

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION
SESSION 75 - FAITH PART 14
SEVEN STEPS TO THE HIGHEST KIND OF FAITH PART 1**

NAME _____
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SESSION _____

We have already covered most of the points contained in this session. Now, I want to bring them together so that you could intelligently check up on the progress you are making in your faith walk and get ready for your exam, so to speak.

If you have studied the previous sessions on faith and they have taken hold in your heart, the devil is going to try to contest you. But the Lord wants you to be prepared for Satan's wiles. You can be fully prepared for any situation or circumstance that may arise. Therefore, I want you to check up on your own life and your faith walk and keep pressing on to attain the highest kind of faith.

There are seven steps to attaining the highest kind of faith – the faith which takes God at His Word and gets results. In this session we will discuss the first three steps.

STEP NUMBER ONE
KNOW THE INTEGRITY OF GOD'S WORD

The first step necessary to attain the highest kind of faith is to know the integrity of God's Word. You must know that God's Word is actually what it declares itself to be. The Word of God is a revelation from God to us. We should also realize that the Bible is God speaking to us now – today.

The bible is not only a Book of the past and a Book of the future, but it is a Book of the **NOW**. This Book, the Bible, is a God-breathed, a God-indwelt, and a God-inspired message.

Hebrews 4:12

“For the word of God is QUICK (alive), and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Moffatt's translation reads, ***“For the Logos [Word] of God is a living thing...”*** You see, “quick” means alive or living. And so, the Word of God is a living thing. But it will only come alive to you and work in your life as you accept it and act upon it.

Therefore, the first step to attaining the highest kind of faith is to settle on the absolute integrity of God's word. The Word of God should be of foremost importance in your life. Sometimes folks feel that God hasn't spoken to them unless they have received a message in tongues or a prophecy, but God's Word – the Bible – is God speaking to us! *Tongues and interpretations, or prophecy are not to be put above the Holy written Word of God.*

THE WORD COMES FIRST

The word of God comes first! The gift of tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy are inspirational vocal gifts given to us in order to inspire us in line with the written Word of God. If someone gives an utterance that is *not* in line with the word, then it is not the Holy Spirit speaking. No, it is just someone speaking out of his own thinking or speaking by a wrong spirit. We need to judge these things in the light of the Word, as we are told to do.

The Word of God is of foremost importance because it is God speaking to us. You must always maintain that attitude and act upon the Word in this way – as though the Lord Jesus Christ Himself were here in person speaking to you. When you settle on that fact, you have gone a long way to understanding faith.

There is no need to try and argue about the word. It is amazing how many folks will endeavor to get around certain truths in the bible or explain them away. But you should always accept the bible for what it says and walk in the light of it.

Then again, it seems that some folks want the word to say certain things, so they just sort of read certain things into the word, whether they are in the Word or not. We must not do this. We only have the right to believe what the word says, and not what *we think* it says.

When you really begin to study the Word for yourself and accept it as it is, you will wonder why in the world you believed some things the way you did. It is astounding some of the things people believe that really are not in the word of God at all. It seems we often accept what someone says about the Word instead of seeing for ourselves what the Word of God actually says.

A DECISION TO BELIEVE THE WORD

A young man was bedfast but realized that through reading the Word that God still heals. His church did not believe in healing for the day, but the more he studied the Word of God the more he saw that faith and healing were true. He determined to *walk in light* of the Word of God instead of what his church believed.

In fact, he had to go against the teaching of his own church and what most of his family believed. He had to determine through studying the Word to either go with what God said or what tradition said. He went with what God said and was healed.

It is amazing how we become so “church minded” instead of Bible minded. Sometimes we can act religious but not be born again. It is amazing how your loved ones (those that think they have your best interests at heart) can oppose you and try to keep you from walking in the light of God’s Word and many times become a tool of the devil to hinder you!

You must study God’s Word for yourself and receive what God wants you to have. Don’t be discouraged when family members try to discourage you. Stop talking to them about faith and healing. Keep your thoughts to yourself and quietly determine to obey the Word of God for yourself. Say this out loud: God’s Word is God speaking to me!

