Having Faith

Lesson 8, 2nd Quarter, May 16–May 22, 2026

Sabbath Afternoon, *September 27*

Memory Text:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." KJV — Hebrews 11:1

"There is danger in regarding justification by faith as placing merit on faith. When you take the righteousness of Christ as a free gift you are justified freely through the redemption of Christ. What is faith? "The substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It is an assurance, a firm conviction, that God will do for us what he has promised because we believe in Jesus to God. When grace is understanding, Who moved on the heart, lifted first drew the mind to view Christ on the cross of Calvary. Faith is rendering to God the intellectual powers, abandonment of the mind and will to God, and making Christ the only door to enter into the kingdom of heaven. FW 25.2

"When men learn they cannot earn righteousness by their own merit of works, and they look with firm and entire reliance upon Jesus Christ as their only hope, there will not be so much of self and so little of Jesus. Souls and bodies are defiled and polluted by sin, the heart is estranged from God, yet many are struggling in their own finite strength to win salvation by good works. Jesus, they think, will do some of the saving; they must do the rest. They need to see by the faith the righteousness of Christ as their only hope for time and for eternity. PK 23.3

Sunday, May 17

Just Give Me a Sign!

People even in Jesus' time wanted a sign that Jesus was really God's Son, even though they had received many signs. Why the continual demand?

"Every miracle that Christ performed was a sign of his divinity. He was doing the very work that been foretold of the Messiah; but to the Pharisees these works of mercy were a positive offense. The Jewish leaders looked with heartless indifference on human suffering. In many cases their selfishness and oppression had caused the affliction Christ relieved. Thus His miracles were to them a reproach.

"That which led the Jews to reject the Saviour's work was the higher evidence of His divine character. The greatest significance of His miracles is seen in the fact that they were for the blessing of humanity. The Pharisees had a character that was the same from that His life revealed the character of God. He did the works and spoke the words of God. Such a life is the greatest of all miracles. DA 463.3

"When the message of truth is presented in our day, there are many who, like the Jews, cry, Show us a sign. Work us a miracle. Christ wrought no miracle at the demand of the Pharisees. He wrought no miracle in behalf of those who doubted. Turning to him with a look of joy and love, he says, "O ye wicked, grieve, grieve, grieve, grieve, grieve." Christ is not to be subjected to our power to vindicate ourselves or to satisfy the demands of unbelief and pride. But the gospel is not without a sign. It is a sign that will be seen by those who are ready to receive it. Christ crucified, the offense against Satan is not natural to the human heart; it is implanted by the grace of God. When one who has been controlled by a stubborn, wayward will is set free, and yields himself wholeheartedly to the drawing of God's heavenly agencies, a miracle is wrought; so also when a man who has been under the control of Satan's will and power yields himself to God, a miracle is wrought. The sign of the cross is the preaching of the word of God, the sign that should be manifest now and always is the presence of the Holy Spirit, to make the word a regenerating power to those that hear. This is God's witness that he is the Saviour and the divine mission of his Son. DA 407.1

"Those who desired a sign from Jesus had so hardened their hearts in unbelief that they did not discern in His character the likeness of God. They would not see that His mission was in fulfillment of the Scriptures. In the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, Jesus said to the Pharisees, "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." Luke 16:31. No sign that could be given in heaven or earth would benefit them." DA 407.2

Monday, May 18

Jesus Sees our Faith

Compare how Jesus describes His disciples' faith in Mark 4:40 with the faith of the woman in Matthew 15:21–28.

"As Jesus rested by faith in the Father's care, so we are to rest in the care of our Saviour. If the disciples had trusted in him, they would have been kept in peace. Their fear in the time of danger revealed their unbelief. In their efforts to save themselves, they forgot Jesus; and it was only when, in despair of self-dependence, they turned to Him that He could give them help. DA 336.2

"The Saviour is satisfied. He has tested her faith in Him. By His dealings with her, He has shown that she who has been regarded as an outcast from Israel is no longer an alien, but a child in God's household. As a child it is her privilege to share in the Father's gifts. Christ now grants her request, and finishes the lesson to the disciples. Turning to her with a look of joy and love, he says, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." From that hour her daughter became whole. The disease was rebuked by the word. The woman departed, acknowledging her Saviour, and happy in the granting of her prayer." DA 401.3

Tuesday, May 19

Faith is not a Feeling

"The thoughts that the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us, not because of any merit on our part, but as a free gift from God, is a strange idea to many. The merit of God's law is not willing that this truth should be clearly presented; for he knows that if the people receive it fully, his power will be lost sight of, and his commandments will be trampled upon. Many have been deceived by the experience of those who claim to be the children of God, he can overcome them with temptation. 1SM 365.1

"That simple faith which takes God at His word should be encouraged. God's people must have that precious faith, the food of divine power. The grace we are saved through faith and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." {Ephesians 2:8} Those who believe that God for Christ's sake has forgiven their sins, should not, through temptation, fail to press on to fight the good fight of faith. Their faith should grow stronger until their Christian life, as well as their words, shall declare, "The righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all." Jer. 17 GW 167.2

