



FAITH – IT'S THE REAL THING – PT. 1

by Matt German

Time is moving faster, and it's time for us as believers to get serious about our walk. We must "count the cost" and then reorder our lives accordingly.

Lk. 18:8 "... when the Son of man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

This verse tells us a couple of things: First, it serves as a reminder that Yahshua is indeed coming back; but it also tells us that He will be looking for something when He gets here. What will He be looking for? FAITH! This is not just a general faith in Him for salvation – it is a "now" kind of faith in how we live our lives.

But we can expand on this concept: what about when we come together in His Name NOW? Yahshua said "where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there I am in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20), so He is present in our corporate gatherings. The question is, does He find faith in us there, in those gatherings? Are we truly expecting Him to show up and do something – or are we just going through some sterile ritual? It's time to "do the 'faith thing'!"

Rom. 12:3 "Yahweh has apportioned to each person a measure of faith"

If you are a believer in Yahshua, Yahweh has already given you a measure of faith – what are you doing with it? Is it an active part of your life, or is it something you keep tucked away on a shelf?

Heb. 11:1-8 Now faith is substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ² For by this, the elders obtained testimony. ³ By faith, we understand that the universe has been framed by the word of Yahweh, so that what is seen has not been made out of things which are visible. ⁴ By faith, Abel offered to Yahweh a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he had testimony given to him that he was righteous, Yahweh bearing witness with respect to his gifts; and through it he, being dead, still speaks.

⁵ By faith, Enoch was translated, so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because Elohim ("God") translated him. For he has had testimony given to him that before his translation he had been well pleasing to Elohim. ⁶ Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to Him, for he who comes to Yahweh must believe that He exists, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. ⁷ By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. ⁸ By faith, Abraham, when he was called, obeyed to go out to the place which he was to receive for an inheritance. He went out, not knowing where he went.

The word 'substance' in verse 1 is translated from the Greek *hupóstatis*⁵²⁸⁷, which means "a setting under (support)", while the word "hoped" comes from *elpídzo*¹⁶⁷⁹, to expect or confide. Faith is the "setting under support" of things that we expect. It is not a flimsy hope.

Amplified Bible: "Now faith is the assurance (the confirmation, [a]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 perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]."

Faith is seeing the unseen. It's not seeing what isn't there – it's seeing what will be there but which only exists in the Spirit right now. If you can already see it in the natural, you don't need faith. Notice that verse 6 says that without faith it is impossible to please Yahweh. We also read that Abraham obeyed by faith. And Sarah actually conceived by faith (see v11-12).

Notice that all of these are "Old Testament" examples of people who acted on their faith

Rom. 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word (rhema) of Yahweh

The Aramaic version of this verse translates this way: "Faith is from the hearing of the ear, and the hearing of the ear from the Word of Eloha (God)"

If you want to increase your faith, you've got to be able to hear the Word (*rhema*) – just reading the Word or even memorizing Scripture won't do it. You've got to hear... and then obey. That's another reason why fellowship and corporate worship are so important – to hear the Word preached! But we must also take individual responsibility for hearing the Word by the Spirit – that which the Father is speaking to us today.

Gen. 12:1-4 Now Yahweh said to Abram, “Get out of your country, and from your relatives, and from your father’s house, to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation. I will bless you, and make your name great. You will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you. In you will all of the families of the earth be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram went, as Yahweh had spoken to him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed out of Haran.

This is a powerful account of a man hearing the voice of Yahweh and responding in faith. As we saw in the book of Hebrews, Abram “went out, not knowing where he went” (Hebr. 11:9). It was only after Lot was separated from him, however, that he was able to see the land of his inheritance:

Gen. 13:14-18 Yahweh said to Abram, after Lot was separated from him, “Now, lift up your eyes, and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for all the land which you see, I will give to you, and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then your seed may also be numbered. ¹⁷ Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it to you.” ¹⁸ Abram moved his tent, and came and lived by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and built an altar there to Yahweh.

