

LOVE INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH FELLOWSHIP  
SCHOOL OF TRAINING

FAITH IN GOD – Lesson 1



I. CONTINUING, PERSISTENT FAITH

**Hebrews 11:6 (AMP)**

***But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him***, for whoever comes [near] to God ***must [necessarily] believe that God exists*** and that ***He rewards*** those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him.

**TPT.... And without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God.** For we come to God **in faith** knowing that He is real and that He rewards the faith of those who passionately seek Him.

**Hebrews 10:38 (NKJV)**

***Now the just shall live by faith;*** But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in Him.

**TPT.... And He also says, “My righteous ones will live from My faith.** But if fear holds them back, My soul is not content with them.”

**Why is it so important for us to have *continuing and persistent faith*?** Because our faith is how we overcome in this world!!!

**1 John 5:4-5 (AMP)**

**For everyone born of God is victorious *and* overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has conquered and overcome the world—our [continuing, persistent] faith [in Jesus the Son of God].** Who is the one who is victorious *and* overcomes the world? ***It is the one who believes and recognizes the fact that Jesus is the Son of God.***

The Lord would never ask us to have ***continuing and persistent faith*** if we were not able to do so. As born-again believers in Jesus Christ, He knows the importance of our faith and we are destined to walk every day in faith. One of the definitions of **faith** that Merriam-Webster dictionary states is: **“something that is believed especially with strong conviction.”**

Our faith is going to be tried and tested! Fear is the opposite of faith. Fear is a means for our enemy to enter situations we are standing in faith for. So every time the enemy fiercely rises up, we respond to him in our continuing and persistent faith In Jesus Christ. We open our mouths and speak God’s Word in faith. When we fully understand our Savior’s victorious and completed work at the cross and His resurrection, we defeat and torment our adversaries. And we see victory and breakthrough for the battles!

## II. WHERE DOES OUR FAITH BEGIN AS BELIEVERS?

### ROMANS 12:3 NKJV

For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of *himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as **God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.**

**TPT....** God has given me grace to speak a warning about pride. I would ask each of you to be emptied of self-promotion and not create a false image of your importance. Instead, honestly assess your worth by using your **God-given faith as the standard of measurement**, and then you will see your true value with an appropriate self-esteem.

The Greek word μέτρον (metron) translates as "**measuring rod**" or "**measure**," according to Strong's and The NAS Greek Lexicon.

We have all been given a measure of faith by God. The Greek word used here is to see "how much" of something there is. We start with a measure of faith, but it is our responsibility to develop and cause it to mature.

A believer's faith can be measured by what they speak and how they react to life's difficulties. As our walks with God and our knowledge of who He is progresses, so should our faith in Him develop and grow. A believer should never have the same measure of faith for years. It should increase constantly. Faith is consistent and lifelong!

Faith does not depend on your past or how you were raised or taught before you were born-again. Many Christians did not have an upbringing with parents that lived the faith life. However, your faith is a testimony to those who knew you before you were born-again. Your faith shows the world that you now serve the Living God!

**Humility** is a necessary characteristic for all ministers representing our Lord Jesus Christ in His church. Great men and women of faith have fallen when they erred by taking credit for the gifts of Holy Spirit operating in their ministries. It NEVER comes from the individual who by their faith produce miracles, signs and wonders. It is because of the power of the message of our Savior Jesus Christ and His power. Our message should always point the listener to Him ONLY!

The Apostle Paul could not have said it better in **1 Corinthians 2:4-5**.

### 1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5 (AMP)

And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom [using clever rhetoric], but [they were delivered] **in demonstration of the [Holy] Spirit [operating through me] and of [His] power** [stirring the minds of the listeners and persuading them], **so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom and rhetoric of men, but on the power of God.**

When men's eyes **stay fixed only** on the "**Power of God through Jesus Christ**", the church will see the manifestation of signs and wonders!

