

Lesson Six *The Amazing Relationship of Grace and Faith*

A. Definitions

The words *faith* and *believe* come from the same Greek root. Faith is usually used as a noun. Believe is usually used as a verb.

Faith in the Greek is “pistis”: *persuasion, credence, moral conviction, assurance, belief, faith*

Believe is “pisteuō”: *to believe, to have faith, to entrust*

WITHOUT THE
GRACE OF GOD,
THERE IS
NO PURPOSE
FOR FAITH.
WITHOUT FAITH,
THE GRACE OF GOD
DOES NOT
BENEFIT US.

FAITH = BELIEF ⇔ To believe = To have faith

❖ *The grace of God is God’s favor toward man which is entirely unmerited and which cannot be earned by our efforts¹.*

❖ *Faith is belief in unseen truths which results in action on the part of the one who believes².*

B. The Relationship of Grace and Faith

By God’s grace we have the ability to have faith³ to believe in the promises and blessings (unseen truths) that He has already given by His grace and which by grace through faith we receive.

FAITH IS TOTAL
AND COMPLETE
REST IN GOD’S
INFINITE LOVE
AND GRACE.

Faith is a total reliance on God’s love & grace. To have faith is to have total confidence and trust in God as Someone who cannot lie⁴, who keeps His promises⁵, but most of all who loves us⁶ and has adopted us as children. Faith is therefore the ultimate expression of rest.

1 *Romans 8:32* He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

2 *Author’s definition*

3 *Jeremiah 31:33* I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts.

1 *John 3:23* And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

4 *Titus 1:2* In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.

5 *Romans 4:20-22* He (Abraham) did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, 21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. 22 And therefore “it was accounted to him for righteousness.”

2 *Corinthians 1:20* For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.

6 *Galatians 2:20* I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Ephesians 2:7-9

*That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by **grace** you have been saved **through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the **gift of God**, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

GRACE is God’s love/gifts extended to us without merit.
FAITH is the means by which we receive this GRACE.

This is true of EVERYTHING we receive from God.
 Here are some examples.



Romans 10:8b-10

*(That is, **the word of faith** which we preach): ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

GRACE	FAITH		Hope = Wait = Patience = No doubting	GRACE
WE HEAR THE TRUTH OF WHAT GOD HAS PROVIDED BY HIS GRACE	WE BELIEVE IN THE UNSEEN TRUTH	WE TAKE CONFIDENT ACTION		WE RECEIVE WHAT GOD HAS BY GRACE WHAT HE HAS PROMISED/PROVIDED
<i>Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ.</i> Romans 10:17	<i>With the heart we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead.</i>	<i>We confess with our mouths that Jesus is our Lord.</i>	<i>We receive salvation and righteousness.</i>	
These "steps" can happen in a moment. Sometimes they come over a period of time.				

Each element is essential.

1. We must **"hear"** the truth (the promised word of God).
 - *"How can they hear without a preacher?" "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of Christ."*
2. We must **believe** the unseen truth in our hearts (be totally convinced).
 - *Someone can confess Jesus as Lord, but not believe. This person will NOT be saved. FAITH (belief) IS REQUIRED FOR SALVATION.*

3. We must **take action** (in this case, the action is confession of Jesus as Lord).

▪ *Someone can believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, and yet refuse to confess Him as his Lord. This person will NOT be saved.*

4. We must **reject unbelief** and **patiently hope/wait** until we receive the actual thing promised.

Hebrews 4:15-16

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.



GRACE	FAITH			GRACE
WE HEAR THE TRUTH OF WHAT GOD HAS PROVIDED BY HIS GRACE	WE BELIEVE IN THE TRUTH (THOUGH UNSEEN)	WE TAKE CONFIDENT ACTION	Hope = Wait = Patience = No doubting	WE RECEIVE THE WHAT GOD HAS BY GRACE ALREADY PROVIDED/PROMISED
<i>We “hear” that Jesus is our High Priest who understands us.</i>	<i>We <u>believe</u> that Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses and help us.</i>	<i>We come boldly before the throne of grace.</i>		<i>We obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.</i>

1 Peter 2:24

He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

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<i>We “hear” we <u>were</u> healed.</i>	<i>We <u>believe</u> that we <u>were</u> healed by His wounds.</i>	<i>We confess Him as our Healer⁷.</i>		<i>We receive our healing by GRACE (freely, undeserved).</i>

⁷ *...and/or stand up and “walk”, or confess that healing is already ours, or speak to our sickness to leave, etc.*

This is true in every area of our lives. God has already blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus⁸ and with all things pertaining to life and godliness⁹. Just as salvation is already available to anyone who believes and receives Jesus, so are ALL THINGS that have already been given are received by grace through faith.

All together now!

