

Dear friend,

The bible says in Hebrews 11:6 that "without faith it is impossible to please God." Jesus told us in Mark 11:22 to "have faith in God." We all want to be a people of strong faith who gives glory to God like Abraham did. Abraham was using his faith for something that was absolutely impossible in the natural realm. God had promised they would have a son born from their own bodies. Sarah was past the age of "the time of women" meaning, her body was no longer producing eggs to be fertilized. The bible says Abraham's body was "dead" when it came to producing children. Yet the faith of Abraham and Sarah brought about the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit to produce a child (Issac) through whose bloodline eventually Christ would be born.

**Rom 4:19-21 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: (20) He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; (21) And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.**

Sue and I have used our faith to believe God for many seemingly "impossible" things over the years. But I must admit, sometimes while standing in faith I would sometimes have the thought, *"I hope I have enough faith to pull this off."* Such thinking is a subtle form of doubt that needs to be addressed. Recently while teaching on the subject the Lord gave me a simple illustration to counteract such discouraging thoughts.

There is a lady at our church named Bea that I have known for nearly twenty years. In this illustration, I was preaching the Word and about to serve communion when I remembered that I had forgotten to make arrangements to have bread available for the communion service. In the illustration, I gave Bea a few dollars and asked her if she would please go to the nearest store and buy some bread and bring it back to the church. She said she would do it and left to go get the bread. While she was gone, I continued preaching my message for about five minutes when suddenly I stopped preaching and began muttering the thoughts that were in my head. I said, *"I hope I have enough faith to pull this off. Bea promised to bring the bread, but she hasn't shown up with it. I haven't heard anything from her since I asked. What if she doesn't bring the bread? What if I don't have enough faith to cause her to bring the bread?"*

If you know Bea, how honest she is, the strength of character she has ... you would say to me something like ... *"Why are you worried about your faith? It's not based on your faith. It's based on Bea's character and the fact she gave her word she would bring the bread. You need to have faith in Bea, not your faith. If Bea said she would do it ... she will do it. Your job is to simply believe that what Bea has promised, she is well able to perform. If Bea promised to bring the bread ... she WILL bring the bread."*

It is interesting to me that the illustration was about Bea bringing "bread." Jesus gave us a teaching on this same subject and He used bread in that teaching as well:

**Luk 11:5-13 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; (6) For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him? (7) And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. (8) I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet**

**because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. (9) And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. (10) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. (11) If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? (12) Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? (13) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

Are you getting the simplicity of this illustration? We are not instructed to have faith in our faith. Jesus told us to have faith in God. Trust His character. Trust His honesty. Trust His ability to do what He said He would do. The real problem is that we don't know Him well enough to believe that He will ALWAYS DO WHAT HE PROMISED. If we ask, we shall receive. If we seek, we will find. If we knock, the door will be opened. He will give us the Holy Spirit to manifest the "bread" in whatever form we need.

What peace those thoughts bring to my soul. When doubts try to rise up against the promises of God's Word I can simply say ... *"I trust Him. I know Him. He cannot lie. What He has promised, He is well able to perform. Soul, take your ease. There is nothing to fear."*

Sue and I love you and appreciate you. We thank God for your generous and giving heart. God bless you!

Your friend and co-laborer,

*GARY*