STEP NUMBER TWO KNOW THE REALITY OF OUR REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

The second step necessary to attain the highest kind of faith is to know the reality of our redemption in Christ. We should understand redemption not just as a doctrine and not as a philosophy or as a creed of some kind. We should know that IN CHRIST we have actually been redeemed from the authority of Satan. (Colossians 1:13.) In the new birth we have been translated into the Kingdom of God’s Son, the Kingdom of God. In other words, we have been placed into the very family of God.

DELIVERED FROM SATAN’S KINGDOM

Colossians 1:12-14

“¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [able] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³ WHO HATH DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: ¹⁴ In whom WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, even the forgiveness of sins.”

Another translation of **verse 12** reads, ***“... which made us ABLE to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.”*** Thank God that we are able to be partakers of our inheritance and we can enter into our inheritance in Christ!

Now read **verse 13**, ***“Who HATH delivered us from the POWER of darkness...”*** This verse does not say God is *going to deliver us*; it says He has *already delivered us* (past tense) when we were born again into God’s kingdom.

The Greek word translated “power” here means authority. In other words, we could read that scripture, “Who has delivered us from the *authority* of darkness...”

The word “darkness’ means everything that Satan is – the kingdom of Satan. But in Christ we have been delivered from the power or authority of Satan’s kingdom.

Notice **Colossians 1:14** says, ***“In whom we have redemption through his [Jesus’] blood...”*** Therefore, Satan cannot lord it over the believer, for we have been redeemed!

Let’s look at **Revelation 12:11**.

“¹¹ and they overcame him [the accuser of the brethren, Satan] BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, AND BY THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY...”

The American Standard Version reads, ***“... they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony.”***

The blood of Jesus is the basis for our victory. But, you see, you must add your testimony to that; or we could say, you have to add your *confession* to it.

You must stand your ground against the enemy with your confession of faith in God’s word. Because Satan is the god of this world, he will try to have authority over you. Yes, Satan will try to exercise his authority over you in this life. But you simply have to know that you have been delivered from the power of darkness and from the authority of Satan through the blood of Jesus Christ.

You must know that by virtue of the new birth that you have been translated into the Kingdom of God’s dear Son, Jesus Christ (**Col. 1:13**). In Christ you have redemption through His blood, and you can overcome the devil in every single combat, no matter what the test or trial is. Because of the Blood of the Lamb and because of the word of your testimony or your confession of faith, you are more than a conqueror! Thank God that there is power in the blood.

As a new creature in Christ, Satan’s dominion over us is ended. Jesus is the Lord and the Head of the new creature that we have become. And corporately, the Church is the Body of Christ and Christ is the Head of His Body.

The whole body of believers (that is the born-again ones) is a new man in Christ. And each one of us individually is a new creature because we are all members of that body. He is the ONE who is to rule and dominate His own Body, corporately and individually.

REDEEMED FROM SICKNESS

Some people might say that they didn't succeed in a particular venture because success isn't in line with the Word of God. Some have even said that their spirits belong to the Lord, but their bodies haven't been redeemed yet. They have even said, "We will have to go right on suffering sickness and disease in the physical realm in this life. The time is coming when we will not have to suffer with sickness and disease, but that time isn't come yet."

They didn't read the bible that I read! Their philosophy isn't in the bible.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20:

"¹⁹ What? Know ye not that your body is the TEMPLE OF THE HOLY GHOST, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

In this verse it not only speaks that your spirit is bought with a price, but your body is also, so we are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit, which belong to God.

Notice it says, ***"... glorify God in your body..."*** That means you are to glorify God in YOUR body. Does God get any glory out of the devil dominating you physically with sickness and disease? Could God get any glory out of a body which is the temple of the Holy Ghost being deformed or afflicted by the enemy with sickness or diseases? No, certainly not!

We need to see these things clearly in the light of God's Word and then we will learn to take a stand against anything that attacks our bodies, just as quickly as we would stand against any of Satan's attacks.

Let's look back at **Colossians 1:12** which says, ***"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [or able] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light."***

Healing is part of our inheritance as children of God as we walk in the light. Healing is revealed to us in God's word.

The Bible tells us that we have dominion and authority over the devil through the blood of Jesus, which includes sickness and disease (**John 10:10; Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24**).

