

# Faith the Way into Grace

Martyn Shenstone

The essence of faith is believing and speaking.

**Since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, 'I believe and therefore I spoke,' we also believe and therefore speak.'**

**2 Corinthians 4:13**

The Greek word for *spirit* here in the Bible text is *pneuma*. It simply means the *heart* or *life* of something. Literally, the living essence of what is being referred to. Faith is active not passive. By definition it is alive and not dead. Faith is not mentally assenting to the fact that God exists. It is not a state of waiting. Faith *is* believing and speaking.

As believers we should believe and speak *what is written* (2 Corinthian 4:13) not what we think. The greatest downfall of many people is that they believe, speak and do what they think and want not what God's word says.

Some people even assert that faith is presumption or a form of legalistic works and that only passively waiting is properly trusting in God's grace. Grace is often thought to be God giving you something without any action on your part to receive it. This is not true. According to scripture, God's grace has already made provision but that provision must be received by faith. That's why Romans says:

**Therefore it is of faith so that it might be according to grace.**

**Romans 4:16**

A careful reading of all of Romans Chapter 4 reveals that faith is the way to receive God's grace and that although faith takes effort and action, it is clearly not considered by God as works or good deeds; Which some people mistakenly think is the way to become righteous or find God's favour. True biblical faith

comes from God's word abiding in our hearts. God has given us all the same measure of faith (Romans 12:3). This faith already in us is empowered when we hear the word of God.

**Now faith comes by hearing and hearing that of the word of God**

**Romans 10:17**

The word *comes* is absent in the Greek. It literally reads, '*Now faith - by hearing and hearing...*'

Our faith is ignited by hearing God's word. The human spirit is the catalyst between the free gift of God's grace through His word on the outside and the measure of faith on the inside of us all. The word on the outside doesn't do anything on it's own. The measure of faith on the inside of us doesn't do anything on it's own either. However, when the word of God on the outside gets into our hearts and abides there (not to be confused with excitedly flying around in our head) it ignites the faith in us that God gave as an equal gift to all men! All we then have to do is speak the same word that is in our hearts out of our mouths and the provision that God gave us through His grace becomes ours – we appropriate God's provision for us by tapping into His grace through faith. By believing and speaking.

We do not need to persuade or demand anything of God Himself – His grace is always switched to ON. The real question is, is our faith switched to ON and do we have enough of God's word in us to ignite it?

Hearing the words of the world pervert faith in us and ignite fear. This prevents us from giving our lives and actions to God as He desires for our own good and for the good of those around us. Fear hinders us from walking in the fullness of God's grace.

Mixing faith and fear do not produce faith. Four hours of feeding on God's word followed by four hours of being entertained by sin and fear on television, equal nothing. Let me explain that in practical detail: You read God's word about deliverance from danger. Your mind becomes renewed by the

washing of the water of the word (Ephesians 5:26) and the truth of God's grace for your protection begins to sink into your spirit. If you subsequently face a road accident (perhaps you see a car heading towards you out of the corner of your eye and know there may be a collision) what comes out of your mouth is faith, because that's what's abiding in your heart. Jesus said so:

**Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks**

**Matthew 12:34**

By speaking words of faith in this hypothetical crisis you would avert a collision altogether or render it nothing more than minor damage to your vehicle because your faith will enable God's grace to be manifest to you in that situation. I have seen many so called spiritual people blustering words of fear in a crisis which if it had not been contained by others would have resulted in harm.

On the other hand, if your heart is full of TV programme scenarios of death and injury from car accidents, last minute screams, cries of 'oh my God' and sirens, then guess what will come out your mouth? Exactly what's in your heart. You will probably swear or say something like, 'No I don't want to die' – which is just another way of saying, 'Now I may die.' Words of fear put you outside of God's grace. Words of faith are the way into God's grace.

Some people find this arrogant and superior. *Who do you think you are?!* they say. Well I am the person who did not die when the entire back bumper of a car literally flew off it in front of me (it didn't even touch the ground) on a motorway at 70mph - heading straight toward my windscreen – I am the person who spoke to that bumper without thinking and watched it flip violently to the side in a millisecond and slam down flat onto the central reservation as though by some unseen hand. My faith tapped into God's grace. I spoke His word which was abiding in my heart and instantly grace was manifested to me. Another person may have screamed, yelled, blasphemed or stared blankly. I am not better than other people I knew who

died in car accidents, the only difference was the word of God ABIDING in me. It was abiding in me because I made the choice to put it there. Please don't misunderstand me. I didn't say I was behaving so well at the time that the forces behind that potential catastrophe had to back off. The Bible talks about the shield of faith not the shield of perfect behaviour – certainly actions are important and poor choices put pressure on us that drain our heart and impacts our faith – but we have to be clear about this; It takes faith to overcome.

**This is the victory that overcomes the world -  
our faith**

**1 John 5:4**

God's grace for anything in our lives is received only by faith, either our own or someone else exercising faith for us on our behalf – although this has its limitations. If we consistently make the decision not to put God's word in our heart and ignite the measure of faith already given to us by God, then we have already chosen not to partake of God's grace in being overcomer's in this life.

This process applies in every area of our lives, from salvation, which is received by believing the gospel and then speaking and saying out loud that Jesus is our Lord, right through to healing and protection.

If in any circumstance we refuse to have faith, we remain in that situation in which we would not believe for God's grace without God's grace. God's attitude to us never changes. He always loves us and waits to deliver us. God's salvation for every challenge we face is always available to us because Jesus made us worthy. The difference between our receiving it or not is our faith - what we believe and speak. God's grace is available to all but we have to receive it – by faith.

**For the grace of God that brings salvation has  
appeared to all men.**

**Titus 2:11**