Not only did Yahweh tell him to look at the land – he actually told him to walk through the length and breadth of it. Yahweh wanted the reality of the promise to make an indelible impression on him. Later, when Abram was concerned about not having a biological heir, Yahweh spoke to him in a vision and expanded on His promise:

Gen. 15:1-6 After these things the word of Yahweh came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Don’t be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.” ² Abram said, “Adonai Yahweh, what will you give me, seeing I go childless, and he who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³ Abram said, “Behold, to me you have given no seed: and, behold, one born in my house is my heir.” ⁴ Behold, the word of Yahweh came to him, saying, “This man will not be your heir, but he who will come forth out of your own body will be your heir.” ⁵ Yahweh brought him outside, and said, “Look now toward the sky, and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” He said to Abram, “So shall your seed be.” ⁶ He believed in Yahweh; and He reckoned it to him for righteousness.

Here Yahweh gave him another sign by which he would be reminded continually of the promise – until it actually came to pass. Unfortunately, Sarai became impatient and came up with a carnal solution to the problem of the lack of a biological

heir. Abram went along with it:

Gen 16:1-5 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, bore him no children. She had a handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. ² Sarai said to Abram, “See now, Yahweh has restrained me from bearing. Please go in to my handmaid. It may be that I will obtain children by her.” Abram listened to the voice of Sarai. ³ Sarai, Abram’s wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her handmaid, after Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to Abram her husband to be his wife. ⁴ He went in to Hagar, and she conceived. When she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes. ⁵ Sarai said to Abram, “This wrong is your fault. I gave my handmaid into your bosom, and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes. Yahweh judge between me and you.”

This single mistake produced Ishmael and would have profound consequences – consequences that we are still dealing with today! We must learn the powerful lesson from this: never create an Ishmael because you couldn’t wait on Isaac! Don’t try to “help” Yahweh fulfill His word to you by allowing your flesh to get involved.

Many years later Yahweh finally fulfills the promise He had made to Abram.

Gen. 17:1-7 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, Yahweh appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am El Shaddai Almighty. Walk before Me, and be blameless. ² I will make my covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.” ³ Abram fell on his face. Elohim talked with him, saying, ⁴ “As for me, behold, My covenant is with you. You will be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ Neither will your name any more be called Abram, but your name will be Abraham; for the father of a multitude of nations have I made you. ⁶ I will make you exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of you. Kings will come out of you. ⁷ I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your seed after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a Elohim to you and to your seed after you.

This renewal of the promise occurred when Abram was 99 years old – 24 years after Yahweh had originally called Abram out of his father’s house in Haran and 13 years after the birth of Ishmael!

Though Abram desires that Yahweh would accomplish His promise through Ishmael, He has a different plan:

v15-22 ¹⁵ Elohim said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but her name will be Sarah. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. Yes, I will bless her, and she will be a mother of nations. Kings

of peoples will come from her.” ¹⁷ Then Abraham fell on his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, “Will a child be born to him who is one hundred years old? Will Sarah, who is ninety years old, give birth?” ¹⁸ Abraham said to Elohim, “Oh that Ishmael might live before you!” ¹⁹ Elohim said, “No, but Sarah, your wife, will bear you a son. You shall call his name Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his seed after him.” ²⁰ As for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He will become the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. ²¹ But my covenant I establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this set time in the next year.” ²² When he finished talking with him, Elohim went up from Abraham.

After all of the years of waiting, Abram finally receives a specific timeframe for when Yahweh would begin to fulfill His promise – it would be at the “set time” in the next year. That’s how our heavenly Father works; He isn’t whimsical; rather, He has a “set time” for every promise. The question is, are we willing to wait – in faith – on His perfect timing, regardless of how long it takes?