As we saw in **Revelation 12:11** it is revealed to us in God's Word that it is **by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony** that we overcome Satan. If we are born again, we have already been delivered from the power of darkness and have already been translated (placed) into the Kingdom of God's dear son (**Col. 1:13**).

Now notice what **Colossians 1:12** says, **"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [able] to be PARTAKERS of the inheritance..."** Thank God, I can partake of my inheritance right now! Don't relegate it to the future when you get to heaven. We have an inheritance now.

We are delivered from the authority and power of darkness now. We are translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son now. We have deliverance and redemption from the hand of Satan now. We can overcome the enemy now by the blood of the lamb and by the word of our testimony, or our confession. We can glorify God now in our bodies and in our spirits which are God's now.

NO TRESPASSING – DEVIL THIS MEANS YOU!

I like the way one retired missionary prayed for folks. He was asked to help a man once in a prayer line to pray for a sick woman. He said, "Father, this woman is Your child. She belongs to you. It is not right that the devil should dominate her through sickness and disease. So, we thank You, Father, because You have made provision for her deliverance. You laid her sickness and her diseases on Jesus, for it is written, **'... Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.'**" (**Matt. 8:17**).

Then this retired missionary talked to the devil. No, he wasn't praying to the devil, he was talking to the devil; he was exercising his authority over the devil based on the Word of God.

He said, "Now, Satan, you are going to have to take your hands off this woman's body because this body is a temple of the Holy Ghost. It belongs to God, and you have no right to trespass on God's property. Now we demand that you remove yourself from God's property."

Then the retired missionary talked to the woman. He didn't pray to the woman, but he talked to her. He said, "Now, sister, Satan has oppressed your body with sickness, but God has made provision for your deliverance. Your body is a temple of the Holy Ghost, and you are commanded to glorify God in your body and in your spirit."

Can God be glorified in your body by the devil dominating it? No, therefore, you stand against this sickness with me, and together we will demand that Satan stop trespassing on God's property."

There was a sign on a lawn which read, "Gentlemen will not, and others must not trespass on this property." So, put a sign on your body, so to speak, in the spiritual realm. You cannot see it because it is in the spirit, but the devil can see it and it says, NO TRESPASSING! Devil this means you!" Do this by faith. Keep that sign up so Satan can't trespass on your body, which is God's property."

STEP NUMBER THREE **KNOW THE REALITY OF THE NEW CREATION**

The third step necessary to attain the highest kind of faith is to know the reality of the new creation and to know the legal side of redemption. You need to know that in the mind of Justice, we were recreated in Christ Jesus.

You should also know the reality of the new birth vitally for yourself. You should know and understand that the moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and confessed Him as your Lord, you were recreated. That is when the *legal* act of redemption, which was accomplished in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection became a reality in your own life. In the new birth you have in your spirit the very life and the very nature of God.

The new birth is not just an experience. It is not a religion, and it is not joining a church. It is the actual rebirth of our spirit. We are the very sons and daughters of Almighty God through the rebirth. He is our very own Father; we are His very own children. We know that we have passed out of Satan's dominion – spiritual death – into the realm of life through Jesus Christ.

John said in **1 John 3:14**, "*We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren...*" We know that we are in the family of God. We know we are children of God. We were born into the family. You cannot *join* the family; you have to be *born* into it.

What will be the effects of this knowledge of the reality of the new birth and the new creation? In the new birth God becomes your very own Father, and you are His very own child. You have as much freedom to fellowship with the Father as Jesus had in His earthly walk because God loves you even as He loved Jesus (**John 17:23**).

Someone might say, "I just can't believe that God loves me as much as He loved Jesus." Well, thank God, I can believe it! I believe the Word and I am thrilled about it.

Colossians 1:18

“¹⁸ And he [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

You see, we were born again and redeemed from spiritual death, too, but Jesus is the firstborn from the dead (Rev. 1:18). We are begotten of God, but Jesus was the first One who was begotten of God. (Heb. 1:6; Rev. 1:5.) Peter said in 1 Peter 1:23, ***“Being born again [begotten] not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.”*** (See 1 Peter 1:3.)

