Daily Devotion #226

**Faith Must Be Practiced**

**Hebrews 11:6 (NASB)** *“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him*.”

Have you ever met someone who seems to have amazing faith in God? This is the person who lives their life each day, trusting God for whatever may come and even when bad things happen or things outside of their control, they keep on going and looking to God for everything they need. This is the person who says that in the midst of tragedy or great loss, “Let’s just trust God and see what He does”, or something to that nature. Those people are amazing. They are amazing because no matter what the situation is, they have learned to put all their hope and confidence in God and, as a result, they are at peace. Not that every situation is peaceful, but internally they are at rest - with themselves and the people and circumstances in their lives. What is it about these people that gives them such resolve? The answer is more simple than you might think. They take God at His Word. They practice their faith. They don’t just become followers of Christ and immediately have a strong faith. Their faith took time to develop. And the reason it developed is because they used it everyday.

These people look to God in the good times and the bad times and when life is questionable. But in those times, they rely on what they believe and, as a result, God honors them with results. Not that the results are always what they were looking for, but when things come that they don’t know how to handle or have no ability to handle, they trust God. And in that trust, they find peace. And they are at peace with whatever happens because they know and are confident of what God says to them. Such as what the Apostle Paul said to the church in Rome. **Romans 8:28 (NASB)** “*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”* Notice, Paul does not say all things are good, but that all things work together for good. Not just for anyone, but for those who belong to God and have but their faith in Him. These are the people who see great things from God. Not necessarily the dead raised to life or amazing miracles, but internally they see God at work in their hearts, making them the person He wants them to be.

The writer to the Hebrews said, **Hebrews 11:1 (NASB)** *“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”* This means that faith gives us the assurance that God will perform all He said He would and our faith then leads us to the conviction that He will accomplish everything He sets out to do. But for faith in God to be fulfilled, faith must be practiced. Too many people are like the members of the basketball team or football team or whatever team they are on, who never get in the game, not because they don’t have the ability, but because they don’t put the effort into practicing what is necessary to get on the court or field. So they stay content to sit on the bench and be excited that they are on the team. That certainly has value, but getting in the game is the goal. To do so means there must be practice and practice and more practice so that when the time comes to use what they have developed, they are ready.

Faith is the same way. Anyone can say they have faith in God, but they prove their faith when the challenges come. Do they fall apart? If so, they fall apart because they have never practiced their faith. But those who daily live by faith are the ones who who are used by God and live with peace knowing that everything will be ok, even if they struggle. In fact, the entire chapter of Hebrews 11 is a record of people who practiced their faith in the midst of the most trying times of their lives. And they made it through, not because they had it easy, but because their faith caused them to look to heaven - to keep their eyes and their focus on God.

Are you wondering why you don’t see God more actively in your life? It’s not because God is not there. The answer is that you need to practice your faith. Then you will see God do great and might things, not only in your heart and mind but also in the events of your life.