

TO LIVE BY FAITH, IS TO GIVE BY FAITH

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Many Christians feel obliged to prioritize their service to Christ by telling him through prayers, music, public speaking and testimony; how much they love him. This is often promoted and perceived as one of the greatest and most rewarding deeds of the Christian life. Sadly, this is wrong and ill conceived. Many would be surprised how few times either Christ or God mentioned their love for each other. It is not that it wasn't there, it is just that they preferred to display their love for each other through actions and deeds... rather than words. Living by faith requires such action... even from us. Jesus lived by faith and wants us to imitate his love towards others through deeds and actions, not just words.

Jesus quotes the destiny of those who were to be anointed by the Spirit.

ACT 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. *God supernaturally empowers Christians to go and develop their faith the same way that Jesus did... through commitment and actions. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is the power behind the success of all true believers.*

Christ's calling is also our calling... his priorities are also ours.

JOH 4:34 Jesus saith unto them, **My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.**

35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. *Today (everyday), is the day that faith must be applied, not when you feel up to it and certainly not when you feel stronger or more worthy.*

36 And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. *Sewing and reaping are a joint effort of the whole fellowship... God blesses both. God's priority is to save souls and to nurture them, that needs to be ours as well.*

Christ has chosen us; we have not chosen him... therefore he knows what we are capable of... we don't.

JOH 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. *We cannot achieve God's purposes if we don't step out in faith and see what he will do with us.*

God wants our whole lives to be filled with faith, not just our meeting times.

PRO 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. *The pressures of modern life can be significantly eased, if we faithfully give of all our increases... this also requires lasting faith and is a vital component to our overcoming.*

The principle of faithful giving, is promoted and demonstrated through the encouragement of Elijah.

1KIN 17:10 So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

11 And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

12 And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

13 And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

14 For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth.

15 And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days.

16 And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah. *It doesn't matter how little you have; God will bless it and allow you faith to develop and mature in a more fruitful manner. You cannot live by faith if you are not prepared to give by faith!!*