### III. FAITH FOR SALVATION

Sinners are saved by hearing the teaching of salvation from God's Word. The Word of God tells us in **ROMANS 10:17**... **So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.**

A wonderful example of **Romans 10:17** is told in **Acts Chapters 10 and 11** about a man named Cornelius. He was a devout man that prayed to the God of the Jews even though he was a Gentile and a Roman soldier. He was not yet saved because he had not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. An angel appears to him and tells him to send for the Apostle Peter in Joppa who will tell Cornelius what he must do.

Meanwhile in Joppa. Peter is having a vision that prepares him so that he will be willing to go and have fellowship with a Gentile. Holy Spirit tells Peter that he must go with the men to Cornelius's house. Upon arriving, Peter begins to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Cornelius and his entire household get saved, filled with Holy Spirit and they are all baptized! Hallelujah!

#### FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURE FOR SALVATION

#### ROMANS 10:9-10

**That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe (FAITH) in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes (FAITH) unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**

#### EPHESIANS 2:8 (NKJV)

**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.**

We put our faith in God's grace to be saved, because salvation is not something we can earn or bring about by our works. This verse says... Grace to be saved through faith is the gift of God to us. Glory to God!

#### Romans 1:16-17 AMP

**I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation [from His wrath and punishment] to everyone who believes [in Christ as Savior], to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed, both springing from faith and leading to faith [disclosed in a way that awakens more faith]. As it is written and forever remains written, "THE JUST and UPRIGHT SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."**

The more we hear the Word of God the more our faith is awakened! As we **grow and increase in faith** we are able to **live by faith**. We become unshakeable and immovable in the army of the Lord, from battle to battle!

#### 1 Corinthians 16:13 (AMP)

**Be on guard; stand firm in your faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping your doctrine sound]. Act like [mature] men *and be courageous; be strong.***

#### IV. WHAT IS FAITH?

##### Hebrews 11:1 TPT

Now faith brings our hopes into reality and becomes the foundation needed to acquire the things we long for. It is all the evidence required to prove what is still unseen.

##### Hebrews 11:1 (AMP)

Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality—faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses].

Faith in God includes faith *in His Timing!* Faith is taking hold of the unseen realm of hope, and bringing it into the realm of reality. Hope encourages us BUT faith takes us to the finish line where we see the manifestation of what we are believing for.

You might hope for finances to meet a particular obligation, but faith in God's Word gives you the assurance that you'll have the money knowing... **God supplies ALL our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:19)** Faith always agrees and speaks what is written in the Word of God.

##### FAITH WORKS THROUGH GOD'S LOVE

##### Galatians 5:6 (AMP)

For [if we are] in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but *only faith activated and expressed and working through love.*

- Since love energizes faith, the opposite must also be true. The opposite of love is hate. Hate drains faith. Hate will zap the strength out of faith.
- The Word says in **1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)...** **And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.**

##### 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (TPT)

But since we belong to the day, we must stay alert and clearheaded by *placing the breastplate of faith and love over our hearts*, and a *helmet of the hope of salvation over our thoughts.*

- ✚ Our breastplate of faith *is also a breastplate of love* that protects our hearts from the enemy. To walk in God's love is a choice we make, no matter the wrong done or spoken against us. Jesus chose to walk in love while He walked this earth. Regardless of what those who opposed Him wrongfully spoke, it could never deter Him from walking in love. We must practice the same to stay alert and clearheaded.

## V. BEWARE OF THE ENEMIES OF FAITH!

**Emotions** – Emotions can weaken your response to life’s battles. An example of unhinged emotions is Job’s Wife ...**Job 2:8-10 (AMP) And Job took a piece of broken pottery with which to scrape himself, and he sat [down] among the ashes (rubbish heaps). Then his wife said to him, “Do you still cling to your integrity [and your faith and trust in God, without blaming Him]? Curse God and die!” But he said to her, “You speak as one of the [spiritually] foolish women speaks [ignorant and oblivious to God’s will]. Shall we indeed accept [only] good from God and not [also] accept adversity and disaster?” In [spite of] all this Job did not sin with [words from] his lips.**

**Fear** – Fear is the killer of faith. **2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)... For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.** When you are harassed by fear, focus on what God has given you... POWER (Dunamis), LOVE (Agape) AND A SOUND MIND, (The mind of Christ)!