Gen. 21:1-6 Yahweh visited Sarah as He had said, and Yahweh did to Sarah as He had spoken. ² Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which Elohim had spoken to him. ³ Abraham called his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. ⁴ Abraham circumcised his son, Isaac, when he was eight days old, as Elohim had commanded him. ⁵ Abraham was one hundred years old when his son, Isaac, was born to him. ⁶ Sarah said, “Elohim has made me laugh. Everyone who hears will laugh with me.”

Finally, after a fourth of a lifetime, the promised seed arrived. What an amazing day that must have been to Abraham and Sarah! But it wouldn’t have happened if Abraham hadn’t had the faith to believe that Yahweh could do what He had promised. But that wasn’t the end of the story – next came the ultimate test of his faith:

Gen. 22:1-3 It happened after these things, that Elohim tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” He said, “Here I am.” ² He said, “Now take your son, your only son, whom you love, even Isaac, and go into the land of Moriah. Offer him there for a burnt offering on one of the mountains which I will tell you of.” ³ Abraham rose early in the morning, and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son. He split the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went to the place of which Elohim had told him.

Notice how Abraham responded to this gut-wrenching command: he “rose early in the morning” and went. I believe that he had probably spent a good part of the night just looking

up at the stars, reminding himself – and Yahweh – of His promise to make a great nation of his son Isaac.

v4-8 ⁴ On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place far off. ⁵ Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will go yonder. We will worship, and come back to you.” ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. He took in his hand the fire and the knife. They both went together. ⁷ Isaac spoke to Abraham his father, and said, “My father?” He said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” ⁸ Abraham said, “Elohim will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they both went together.

Abraham was prophesying when he told the young men that he and Isaac would go to worship and then return to them. He was also prophesying when he answered Isaac, telling him that Yahweh Himself would provide a lamb for the offering.

v9-19 ⁹ They came to the place which Elohim had told him of. Abraham built the altar there, and laid the wood in order, bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar, on the wood. ¹⁰ Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ The angel of Yahweh called to him out of the sky, and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” He said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Don’t lay your hand on the boy, neither do anything to him. For now I know that you fear Elohim, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and saw that behind him was a ram caught in the thicket by his horns. Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham called the name of that place Yahweh-jireh. As it is said to this day, “In Yahweh’s mountain it will be provided.” ¹⁵ The angel of Yahweh called to Abraham a second time out of the sky, ¹⁶ and said, “I have sworn by myself, says Yahweh, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ that in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying I will multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore. Your seed will possess the gate of his enemies. ¹⁸ In your seed will all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.” ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they rose up and went together to Beersheba...

This story is one of the greatest examples of true faith in the entire Old Testament: by faith Abraham and Sarah received Isaac, after many years of waiting; by faith Abraham obeyed Yahweh in going to Mount Moriah to offer Isaac as a burnt offering; and by faith he prophesied of Yahweh’s supernatural provision. His faith was “the substance of things expected, the evidence of things not seen”. Faith truly is “the real thing”. Are you living by faith – this kind of faith – every day?

Recent Sermons

- Faith – It's the Real Thing – Pts 1-5 (7/28 – 9/08/12)
- For Zion's Sake (7/21/12)
- Beware the False – Cling to the True (7/14/12)
- Write the Vision (6/30/12)

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Available at many of your favorite retailers.

Yahweh's Feast Calendar – 2012

We understand that people have different understandings of Yahweh's calendar. These are the feast dates for 2012 as observed by Lion of Judah Family Worship Center:

Passover*	Apr. 5 th (Thu.)
Days of Unleavened Bread	Apr. 6 th – 12 th (Fri. – Thu.)
Pentecost	May 27 th (Sun.)
Trumpets	Sep. 16 th (Su.)
Day of Atonement	Sep. 25 th (Tue.)
Feast of Tabernacles	Sep. 30 th – Oct. 6 th (Su. – Sab.)
Last Great Day	October 7 th (Su.)

* observed the evening before

Bear in mind that the Biblical day begins at sunset the night before.

Contact us:

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