Mark 11:22-24

So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. ²³ For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. ²⁴ Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

GRACE	FAITH			GRACE
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Verses 22-23				
Verses 24				

⁸ *Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ*

⁹ *2 Peter 1:2 As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue.*

One more time!

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

GRACE	FAITH		Hope = Wait = Patience = No doubting	GRACE
WE HEAR THE TRUTH OF WHAT GOD HAS PROVIDED BY HIS GRACE	WE BELIEVE IN THE TRUTH (THOUGH UNSEEN)	WE TAKE CONFIDENT ACTION		
Vs. 6				
Vs. 7-8				

D. Hindrances to Faith: Missing Links

1. Lack of Knowledge: We need Someone and something to believe in.

a. Promises—Blessings: We need to “hear” the word.

i. We need to know what God has promised in different areas so we can have faith to receive. This is a great motivator for enjoying God’s word.

ii. Listen to the word preached or read good teaching books.

b. Knowing the will of God

i. What does the word of God say about this situation?

ii. For things not covered in scripture (whom to marry, where to live, what job to take, etc.) we can ask God for wisdom.

James 1:5-8 *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

4. Lack of Patience and Hope

Hebrews 6:11-12

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, ¹² that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:15

And so, after he (Abraham) had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

James 1:2-4

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

E. Size of our Faith

1. WE HAVE FAITH and OUR FAITH CAN GROW. HOWEVER, since we only need faith the size of a mustard seed to command a mountain to be removed, we do not need to be concerned with how much faith we have since by grace we already have enough faith. **Our faith (confidence) will grow supernaturally as we understand more fully His love for us and see how faithful He is to what He has promised.**

F. He Who Works Miracles among You

Galatians 3:5

Therefore He (GOD) who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

1. It is easy to get faith turned upside down. We can get so focused on “our” faith that we forget about the One who promises. **Our faith is in HIM AND HIS LOVE FOR US, not in our faith.**
2. It is also easy to get our motivations backwards. Yes, we want the results. There is nothing wrong with that...but for whose glory? Again, Jesus suffered and died for us. **HE deserves for us to receive what HE has provided.** It is by HIS GRACE that these things are provided, not our efforts. We simply believe IN HIM WHO HAS PROMISED.

G. The Hideous Trap of Faith as a Work & Other Unhelpful Ideas

1. Many modern versions of the Bible translate the word “faith” in Galatians 5:22 as “faithfulness”. Whether the best translation is “faith” or “faithfulness”, I believe it is fair to say that both are a fruit of the Spirit because both do not grow as a result of our works in the flesh.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith (faithfulness).

2. If faith can be produced by our own efforts or by merely being determined, then faith becomes a work...something for which we can take credit when successful or feel guilty about when not, a mere work of the flesh.

a. Our Flesh: In order to have “more faith” we will pray more, read the Bible more, fast more, give more, go to more Bible studies, be more radical in sharing the gospel, be more radical in worship services (or even engage in weirdness), change to a better formula for prayer, confess more sins, or prove to God we are serious by offering our first born as a living sacrifice!!!

FAITH IS A FRUIT
OF THE SPIRIT
NOT A WORK
OF THE FLESH.

3. So, we need not concern ourselves with increasing our faith. We simply use the faith we have been given by grace and our faith will grow as we need it.

4. Fear and guilt won't help. Do these thoughts sound familiar?

The following statements are **FALSE** and will not help your faith!

- a. How do you expect God to heal you of some future major disease if you don't have faith to see a headache removed?
- b. How can God heal someone as imperfect as you?
- c. How do you expect God to heal you? You eat red meat and don't eat cruciferous vegetables! You don't exercise, and you drink water from plastic bottles. Don't go to His throne asking for healing if YOU aren't eating and drinking “right”!
- d. You can't expect God to heal you if you aren't tithing, praying, fasting, reading the Bible, going to church, witnessing, etc.

G. Obtain Mercy and Find Grace

Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Coming boldly before the throne of grace is our faith.
What we NEED isn't more faith rather mercy and grace.
GRACE: God's unmerited LOVE and FAVOR to us.

“My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Help My Unbelief

C.D. Hildebrand

There is an interesting, but sometimes confusing passage of Scripture recorded in Mark 9:14-29. Jesus had given authority to His disciples to heal and cast out demons. As Jesus was coming to his disciples, he saw a huge crowd around them and the scribes were arguing with them. The people, when they saw Jesus, immediately ran to greet Him. So, Jesus asked the Scribes what they had been talking about. One of the men in the crowd answered that he had brought his son who was demon possessed to have the disciples cast him out, but they couldn't.

Then Jesus asked the father how long the son had this problem, and he said, "Since childhood...but if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

It is important to understand at this point, that in the original manuscripts, there is no punctuation. Translators do their best to put question marks, etc. where they seem most logical. The New King James Version puts verse 23 this way: Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Then in the footnote writes: "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." The New American Standard expresses verse 23 this way: "'If You can?' All things are possible to him who believes."

