**Part One: By Grace through Faith NOT Law**

**Lesson Five**

**Day 7 and Day 8**

Day 7: “Needing New Faith”

**Main Points**

1. It is not uncommon for us to be experiencing success in most of the areas of our lives, but still struggle with one or two others.
2. Sometimes, a new area arises from what seems to be out of nowhere, and when we try to employ our faith to the new situation, nothing seems to work.
3. God hasn’t changed. What we know and believe hasn’t changed. So we come to a point where our faith needs to grow.
4. Some have been exposed to teachings about faith that were not scriptural. One extreme is to make faith a work; another is to diminish its importance.
5. “Although it made me a little uncomfortable, I had to admit, that for some reason, my faith was not rising to the occasion during my health crisis. I found myself praying, ‘Lord, increase my faith. Show me what I’m missing here.’ I didn’t do this with an ounce of guilt or shame, only with the acute awareness that I needed help.” (The point here being that it is OK to ask God to increase our faith.)
6. It doesn’t take a superabundance of faith to see big things happen.
7. Our faith can grow exceedingly to meet new or greater challenges.
8. The mistake commonly made when needing new faith is to think that it’s up to us to “make” it happen. “Let the grunting and groaning begin.”
9. While we wait to learn how to see our faith grow, we can continue affirming and confessing what we already know and believe to be true.
10. The happy “ending” to this story is that the author’s faith did grow, and the multiple issues with her health were all resolved, some by natural means and others supernaturally. Glory to God!

**Discuss**

1. Did this chapter “ring a bell” in your mind—make you think of a similar situation you are facing that seems resistant or as if you are “missing something”, or perhaps that you seem to conquer one day and then another day experience defeat? Share if you’d like without going into too much detail.

Day 8: “Finding Faith”

**Main Points**

1. Romans 10:17 states that faith comes (originates) from hearing and hearing by the word of God.
2. “Word of God” in context does not refer to the Bible, rather to “glad tidings of good things”.
3. We can see natural faith demonstrated every day. We hear good news. We believe it. We act on it.
4. God’s principle/pattern for receiving faith is evident:

* The good news of His grace exists.
* The good news is preached/shared.
* We hear the good news.
* Faith comes to us—we believe the good news (faith = belief).
* We confess/speak / act upon what we believe about the good news we’ve heard.
* The answer comes for whatever we need—salvation, healing, etcetera.

1. Faith isn’t something we “try”. It comes to us when we hear the glad tidings of good things. Someone who claims that he/she “tried” to get saved, but didn’t, is missing something.
2. The example is given of the woman with the issue of blood hearing the glad tidings that Jesus was healing ALL who asked Him. This good news brought faith to her heart (she believed it). She said in her heart that if she could just touch His garment, she’d be healed. She acted upon her belief. She was healed.
3. Jesus told the woman, “YOUR faith has made you well.” We see here the principle that even though faith is a gift to us, it is OUR faith. Her faith not only included what she believed, but what she said and did. She could have refused to believe, or refused to confess, or refused to go, but she didn’t. She chose to act on her faith and was healed.

**Discuss**

1. **Thinking Ahead: How might this principle of supernatural faith apply to some of these situations? What might be the good news in these areas that will bring faith to our hearts? Or, perhaps some would like to share how faith came to them in some of these areas.**

* Dead-end employment
* Stressful time in life
* Frustrating or unhappy marriage
* Never-ending financial struggles
* Unfulfilled dreams or plans in our lives
* What seems to be a hopeless relationship with family or friends
* Inability to get control of our lives (home, yard, office, etc.)
* Health problems or goals
* Wrongs done to us (or done by us) in the past
* Depression or just that blah feeling that never seems to end