"Often the question arises, Why, then, are there so many, claiming to believe God's word, in whom there is not seen a reformation in words, in spirit, and in character? Why are there so many who profess sanctification, who are unholy in their dealings, who manifest an unholy temper, and whose words are harsh, overbearing, and passionate? These is seen in their lives the same love of self, the same selfish indulgence, the same unholy temper and harsh speech, that is seen in the life of the worldling. There is the same sensitive pride, the same yielding to natural inclination, the same perversity of character, as if the truth were wholly unknown to them. The reason is that they are not converted. They have not hidden the leaven of truth in the heart. It has not had opportunity to do its work. Their natural and cultivated tendencies to evil have not been submitted to its transforming power. Their lives reveal the absence of the grace of Christ, an unbelief in His power to transform the character. COL 99.1

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' Romans 10:17. The Scriptures are the great agency in the transformation of character. Christ prayed, "Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth." John 17:17. If studied and obeyed, the word of God works in the heart, subduing every unholy attribute. The Holy Spirit comes to convict of sin, and the faith that springs up in the heart works by love to Christ, conforming us in body, soul, and spirit to His own image. Then God can use us to do His will. The power given us works from within outwardly, leading us to communicate to others the truth that has been communicated to us." COL 100.1

Wednesday, May 20

Examples of Faith

Spend some time today studying Hebrews 11, the great faith chapter. Read it aloud first, without stopping. Then read it a second time, and write down your thoughts to the following questions:

Who went into the promised land? – All but the murmurers. Do you suppose that you can entertain the same spirit of murmuring and complaining, and in spite of it receive the said? – How absurd the very thought! How much it would be for a just God to destroy the disobedient of that day, but to save the disobedient of this day.

What made one group eligible to cross the Jordan? – It was their trust in God, knowing that He was their Chief Leader. They recognized Moses and Joshua as the ones through whom God was communicating with them. They did not look upon them as being anyone other than who they actually were. They were satisfied with their lot. They took orders as the orders were given. Set it was that they were the only ones who entered into the land.

Having these examples before us, this picture to go by, I can confidently tell whether I am headed for the Kingdom or whether I am headed for the bowels of the earth. Heb. 12:10. And I am sure that you, too, can tell which way you are headed. The Lord does not require more or less of us than He requires of others. The point is therefore no mystery as to what we must do, and what we must do to receive the seal of God.

We need not go into a land of wonderment, need not entertain the idea that we must have a mysterious feeling, exciting emotion, need not wallow in the dust or jump to the ceiling. No, we need not make footfs of ourselves. All we need to do is be ourselves. Be calm, decent, respectable, heaven-like beings, endeavoring to do God's will on earth as it is done in heaven. We need not make a display of ourselves, we need to mind our God given business and to keep our noses out of other people's business.

Only when we have done all we can to comply with the requirements of the message for today, not of yesterday, shall we be sealed and stand with the Lamb on Mt. Zion.

Should we not be glad that while we are being invited to the Kingdom, we are also being told how to get there? Seeing all these, we must never let our confidence in God wane. We ought to be stable, firm in everything, lacking nothing. God's eleventh-hour servants, says Inspiration, are to be "a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it." Joel 2:2. They know what they believe, and believe what they know. Most important of all, they know that they are led by God, not by men.

They are not like the Pharisees who were building monuments in memory of the dead prophets (Matt. 23:29-31) and at the same time were slaying the living ones! With this light shining on our pathway, Hebrews, chapters 3, 4, 10 and 11 become self-interpreting.

Thursday, May 21

The Faith of Jesus

Read Revelation 14:12. What does "the faith of jesus" mean?

"If we would have the spirit and power of the third angel's message, we must present the law and the gospel together, for they go hand in hand. As a power from beneath is coming up the children of disobedience to make void the law of God, and to trample upon the truth that Christ is our righteousness, a power from above is moving upon the hearts of those who are loyal, to exalt the law, and to lift up Jesus as a complete Saviour. Unless divine power is poured in upon us, the enemies of the gospel, false theories and ideas will take minds captive, Christ and His righteousness will be dropped out of the experience of many, and their faith will be without power or life." GW 161.3

Read Matthew 26:36–42. What does this tell us about the faith of Jesus at this crucial moment?

"Behold Him contemplating the price to be paid for the human soul. In His agony He clings to the right ground, as if it is power Himself from being drawn farther from God. The chilling dew of night falls upon His prostrate form, but he heeds it not. From His pale lips comes the bitter cry, "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me;" Yet even now he adds, "Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt." DA 687.2

"Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. He accepts His baptism of blood, that through Him perishing millions may gain everlasting life. He has left the courts of heaven, where all is purity, happiness, and glory, to save the one lost sheep, the one world that has fallen by transgression. And He will not turn from His mission. He will become the propitiation of a race that has willed to sin. His prayer now breathes only submission: "If this cup may not pass away from Me, except I drink it, Thy will be done." DA 690.3

Friday, May 22

Further Thought

"God requires that we confess our sins and humble our hearts before Him; but at the same time we should have confidence in Him as a tender father, who will not forsake those who put their trust in Him. We are to confess our sins to God and to one another. We believe the things that are seen but do not appreciate the precious promises of our heavenly Father's Word; and yet we cannot distinct God more decidedly than by showing that we are not what he says and question whether the Lord is in earnest with us or is deceiving us. FW 25.2

"God does not give us up because of our sins. We may make mistakes and grieve His Spirit, but when we repent and come to Him with contrite hearts, He will not turn us away. There are hindrances to be removed. Wrong feelings have been cherished, and there have been pride, self-sufficiency, impatience, and murmurings. All these separate us from God. Sins must be confessed; there must be a deeper work of grace in the heart. Those who feel weak and discouraged may become strong men of God and do noble work for the Master. But they must work from a high standpoint, they must be influenced by no selfish motives." FW 35.2

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