



ACTIVATING OUR FAITH

By Bill Subritzky

Activating our faith

Followers of Jesus Christ should have an active faith. The Scripture says, *"But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead. Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works and by works faith was made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.' And he was called the friend of God. You will see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only." (James 2:20-24.)*

The wrong kind of faith

I went to church for many years and activated a sort of faith in my life, but it was not Holy Spirit faith. It was a fleshly faith. Before I was born-again of the Spirit of God and filled with the Holy Spirit I tried to please God, whom I did not really know, by doing things which I thought might please Him, thereby thinking I would get into heaven. In other words I thought my works could save me. How wrong I was!

I served on all kinds of boards and committees which were related to the church but I had no real relationship with Him. God wanted me, not my works. He knew that until I truly surrendered to Him and followed and obeyed Him then and then only would I be able to do works that were pleasing to Him.

Result of being born-again.

I was born-again and baptised in the Holy Spirit 40 years ago on March 10, 1971. Immediately I began to tell others of my experience because it was so real.

I began witnessing to others, and have been doing so since, at every opportunity. I learned to pray for people and cast out demons. As I did so I found that the Holy Spirit was always with me, speaking to me and encouraging me. The Holy Spirit gives me words of knowledge, tells me where to lay my hands on people and how to pray for them.

Knowing the power of God.

It has been a most thrilling experience to know the power of God flowing through me and touching others with His Healing love. Nothing that the world can offer comes near the experience of knowing the presence of God around me.

In other words, as I began to practice my faith. As I did so my faith in Christ began to grow. He became ever closer to me. People are always surprised when the Holy Spirit gives the names of people to be called out in a meeting for healing and then see the power of God touch and heal them.

What am I saying in all of this? I'm not trying to boast. It is not me doing it, it is Christ in me, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27.)

The power that raised Jesus from the dead.

The same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead flows through us as believers. (Ephesians 1:19-20.)

Being born-again was a dramatic experience in my life. I turned 180° from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God.

With the help of the Holy Spirit. I have been able to stand before very large crowds to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, pray for the sick and cast out demons. This would have been impossible before I was born-again of the Spirit of God. Following my new birth, I have never been afraid or nervous. I have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit with me at all times.

I was a lawyer and businessman far from God but I was radically transformed by the new birth in Jesus Christ.

Drawing near to God.

If God can do this with me, He can do it with anybody. He gave me a hunger for His Word, to draw ever nearer to Himself, to receive His love into my heart and show it to others. At all times to be bold in my witness knowing that He has promised never to leave or forsake me. (Hebrews 13:5).

You don't have to be an evangelist or a preacher in order to do the will of God. Just receive the presence and power of God into your life. Turn absolutely from everything you know to be wrong. Read and apply the Word of God in your life. Pray every day, especially in tongues, fast and trust God to do the rest.

Faith without works is dead.

Our works do matter. Some people teach today that as God has done everything on the cross, all we need to do is to love Him, receive His peace and blessings and wait for eternity.

However, the Bible says that faith without works is dead.

Jesus said, *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* (Matthew 5:16.)

We are told to be fruitful in every good work thereby increasing in the knowledge of God. (Colossians 1:10.)

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10.)

Parable of the talents.

In the parable of the talents Jesus expressly shows that there will be a judgement as to our works. He describes how a man gave one servant five talents, another two and another one. The first one went and traded with them making another five talents, the second one did the same and made another two talents but the third one hid his talent in the ground.

When the master returned and called the servants to account, he praised the first servant because he had been faithful over a few things so now He would make him ruler over many. He would enter the joy of the Lord.

The second servant received the same praise and promise.

The third servant who had done nothing with his talent was thrown into outer darkness with weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This parable is a warning to us all to make sure that we use the talents that God gives us for the extension of His kingdom on earth.

God gives us the ability by the Holy Spirit to do good works and He expects us to use that ability.

Even the smallest works are noted by God.

These works should be in accordance with our ability. We are not all called to preach the gospel in great public meetings or have great television programmes.

Jesus specifically mentioned and acknowledged the woman whom he saw throwing two mites (small copper coins) into the treasury. He said, "For they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood." She had done her best and that is all that God requires. Our best!

When the woman having an alabaster flask of costly oil, broke the flask and poured it on the head of Jesus, the people were indignant saying, "Why was this fragrant oil wasted? It might have been sold for a large sum of money and given to the poor."

Jesus explained that the poor would always be with them and they could do good for them at any time but He would not always be with them in the flesh.

He said about this woman, *"She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the whole world, what this woman did will always be spoken of as a memorial to her."* (Mark 14:8-9.)

What an amazing statement! God acknowledged forever the action of this woman.

The result of good works.

The same words, "She did what she could" appear on my mother's grave. She prayed for me for many years and died praying for me to be born-again. It was years later that this happened and I'm sure that she is rejoicing in heaven today to see her prayers fulfilled.

The Word of God also specifically acknowledges a widow of about 84 years, Anna, who was serving God with fasting and prayers night and day. When the infant Jesus was being presented to the Lord she came and gave thanks to the Lord and prophesied about Him. (Luke 2:36-38).

God sees everything.

The Scripture says, *"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."* (2 Chronicles 16:9.)

Jesus said that not one sparrow falls to the ground apart from His Father's will.

The very hairs of our head are all numbered. (Matthew 10:29-30.)

You may not feel that that you are a very strong Christian. It is not how you feel that matters, it is knowing that you have Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27.)

God will do His works through us.

Jesus said that it was the Father dwelling in Him who did the works. (John 14:10). It is God dwelling in us who will do the works through us if we are willing to let Him do so.

I may go to an evangelistic healing meeting knowing that there are many hoping for God to touch them through His Word. I may feel weak. However I always remember the words of the apostle Paul.

He said that the Lord had told him, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."* Paul says, *"Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."* (2 Corinthians 12:9-10.)

God will direct us in our works.

When we are born-again the Holy Spirit will, if we allow Him, continually direct us in the works that He wants us to do. It may be visiting the sick, helping the widows and orphans, prison ministry, helping those in need, helping with children's ministry such as Bible in schools, ushering in church, helping with the repairs of the church, helping with the sound system, catering for morning tea after the church service etc.

We are in all things to show ourselves to be a pattern of good works. (Titus 2:7.) We are to be zealous for good works. (Titus 2:14.)

The reward.

God wants us to give our heart fully to Him, He wants us to be absolutely surrendered in obedience and our good works should follow.

Then the Lord will say, *"Well done good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your Lord."* (Matthew 25:21.)

Compiled by Bill Subritzky and produced by Dove Ministries

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