (the confirmation, **the title deed**) of the things [we] hope for, being the proof of things [we] do not see *and* the conviction of their reality **[faith/trust perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]**.

- By **trust** the elders obtained a good report.

.....For by **[faith-trust]** and holy fervor born of **faith-trust** the men of old had divine testimony borne to them *and* obtained a good report.

- By **trust** we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God so that **the things which are seen were not made** of things which do appear.

.....By **faith/trust** we understand that the worlds were framed (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) **by the word of God**, so that **what we see was not made out of things which are visible.**

- By **trust** Abel (Genesis 4:4) offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain....

..... [**Prompted, actuated**] by **faith/trust** Abel brought God a better and more acceptable sacrifice than Cain. And though he died, yet [through the incident] he is still speaking.

- By **trust** Enoch (Genesis 5:22) was translated that he should not see death....

..... Because of **faith/trust** Enoch was caught up *and* transferred to heaven, so that he did not have a glimpse of death.....

Without **trust** (in His Word) it is impossible to please God, for **he who comes to God must trust that HE IS, and trust that He is a Rewarder/He will fulfill His Word** to those who diligently seek him.

..... But without **faith/trust** it is impossible to please *and* be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists **and believe/trust** that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly *and* diligently seek Him [out].

- By **trust** Noah, being warned of God (Genesis 6:13) of something he had not yet seen, prepared an ark and saved his household when the flood came.

.....[**Prompted**] by **faith/trust** Noah, being forewarned by God concerning events of which as yet there was no visible sign, took heed *and* diligently *and* reverently constructed *and* prepared an ark for the deliverance of his own family. By this [his **faith/trust** which relied on God] he passed judgment *and* sentence on the world's unbelief and became an heir *and* possessor of righteousness (that relation of being right into which God puts the person who has faith).

- By **trust** Abraham, when he was called by God (Genesis 12:1) to go to a land he had not seen he went out not knowing exactly where he went....

.....[**Urged on**] by **faith/trust** Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went forth to a place which he was destined to receive as an inheritance; and he went, although he did not know or trouble his mind about where he was to go.

- By **trust** Abraham traveled through the land God promised him (Genesis 12:7). By **trust** he believed it was his even though he owned nothing and had no permanent dwelling there.

..... **[Prompted]** by **faith/trust** he dwelt as a temporary resident in the land which was designated in the promise [of God, though he was like a stranger] in a strange country, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs with him of the same promise.

- By **trust**, Sarah also received strength to conceive and give birth to a child in her 90's. She **judged trustworthy** the One Who had made her the promise of motherhood in her old age (Genesis 18:10).

.....Because of **faith/trust** also Sarah herself **received physical power** to conceive a child, even when she was long past the age for it, **because** she **considered [God]** Who had given her the promise ***to be reliable and trustworthy and true to His word.***

.....So from one man, though he was physically as good as dead, there have sprung descendants whose number is as the stars of heaven and as countless as the innumerable sands on the seashore.

.....These people (Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah) all **died controlled and sustained** by their **faith/trust**, but not having received the tangible fulfillment of [God's] promises (of a Redeemer), only having seen it **and** greeted it from a great distance by **faith/trust**, and all the while acknowledging **and** confessing that they were strangers **and** temporary residents **and** exiles upon the earth.

- By **trust** Abraham didn't hesitate to obey God and prepare Isaac to be sacrificed. Why? ***Because he trusted the Word of God to him:*** "through Isaac shall your descendants increase". He **trusted** that God would raise Isaac from the dead to fulfill this Word if necessary!

11:17 By **faith/trust** Abraham, when he was put to the test [while the testing of his faith was still in progress], had already brought Isaac for an offering; he who had gladly **received and welcomed** [God's] promises was ready to sacrifice his only son, 18 Of

whom it was said, Through Isaac shall your descendants be reckoned. 19 For he **reasoned** that God was able to raise [him] up even from among the dead. Indeed in the sense that Isaac was figuratively dead [potentially sacrificed], he did [actually] receive him back from the dead.

- By faith/**trusting** God for the future, Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau.

20 **[With eyes of] faith/trust** Isaac, looking far into the future, invoked blessings upon Jacob and Esau.

- By faith/**trust** in the promise of God that God would give the land of Canaan to the seed of Abraham, Joseph when he was dying in Egypt, ordered his descendants to take his body with them when they went out of Egypt and back to Canaan, (Genesis 50:24&25).

