



HOW DOES FAITH BECOME A LIFESTYLE?



Imagine leaving out a life that is pleasing to the creator. Having God smile down at you and applaud you. That is a life transformed to a lifestyle of faith. More than ever, as much as it is pleasing to God, you get to embody contentment and the fulfilled feeling of living in the original design of God.

Reading through Judges 6:1-14 and Numbers 13:1-3, 25-33, you'll notice that everyone had some sort of problem that presented itself before them. They, as God's people were afraid because of the EVIDENCE that was presented to them. It seemed as if the enemy was stronger than them. At times we tend to think that God is stronger because the enemy is weak, but that is a misleading and untrue perception. That kind of thinking can cause you to magnify certain oppositions, and make you count them as too great for God. God is strong because He is The Almighty God and Supreme Being, not because of the strength or weakness of His opposition.

Knowing that God is Almighty should cause you to look away from the natural realm. This knowledge births faith which looks away from the external and internal factors of the natural realm and fixes its focus on Jesus. Fixing your focus on Jesus is not just a call for observation, but a call to dependency.

Faith looks away from the natural and looks to the spiritual.

Sometimes God can magnify the challenges you face so that you acknowledge His intervention. He wants you to turn away from looking at how great the problem is or how powerless you are or even your capabilities and He wants you to acknowledge Him as The Almighty.

For example, God told Gideon that he will not fight with 32 000 nor 10 000 soldiers instead, He cut down his army to 300 men. "The Lord said, "Gideon, your army is too big. I can't let you win with this many soldiers. The Israelites would think that they had won the battle all by themselves and that I didn't have anything to do with it" (Judges 7:2 CEV). Indeed Gideon's victory didn't come from the numbers of soldiers but God Almighty. His every command introduces us to the faith lifestyle. So the faith lifestyle is simply a life responsive to His commands.

You might ask how one can make faith a lifestyle. Since everything has a beginning, the faith lifestyle starts with a decision.

A decision to make the WORD OF GOD the FINAL AUTHORITY of your life. "My son, pay attention to my words and be willing to learn; Open your ears to my sayings. Do not let them escape from your sight; Keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh" Proverbs 4:20-22 (AMP).

This is to make His Word the standard of your life. So whenever you face a contradicting situation, the Word of God is what you turn to as the first voice of counsel.

In making the Word the final authority of your life, comes the FEEDING and the MEDITATION of it. To live by faith, we need to feed on the Word and meditate on it. This is evident in the verse; "People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God" Matthew 4:4 (NLT). This is also evident when God spoke to Joshua saying; "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success" Joshua 1:8 (NKJV).

There is a difference between feeding on the word and meditating. FEEDING on the Word is reading and learning what God says, whereas MEDITATING is spending time thinking about it over and over again. Your meditation should result in the application of the Word meditated upon.

Faith begins where the will of God is known, and feeding on His Word brings the will of God into knowledge. You can't have faith in His Word if you don't know what it says. Applying the Word of God to your situation will become natural when meditated upon, and as a result, faith becomes a LANGUAGE. The more you meditate, the more fluent you become.

The Word of God wasn't meant to merely serve as good information but to be experienced. Therefore to live the faith lifestyle, you need to ACT ON THE WORD. James urges his listeners by saying, "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" James 1:22 (NKJV). One of the ways of acting upon the Word is speaking it. Your faith grows when God's Word becomes a vital part of your daily speech. In front of situations, speak the Word of God. Ezekiel in the valley of dry bones didn't merely speak, but He spoke the Word of God (see Ezekiel 37).



Another way of acting on the Word of God is to TAKE DOMINION. If something gets out of line, put it back and align it to God's will (His Word). Don't let your body, your finances or any other circumstance tell you what to do; you should be the one dictating with the Word of God. If things get out of line, take authority and put them back where they belong! Don't let the devil control you or have dominion over your life. You are led by the Spirit and filled with the life of God.

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT is also an important part of the faith lifestyle. "Building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit" Jude 20 (NKJV). Praying in the spirit doesn't only mean praying in tongues, though the spirit gives us tongues. God understands you beyond the human words, so even your sighs and groans are well understood by Him.

Don't allow your limited vocabulary to dictate your prayers. Just remain in His presence and let the Spirit take control and God will understand any kind of expression that you will produce. "In the same way the Spirit [comes to us and] helps us in our weakness. We do not know what prayer to offer or how to offer it as we should, but the Spirit Himself [knows our need and at the right time] intercedes on our behalf with sighs and groaning too deep for words" Romans 8:26 AMP.

Lastly, to a non-exhaustive list of how faith becomes a lifestyle, is to continually GIVE GOD THANKS. The Bible says, "Be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God" Philippians 4:6 (KJV).

Most Christians wait until the answer has manifested in a physical form to thank God. But as a person of faith, you don't wait to see to give thanks, but give thanks to God because you believe.

Any kind of prayers you make must always be accompanied by thanksgiving and praises to God. You offer thanksgiving because you trust in His nature as faithful to answer prayers.