It seems that Jesus was stating amazement at the unbelieving statement of the man who said, "IF You can do anything..." You might remember that many people who came to Jesus in faith didn't question Jesus' ability, rather His willingness, "IF you are *willing*, you can make me whole," they would say, and Jesus would always reply, "I am willing." They knew He was able. This man doubted Jesus' *ability*. Jesus knew from the beginning that this was the man's problem because he had said to him initially, "O faithless generation".

Later, the disciples were curious as to why they could not cast the demon out, and this is where things get a little confusing. Jesus said to them (as recorded in Matt. 17:20), "because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting,"

You might ask, "Why is this confusing?" I'm glad you asked. The demon later came out, but no one prayed and no one fasted! So, if this kind only goes out by prayer and fasting, where is the prayer and fasting?

There were instances in the past where Jesus could not do any mighty work because of the unbelief of those involved (Matt. 13:58). Clearly, unbelief was in play here since in the Matthew record of this incident Jesus tells the disciples that the demon was not cast out because of *their* unbelief. The disciples did not believe and neither did the father. No one was believing. Add to that a crowd of Scribes who were also likely doubters, and it is clear, no belief was available to heal the man's son. The power was there, but not the belief.

By this same logic (that Jesus could not do mighty works due to unbelief) it is not reasonable to say that the reason the boy was subsequently delivered from the demon was because Jesus had the power to heal Him. Jesus was previously limited by the unbelief of others and obviously, He had power. There is no record of him overriding their lack of belief. Those who did not believe, were not healed.

There was no belief available in this story, so how was this child healed? It is clear that it was not because Jesus had superior faith or power than all the others (which clearly He did). He was limited here the same way He was limited in His home town. There was a problem, and Jesus would see that it was solved.

No one fasted and no one prayed...or did they? Let's see, it is clear no one fasted, so let's deal with that first! This is quite interesting. The following excellent translations actually do not use the words "and fasting" as they are not found in the earliest manuscripts: New American Standard, New International Version, The New Living Translation, and the Amplified. This is to say that Bible scholars with amazing credentials agree that the words "and fasting" were not part of the original text in Mark. What about Matthew? In the Matthew account, the earliest manuscripts don't include the whole sentence, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." This helps us solve mystery number one. Since the earliest manuscripts do not include the words "and fasting", most likely, Jesus did not say, "and fasting". This would explain how the demon came out without anyone fasting.

The earliest manuscripts of Mark do include this line, "This kind cannot come out by anything but *prayer*." So, the second question still remains, "Who in this story prayed and what did he pray so that the demon came out?" If you look closely, you will see that only one person prayed in this story, and it is the man whose child was demon possessed. What does He pray? In Mark 9:24 we read that the father cried out and with tears prays, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief!" What happens next? The demon comes out! The proximity is too clear. Jesus had said that this kind did not come out but by prayer, and the man was the only one to pray before the boy was healed. The man prays that Jesus will help his unbelief. After he *prays* this, the demon is gone.

Now, if we believe that Jesus meant that in order to cast out this particular type of *demon*, one has to pray, then we must explain why someone did not pray before casting him out. However, if Jesus meant that this type of *unbelief* does not go out but by prayer, then this makes sense. The man *prays* that Jesus would help him with his unbelief. Jesus answered this prayer. Once the man no longer had unbelief, the boy was healed. So, since Jesus does not say, "This type of *demon* goes out only by prayer", but rather says, "This *type* only goes out by prayer," it is entirely possible and much more logical that Jesus was referring to *unbelief* when he said "type".

This is good news for us. Unbelief is evil (Hebrews 3:12) because it gets in our way from receiving from God. Unbelief can change the whole course of our lives for the worse.

When this man asked Jesus IF He could help him, Jesus pointed out to him that He was not the problem. Jesus was perfectly capable of healing the boy, and so were his disciples. He had dealt with worse cases of demon possession than this. The problem was that neither the man nor the disciples believed! What needed to come out was the unbelief. How did the unbelief come out? It was through the man's understanding of his need, and his prayer, "Lord, help my unbelief."

This is good news for us. If something doesn't seem to be "working", we can take an honest look at our own unbelief. The problem is not with Jesus or His promises to us. If we believe and have unbelief at the same time, we need to repent of our unbelief, and pray for God to help us believe. As soon as we deal with the unbelief, we will get our answer.¹⁰

¹⁰ Andrew Wommack shares a similar line of thought in A Better Way to Pray, but includes the fasting aspect. I do not believe fasting is part of this story since it is clear that no one fasted before the child was healed. Additionally, the word "fasting" is not found in earliest manuscripts and thought by most Bible translators to not be part of the original text.