22 **[Actuated]** by **faith/trust** Joseph, when nearing the end of his life, referred to [the promise of God for] the departure of the Israelites out of Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his own bones.

- By **faith/trust** in the Word of God to his ancestor Abraham, Moses refused to be an Egyptian.....for he looked forward to the reward God had promised.

24 **[Aroused]** by **faith/trust** Moses, when he had grown to maturity and become great, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 Because he preferred to share the oppression [suffer the hardships] and bear the shame of the people of God rather than to have the fleeting enjoyment of a sinful life. 26 He considered the contempt and abuse and shame [borne for] the Christ (the Messiah Who was to come) to be greater wealth than all the treasures of Egypt, for he looked forward and away to the reward (recompense).

- By **faith/trust** he(Moses) too 'saw' the Faithfulness of the God Abraham 'saw'

27 [Motivated] by faith/trust he left Egypt behind him, being unawed and undismayed by the wrath of the king; for he never flinched but held staunchly to his purpose and endured steadfastly as one who gazed on Him Who is invisible.

- By faith/trust he obeyed God's Word to him, preparing a passover lamb and its blood (Exodus 12:1-13). By Moses' faith/trust, he saw the blood of that lamb preserve Israel from the death angel.

28 By faith (simple trust and confidence in God) he instituted and carried out the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood [on the doorposts], so that the destroyer of the firstborn (the angel) might not touch those [of the children of Israel].

- By faith/trust in God's order, 'stretch out your rod and part the Sea', Moses obeyed and the Red Sea parted at his command enabling the Israelites to escape death at the hand of the Egyptians, (Exodus 14:16).

29 [Urged on] by faith/trust **the people** crossed the Red Sea as [though] on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried to do the same thing they were swallowed up [by the sea].

(Notice the plural 'people', prior to this it had been individuals.)

You'll notice the word, 'by'. It's definition is very enlightening:

1. 'By' identifies the agent (trust/faith) performing an action.
2. 'By' indicates the means (trust/faith) of achieving something.

Faith/trust is the 'agent' and the 'means of achieving' healing or salvation.

Let us not forget the key ingredient here: The Word of God and the God of the Word.

Faith/trust is IN THE WORD OF GOD AND THE GOD OF THE WORD.

God's Word is His **only tangible connection** directly with you. He wants you to come to know Him through that Word, know His intentions toward you and His Covenant Agreement terms with you.

The Word is the point of connection.

He watches over the Word that you connect to Him with, to perform it in your life.

- **TRUST IS NOT A FEELING, BUT A DECISION**, an act of the will.
- **A QUALITY DECISION MUST BE MADE TO TRUST GOD'S WORD AND THE GOD OF THE WORD** regarding the removal of illness and restoration to health of the afflicted part of your body.
- **THIS DECISION MUST BE REINFORCED OVER AND OVER ESPECIALLY IN TIMES OF DOUBT OR DISCOURAGEMENT.**
"Sirs, I believe God IT WILL BE EVEN AS IT WAS TOLD ME", Paul said when he was on the verge of shipwreck. In the face of days of contrary winds and waves, Paul, in faith, sought God for the saving of the lives of those with him and received. (Acts 27:19-26)
- **THIS QUALITY DECISION TO TRUST GOD WILL 'ANCHOR YOUR SOUL'** (mind and emotions) and also your body when conditions seem unchanging or growing worse.
- **CONDITIONS ARE ONLY TEMPORARY:** just as a ship gets blown by the winds a little way off course and then navigates back, so you will do also. Everything seen/felt is subject to change!

If you deal with **'trusting'** God to do what He has said He will do, **'feed' that trust** by really examining the lives of these Heroes of faith. Go back and read their stories from several versions. Live through the minute details. The Holy Spirit will help you to apply what you see. He will help you 'walk

in the footsteps of their **faith/trust** and receive the Reward of those who diligently seek Him: “by His Stripes you were healed”.

(I would recommend that you go back through these verses and substitute your name for the name of the ‘hero of faith’. You will find that very interesting and the Word speaking directly to you, i.e.: “by **faith/trust** _____ had the testimony that he/she pleased God”; “by **faith/trust** _____ received strength and was delivered because he/she judged Him faithful who had promised”; by **faith/trust** _____ accounted that God is able to raise the dead and those who have been given a ‘sentence of death’.)