**Trials of Life** – We all experience various trials of life. These are disappointments caused by a person, event, or simply things in one’s life. There is also trauma [A deeply distressing or disturbing experience]. No matter how big the trial, God is with you through it all. He alone can heal the effects that disappointments and trauma cause in one’s life. **ISAIAH 41:10 (AMP)... ‘Do not fear [anything], for I am with you; Do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, be assured I will help you; I will certainly take hold of you with My righteous right hand [a hand of justice, of power, of victory, of salvation].’**

**Platter of Offense** – This is offered by the enemy, during the most difficult times, to put a root of bitterness in you toward God. Lies will try to convince you that God is unfair with you, so you have a right to be angry towards God. Bitterness towards God brings confusion and loss of focus. Faith tells us no matter what lies ahead in my life, God is already there! **ISAIAH 26:3-4 AMP... <sup>3</sup>“You will keep in perfect *and* constant peace *the one* whose mind is steadfast [that is, committed and focused on You—in both inclination and character], Because he trusts *and* takes refuge in You [with hope and confident expectation].<sup>4</sup>“Trust [confidently] in the LORD forever [He is your Fortress, your Shield, your Banner], For the LORD GOD is an everlasting Rock [the Rock of Ages].**

**Head Knowledge** – Head knowledge depends and focuses on what one sees and their senses instead of believing God’s Word. Head knowledge produces “lack of faith”. **2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)... *For we walk by faith, NOT by sight.*** To walk by faith means that you trust God in every circumstance rather than going by your own thoughts or feelings.

**Voices of Unbelief** – When in a battle, surround yourself with people of strong faith and intercessors. Avoid people who are negative and unbelieving. **Jesus example of this is Mark 5:-35-43.** It’s okay to PUT doubt out of the room when you are fighting for your life or victory in a battle!

## VI. WHAT STRENGTHENS OUR FAITH?

### JOHN 4:12 (NLT)

**"I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father."**

**Your daily relationship with your Savior Jesus Christ.** Your intimacy with Jesus affects the level of your faith. How much do you trust Him with your life and everything that involves you? Do you have the full revelation of how much He loves you? To fully understand His love brings a higher level of maturity that no one can topple. Has your intimacy with Christ continued to grow and blossom? It will be hard to trust someone you do not know intimately.

**Reading God's Word Daily.** Deuteronomy 30:14 (AMP)... **But the Word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may obey it.** Memorizing God's Word gives us the upper hand in the battles. When an attack comes, Holy Spirit will bring His Word to your remembrance to meditate on and speak.

**Stepping out in faith.** You step out by operating in Holy Spirit's Gifts. For example, instead of calling a church leader, you yourself lay hands and pray for the sick. **1 Corinthians 12:7 (NKJV)... But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.**

**Praying in tongues.** – Holy Spirit is the Power in our lives. Pray in tongues every day. Set your timers. **Jude 20 (AMP)... But you, beloved, build yourselves up on [the foundation of] your most holy faith [continually progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], pray in the Holy Spirit.**

**Studying men and women of faith.** Throughout the Bible, we have awesome examples of men and women who walked in faith and the miraculous. The list of heroes of faith in **Hebrews 11** makes reference to 16 individuals from the Old Testament. In **Hebrews 11:4-31** there are 10 names mentioned: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Rahab. They all receive a line or two illustrating their faith. Then in **Hebrews 11:32** another 6 individuals are named: Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, David and Samuel. Through faith, these men and women experienced victory in the midst of trials, pain and suffering. Through faith, they saw the fulfillment of God's promises to them as they walked in their calling and destiny.

**Knowing the significance of your spiritual covering.** – [ELIJAH AND ELISHA] Bishop Lydia Taylor, Senior Pastor Dennis Diaz, LIOF Elders, etc.

**SYLLABUS FOR FAITH FOR LIFE – LESSON 1**



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**III. FAITH FOR SALVATION**

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