Thank God, we are begotten of God. We are born of God. We are children of God. We are heirs of God. We are joint or equal heirs with Jesus Christ. (Romans 8:17.)

We are not magnifying ourselves when we talk about our inheritance in Christ. We are magnifying God and what He has done for us through the Lord Jesus Christ. We did not make ourselves new creatures; God made us new creatures. And Jesus is the Author and the Finisher of our Faith (Hebrews 12:2.) Thank God, we are new creatures created by God in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:10

“¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus...”

DON'T PASS JUDGMENT ON GOD'S CREATION

We did not make ourselves who we are and what we are. God did! And I must tell you, you had better be careful about passing judgment on God's creation.

You know, folks have thought they were being humble by saying, “I am so unworthy.” But God did not make any unworthy creation. You see, if you say you are unworthy, you are not looking at things the way God does, and you are not living in line with the epistles which were written to you as a member of the body of Christ. Many folks look at others from the physical or natural standpoint. I am not unworthy because I am IN CHRIST, and you are not unworthy either if you are in Christ.

People just thought by saying they were unworthy that they were being humble. They didn't know they were being ignorant and giving place to the devil to dominate them.

You see, **Ephesians 2:10** says we are **GOD'S OWN WORKMANSHIP**, and when you belittle yourself, you are actually complaining about what God has done for you in the new birth. You are belittling His work in your life, and you are speaking contrary to the Word of God.

We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, so quit looking at yourself from the natural standpoint. Keep looking at yourself in Christ, and you will look much better! God the Father doesn't see you like anyone else sees you. He sees you IN CHRIST.

What defeats people is that they are looking at themselves and others from the natural standpoint. You and I have no right to do that. We need to look at things the way God does, and he tells us how he sees us in His Word.

REPENTANCE VS. DOING PENANCE

One minister once said he was having a hard time. He said, "I guess I am just paying for the life I lived before I got saved. You know, I was awful rough."

But friends, when you are born again, you are redeemed from the penalty of sin. If you are going to go on paying for your wrongdoing, then you are going to also go to hell too. You can't pay for what you did when it has already been paid for by Jesus. We are a new creation in Christ. (**2 Cor. 5:17.**)

Pay attention to what the Word has to say about redemption because a lot of folks are defeated because they won't take a stand against the devil. In other words, they do not take a stand against what comes against them because they think it ought to be that way. They think they deserve the test or trial that has come upon them.

You see, they don't know the difference between repentance and doing penance. If you accused them of being religious and just following certain religious practices, they would deny it, yet that is the very thing they are doing. They are actually trying to do penance over their past life.

When you have repented, God forgives you, and He doesn't have any knowledge that you ever did anything wrong.

Isaiah 43:25

"25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will NOT REMEMBER thy sins."

So, if God doesn't remember your sins, why should you? You shouldn't.

After you get saved, if you are going to continue to reap what you have sowed when you were a sinner, then you would have to go to hell when you died, because that is part of the penalty of sin. If you are going to have to reap any part of the penalty, you are going to reap all of it. Thank God, we are redeemed not only from the power of sin, but also from the penalty of sin. Jesus took our place and suffered the penalty of sin for us.

What am I saying to you? I am saying that a lot of folks are permitting – they themselves are allowing – tests and trials to take place in their lives because they are not standing in their place of authority against Satan. And they are being robbed of deliverance and victory because they think it ought to be that way. Of course, tests and trials in life come to all of us, but on the other hand, that doesn't mean we have to allow Satan to run over us either! If we are in Christ, God has promised us the victory in every circumstance (1 **Cor. 15:57.**)

Instead of accepting the fact that we have been delivered from the results or penalty of sin, some believers let the devil dominate them and keep them sick and beaten down. But you must remember, God does not hold your sin against you after you have asked for forgiveness. GOD FORGIVES, AND FORGETS, AND He cleanses us from all unrighteousness by the blood of Jesus. (**1 John 1:9.**) Now the devil does not have any right to dominate you.

I am glad that God has made us able to enjoy the inheritance of saints in light (**2 Peter 1:4; Col. 1:2**). He has made us able to be partakers of our inheritance. Since God has done His part, let us do our part. Let us partake of our inheritance and enjoy what rightfully belongs to us IN CHRIST.